

Utility Departments of Hildale/Colorado City

Utility Board Meeting Minutes
320 East Newel Ave, Hildale Utah
January 28, 2021 6:00 PM

Present: Utility Board

Board Members:	Present	Absent	Excused
Haven Barlow	X		
Sterling Jessop, Jr.	X		
Ralph Johnson	X		
Arvin Black	X		
Jason Black	X		
Nathan Burnham	X		
JVar Dutson	X		
Stacy Seay	X		
Michael Cawley	X		

Staff Present: Harrison Johnson, Weston Barlow, Mariah La Corti, Nathan Fischer

Court Monitor: Roger Carter

Public Present: Jesse Hammon

#1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm. Roll was taken, quorum present.

#2. Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance

Nathan Burnham offered a prayer, the crowd joined in the pledge of allegiance.

#3. Public Comment

None

#4. Approval of Minutes

A text amendment will be made to item #5 of the December 15, 2020 meeting minutes, clarifying the irregular expenses as: Cares Act Fiber Funding, wells, and past due bills.

Nathan Burnham moved to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2020 meeting with the correction as discussed.

JVar Dutson seconded. Roll call vote:

Board Members:	Yes	No	Abstain
Haven Barlow	X		
Sterling Jessop, Jr.	X		
Ralph Johnson	X		
Arvin Black	X		
Jason Black	X		
Nathan Burnham	X		
JVar Dutson	X		

Stacy Seay	X		
Michael Cawley	X		

Motion carried.

#5. Financial Report

Harrison presented the financial report and said the numbers are on track. A lot of gas is being sold this year. Expenses are high because of water projects, but this is to be expected. Nothing out of the ordinary on the invoice register.

Harrison will be working on the FY2022 budget in hopes of having it prepared before his departure for the Military. He explained a procedural step regarding the FY2021 budget that the Utility Board approved that needs to go through the Hildale City Council. The numbers will then be updated in Caselle to properly reflect the budget.

Michael asked for explanation on the Bad Debt expense line specifically. Harrison explained that it is the accumulation of all the accounts that have been sent to collections for non-payment.

Nathan Burnham moved to pay the bills as they become due and the funds become available.

Ralph Johnson seconded. Roll call vote:

Board Members:	Yes	No	Abstain
Haven Barlow	X		
Sterling Jessop, Jr.	X		
Ralph Johnson	X		
Arvin Black	X		
Jason Black	X		
Nathan Burnham	X		
JVar Dutson	X		
Stacy Seay	X		
Michael Cawley	X		

Motion carried.

#6. Director Report

Harrison presented. There has been discussion with Tom Knudson regarding the current fiber contract and fee schedule. TKS would like to be able to compete with South Central who is presently running fiber throughout the cities. Previously we were not able to monitor the speed, however this has changed. With now being able to monitor the speed, we will be able to bill the service provider based on the speed provided rather than what they are billing the customer. This will alleviate concerns on both ends. The plan to move forward with this will be presented by the project manager that will be filling in for Harrison.

Harrison updated the Board on the Canaan Mountain Water project. BLM has received the plan prepared by Bowen & Collins and has prepared a scope of work on the water project.

There was discussion on the water restrictions that were put into place last year and the well maintenance and repair that has been happening. Harrison feels secure that we are in a better place to be able to provide the amount of water needed to avoid water restrictions this summer.

Arvin expressed his worry regarding the ability to provide water to the up-and-coming growth. Harrison reminded the Board that a water impact fee study has been approved and is underway. This will answer the questions relating to this concern.

#7. Report on Interim Director Plan

Harrison presented. Harrison informed the Board that he has been called to active duty and will be leaving beginning March 4, 2021. He has prepared a plan for an interim director while he is gone. The Department Director title and duties will formally fall on Hildale City Manager, Eric Duthie. A project manager will be hired through a temp agency to continue moving forward with the special projects, grants, etc. Weston will continue as Operations Field Manager and Mariah as the Administrative Operations Manager to handle the day-to-day matters.

Nathan expressed his concerns about making sure the special projects continue moving forward. Arvin pointed out his concerns regarding water availability for the upcoming growth. He would like to make sure that the need surrounding these projects is recognized in this transition. Harrison expressed his confidence in the plan of the hiring of the project manager, who will be able to focus purely on these projects, not being encumbered by day-to-day duties.

#8. Review of Utilities IGA Draft

City Administration on both sides have been working on an update to the Utilities IGA draft. A working copy was provided to the Board and the City Councils for review. City Councils are open to recommendations.

Roger Carter explained that the IGA is not directly correlated to his duties as Court Monitor, his oversight will continue no matter what.

#9. Review of Well 22 and Well 4 WIFA Application

Harrison presented. The well replacement project plan and bid documents were provided to the Board to review. The Department will be moving forward with this project whether the state provides the funding for such or not.

#10. Discussion and Review of Shinarump Aquifer Issues

Harrison presented. He walked the board through a report provided by Sunrise Engineering in 2016. The Shinarump aquifer is being over exploited, the water level has dropped. Harrison has reached out to the state regulatory agencies Department of Environmental Quality, Water Infrastructure Fund Agency, and Department of Water Resources seeking advice on what to do.

Possible solutions are local ordinances regulating water uses, purchase additional wells to eliminate use, irrigation non-expansion areas, or legal action. Harrison suggested that the city start by reaching out to all surrounding water users to see if everyone is willing to work together. Board members were allowed a chance to share any thoughts. Nathan, Jason, Stacy, Arvin, and Ralph each took a turn, discussing ideas such as storage, water diversion and further exploration of water sources. All were in agreement regarding the communication and expressed their gratitude for the hard work from the staff that comes with these challenges.

#11. Consideration and Possible Action on Utility Board Schedule

Harrison presented. With his absence and the project manager getting up to speed, it would put a large burden on current administration to prepare for a monthly Board meeting. Harrison suggested the possibility of a quarterly or bi-monthly meeting.

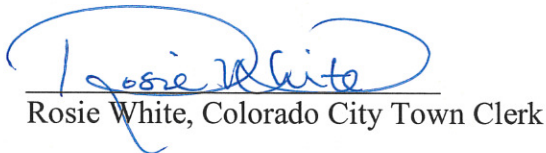
Board members expressed concerns with business not being completed each month. The concept of deadlines and monthly meetings to keep everything on track was brought up. After much discussion, it was decided to continue with monthly meetings at this time.

#12. Adjournment

With no other business, meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Minutes were approved at the meeting on February 25, 2021.


Athena Cawley, Hildale City Recorder


Rosie White, Colorado City Town Clerk



Summary of Board Actions:

Approval of December 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Approval to Pay the Bills