



# HURRICANE CITY

## UTAH

**Mayor**

Nanette Billings

**City Manager**

Kaden C. DeMille

**Power Board**

Mac J. Hall, Chair

Dave Imlay, Vice Chair

Joseph Prete

Tony Certonio

Colt Stratton

Kerry Prince

The Hurricane City Power Board met on May 1, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Clifton Wilson Substation located at 526 W 600 N.

In attendance were Mac Hall, Dave Imlay, Joseph Prete, Tony Certonio, Scott Hughes, Brian Anderson, Mike Ramirez, Dayton Hall, Fred Resch, Mike Vercimak, Bruce & Linda Zimmerman, and Crystal Wright.

Mac Hall welcomed everyone to the meeting. Fred Resch led the Pledge of Allegiance and Scott Hughes offered the prayer. Dave Imlay motioned to approve minutes from the April 2024 meeting after one clarification. Tony Certonio seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Scott Hughes:** Scott Hughes thanked those that were able to attend the UAMPS Municipal Toolkit and discussed presentations from that meeting. There was some interest in discussing the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) information that was presented at the toolkit. Scott Hughes will get information together to present to the Power Board in the next couple of months. Joseph Prete would like to know which communities have a PCA, which do not, and more information for the ones who don't have it who have experienced any financial crisis because of that choice.

**Brian Anderson:** Brian Anderson reported that we have one distribution circuit that has been energized out to Three Falls Substation. Joseph Prete asked if the substation has been energized. Brian Anderson explained that there is only power to the substation to get the control building power. The Line & Service crews spent some time in the switch basement getting the terminations done. Scott Hughes wanted to commend the crews for the excellent work they did. He explained there are times you'll go into those basements and wires will be crossed, not organized or neat and it makes the work to change things more difficult. The guys kept everything organized which will help with efficiency later. He is grateful for their expertise and work quality. UAMPS had a project where they had to move poles. We had to transfer our distribution wires to the new pole and put in new anchors. The Line Crew completed some underground work required to provide another option to under build a UAMPS line to provide another feed into the Dennett project by the Shooting Park. We will wait to complete that project until we have more funding. He described the work that the Line Crew has been doing to refresh the Christmas Décor. He showed pictures and explained the safety meeting we held this month. It was Bucket Truck Rescue and is something we must re-certify each year. We must rescue a 200-lb. dummy out of the bucket truck within a timed limit each year.

**Mike Ramirez:** Mike Ramirez described an outage that was scheduled with S&S Steel for some upgrades they needed done. We also completed some work down in Interstate Rock's pit reworking some secondary leads to handle the upgrades they were doing to their system. They've added demand in their pit which has increased their load and required some upgrades to their system which they paid for. He showed some pictures of the new vending machines that Fastenal has delivered. They will be stocked with consumables. We are hoping to increase efficiency by not having to run to various stores for those items every time an employee needs them.



**Jared Ross:** Mike Ramirez reported for Jared Ross. The new gates at Three Falls Substation have been installed. The battery banks have been tested and energized. This provides the DC power the control station will need. An antenna and radios have been installed to begin connecting communication between the substation and Clifton Wilson. We have been working on getting the required signage prepped and installed. They've also been working on installing the switch grounding pads. Joseph Prete asked if the timeline is still on track. Scott Hughes confirmed that it is.

Mac Hall mentioned that he noticed the budget discussion was excluded from the agenda. After a short discussion, it was decided to present that information quarterly unless someone has questions. The budget information will continue to be included in the monthly packet.

**Southwest Utah Technical Task Force Update:** Scott Hughes explained what the Task Force is and why it was created. The wire was changed out to be able to handle the increased load between St George substation to the Purgatory Substation. It can now handle more capacity. The group has been discussing a 138kv loop through Washington County. Dave Imlay asked if this is the line coming down the east side of the county. Scott Hughes stated no, the line on the east side is planned to be a 345kv line. Joseph Prete asked a question about transmission lines coming down into Washington County. Discussion about what would be possible due to catastrophe on any of those lines. Joseph Prete asked if all our generators are up and running. Scott Hughes replied that Generator 5 hasn't been completely reinstalled after it came back. We are working on getting the prep work done for the upcoming generator run season.

**Discussion about requirements for Pre-Qualified Contractors:** Mike Ramirez presented some history regarding our current pre-qualification process and why we have been looking to update it. Our current requirements show a S200 license is required which doesn't even exist anymore. That license has been updated to an E200 license. He went through the requirements for the updated E200 license. The secondary issue we're having is current journeyman lineman would like to do work and they know the high voltage electrical side but may not know the excavation side of things. Tony Certonio asked a question about the stricter E200 license requirement. His company specifically has an E100 and B100 and is able with those licenses to do work in all Southern Utah cities currently. They do not have an E200 license so it would exclude them from being able to work in Hurricane City. His concern is it would limit your contractor pool and may increase costs. Scott Hughes explained that when we choose to contract this work out, we want to make sure that quality work is being done by knowledgeable companies to reduce the man hours it takes our employees explaining how to do it to our standards. This is an open discussion to get ideas from the board. We continue to have problems with contractors requiring a lot of our employee time explaining things they should already know. Joseph Prete asked how this affects the discussion that has been ongoing about what work the City contracts out and what we keep. How would increasing our requirements affect those discussions and operations? Mike Ramirez and Scott Hughes explained that currently underground installations are almost always contracted by the general contractor of each individual development. They must meet our pre-qualifications currently and be on our pre-qualification list. Tony Certonio asked what the upgraded license allows them to do. Dave Imlay asked what exactly we are asking to change. Mike Ramirez summarized the S200 is no longer a license in Utah and journeyman lineman currently cannot work on our system under our current requirements. Another question is whether we require all our currently qualified contractors to update to our new standard. Tony Certonio stated if we are going to require a license then it needs to be an overall requirement for everyone and maybe give them a grace period to get the new licensing in place. He stated if we're limiting to a higher standard of E200, we will be limiting our options in the future. He does a lot of work in Washington City and explained how they operate over there. Mac Hall suggested that we reach out to Rick Hansen with Washington City to find out how they operate and table this discussion while we do some research.

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The next discussion is similar except it deals specifically with solar contractors. We currently require them to go through an in-house orientation explaining our policies and a solicitor's license to go door-to-door, but do not verify any other electrical licensing. Dayton Hall asked if the solar companies do any work on our side of the meter or just theirs. Scott Hughes stated that it's just theirs, but they are interconnected to our grid. We can look online to verify licenses for solar companies. Tony Certonio suggested checking if the S202 is a requirement for solar installations and then to use that license if it is. Joseph Prete would like to see a policy that is fair to companies that aren't as large and may be pushed out of the market to take on those jobs with stricter policies, while still maintaining a standard for quality work and installations. Mac Hall suggested writing up what we'd like to do and then bring it back for review.

**Discussion and possible recommendation about a line extension:** Scott Hughes presented information about a specific line extension. He stated the way we understand the ordinance is that there should be a formal application for line extensions. The developer would complete the application, go through a staff review, through the Power Board for a recommendation, and ultimately present it to the City Council for approval. He didn't want to go through all the work of creating a formal application if the City Council doesn't want to proceed with the process in this way. We'll informally process this specific application and if the City Council likes how the process feels, then he will spend the time to create the application for a more formal process for future extension requests. There continue to be requests for new developments in the southern end of the valley for more power. He explained a specific group of developments that need infrastructure and capacity. One of those included is our Water Department, which needs power for a new well they are installing to meet their own infrastructure needs for that same area. He discussed what would be necessary for both the need for infrastructure and capacity. He discussed the previous Capacity Projects that had been created for similar purposes. Mac Hall wanted to clarify who would be paying for this. Scott Hughes stated that it would be the five developments included. Joseph Prete asked if the City is obligated to throw this concept of combining forces for line extensions out there or if we just tell them there isn't power currently. Mike Vercimak stated this is why it is important for the City Council to weigh-in because one City utility may decide to improve service to an area, however the other City utilities are not prepared to do the same. Once one utility exists, then the Planning Department begins to get pressured to get the other utilities there, when budgetary and other constraints prevent them from doing so immediately. He feels like the line extension ordinance was put together for this specific reason. Crystal Wright read the actual ordinance, which is Hurricane City Code Section 8-4-3, Application for Service. There was a discussion about easements that already exist and what would still need to be obtained. Dayton Hall summarized that for this extension and for the others that will inevitably come what level of detail and information would the Power Board like to see to be able to make their recommendation to the City Council. Dave Imlay asked if we're making a recommendation on the process of a line extension approval or just this specific line extension. Mac Hall wants to know how the board would like the process to be. The discussion was that the Power Board is comfortable with this process. Scott Hughes stated he would like to use this line extension request as a template for future requests. He wants to informally bring this to the City Council to see if there is more information they would like included in the future to begin to create a formal application. Dave Imlay made a recommendation for this specific line extension as an approval from the Power Board to the City Council. Tony Certonio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Joseph abstained.

**UAMPS Updates:** Scott Hughes stated we will continue to put more of this information into the packet, but unless there are any questions regarding what was included, we will not go over it today.

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Joseph Prete made a motion to go into a closed meeting to discuss potential interest in the purchase of real property. Tony Certonio seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously at 5:05 pm. Came out of closed session at 5:17 pm.

Power Board adjourned at 5:17 p.m. The next Power Board Meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.