

## MINUTES

### Colorado Springs Utilities Board Meeting Wednesday, September 27, 2023

**Utilities Board members present via Microsoft Teams or Blue River Conference Room:**

Chair Dave Donelson, Vice Chair Yolanda Avila, Mike O'Malley, Randy Helms, Lynette Crow-Iverson, David Leinweber, Brian Risley and Michelle Talarico

**Utilities Board Members Excused:** Nancy Henjum

**Staff members present via Microsoft Teams or Blue River Conference Room:** Travas Deal, Renee Adams, Somer Mese, Mike Francolino, Tristan Gearhart, Lisa Barbato, John Hunter, Scott Shirola, Natalie Watts, Crystal Cooley, Andie Buhl, Kenneth Murray and Natalie Lovell

**City of Colorado Springs staff members present via Microsoft Teams or Blue River Conference Room:** Alex Ryden and Renee Congdon

**Citizens present via Microsoft Teams or Blue River Conference Room:** Larry Barrett, Gary Burghart, Scott Smith, Chris Meyer, David Watson, Becky Leinwweber, Doug Krieger, Christine Malmborg, Mark Gebhart and Rick Bayley

#### 1. Call to Order

Chair Donelson called the Utilities Board meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and Ms. Natalie Watts, Strategic Planning and Governance Manager, called the roll.

#### 2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Tristian Gearhart, Chief Planning and Financial Officer, delivered the invocation and Chair Donelson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 3. Consent Calendar

**3a. Approval of Utilities Board Meeting Minutes: August 16, 2023**

**3b. UPAC Regular Member Appointment: David Watson**

**3c. UPAC Alternate Member Appointment: Chris Meyer**

**3d. UPAC Regular Member Reappointment: Larry Barrett**

**3e. UPAC Regular Member Reappointment: Gary Burghart**

Utilities Board Member Randy Helms moved approval of the Consent Calendar and Board Member Crow-Iverson seconded the motion. The Consent Calendar was unanimously approved.

#### **4. Recognition**

- 2023 Mile High Gas and Linemen Rodeo

Ms. Somer Mese, Chief Operations Officer, recognized electric and natural gas employees for their top honors at the 2023 Mile High Gas and Linemen Rodeo. Ms. Mese invited Ms. Crystal Cooley, Gas Construction and Maintenance Manager, and Mr. Kenneth Murray, Electric Construction and Maintenance Manager, to speak more about the rodeo and what our teams accomplished.

Ms. Cooley recognized Mr. Brian Merritt, Mr. Jacob Mitchell, and Mr. Austin Fisk for placing first overall in the gas rodeo. She said the team then competed in the national competition in Springfield, Missouri and placed sixth out of 22 teams and first in the hand dig.

Mr. Murray expressed his appreciation for Mr. Cameron Charlton, Mr. Bo Compton, Mr. Dylan McCain, Mr. Tyler DiMenza, Mr. Branden Morris, Mr. Mason Orist, Mr. John Rombeck, Mr. Josh Snyder, Mr. Cody Strong, Mr. Cody Solberg, Mr. Kyle Couturier, Mr. Jordan Reeger and Mr. Mike Hoberg. He said the journeyman teams took third place in the hurtman rescue event, and our journeymen teams won five awards, including first place overall.

Ms. Mese thanked employees for their commitment to safety, the organization and our customers. Chair Donelson congratulated and expressed his admiration to the employees. Mr. Travas Deal, Chief Executive Officer, and the Utilities Board members echoed their gratitude.

#### **5. Customer Comments**

Ms. Becky Leinweber, Executive Director of the Pikes Peak Alliance, Mr. Doug Krieger, retired member of the Colorado Parks and wildlife, Ms. Christine Malmborg, founder of the Dragonfly Paddle Yoga, Mr. Mark Gebhart, volunteer for the division of wildlife, and Rick Bayley, fly fisherman, all expressed concerns and spoke in favor of not closing down any of the recreational areas of the North Slope of Pikes Peak or asked that an alternative entrance be identified.

#### **6. Compliance Reports**

- I-7 Water Supply Management
- I-9 Treatment of Customers and Customer Information)
- ER:1-3 Utilities Board Expected Results – Mid-year Scorecard and CEO Performance Results G-4
- E-2 CEO Responsibilities
  - ECA/GCA Monitoring

- Water Outlook

Chair Donelson explained that compliance reports are on the agenda by exception and asked if there were any questions. There were no requests to review any compliance reports.

**7. Items Called Off Consent Calendar**

There were none.

**8. Drake Decommissioning Regulatory Asset**

Ms. Natalie Lovell, Accounting Manager, advised that this presentation was for informational purposes only and stated it was in preparation for seeking resolution from City Council in October. This was an informational presentation regarding proposed City Council approval to establish a regulatory asset associated with the decommissioning of the Martin Drake Power Plant.

She reviewed the background of government accounting, benefits, and prior Council action. Ms. Lovell concluded with next steps. The Utilities Board agreed for this item to go to consent at the October 24, 2023, City Council meeting.

**9. Outside City Water Service for the Park Vista Estates Enclave**

Mr. Bryan English, Project Manager III, said owners of 5180 Topaz Dr. have requested Springs Utilities' water service for single-family residential use. He stated the property is currently served by a well and Springs Utilities provides natural gas and electric service to the property and enclave. Mr. English presented the criteria for the extension of the ordinance and a map of the property. He provided an overview of the application for the water extension ordinance and concluded with the next steps.

Board Member Leinweber expressed concerns for the lack of efficiency on annexing one property at a time. Board Member Risley and Board Member O'Malley recommended that the annexation process be reviewed in depth at a later time.

Board Member Risley moved approval of this item and Board member Talarico seconded the motion. The Utilities Board voted 7-1 to move forward with putting the City Water Service for the Park Vista Estates Enclave on the regular agenda for the Oct. 10, 2023 City Council meeting. Board Member O'Malley opposed the motion.

**10. Board Member Updates**

Board Member Leinweber discussed the success of the Fishing Derby at Crystal Creek Reservoir. He also provided an update that Colorado Springs Utilities staff came out to his house and flushed his pipes to improve his water quality.

Board Member Risley, Chair of Strategic Planning Committee (SPC), provided updates from SPC to include the overview of the underground vs. overhead transmission lines. He thanked Ms. Lisa Barbato, Chief Systems Planning and Projects Office, and her

team for all the work they did creating a matrix for SPC to use and better keep up with projects. He also recognized Mr. Mike Francolino, Chief of Customer and Enterprise Services Officer, and the customer service team for providing exceptional customer service with the new customer portal.

Board Member Crow-Iverson said she was glad she was able to attend the Southwest Power Pool's Western Grid conference on her trip to D.C. for the Chamber & EDC's D.C. Fly-In last week. She said she learned a lot and it was extremely beneficial for her.

#### **11. Summary of Board Actions**

The Utilities Board unanimously agreed to appoint/reappoint the following UPAC members: David Watson as a regular UPAC member, Chris Meyer as an alternate UPAC member, reappoint Larry Barret as a regular UPAC member, and reappoint Gary Burghart as a regular UPAC member.

The Utilities Board unanimously approved to move the Drake Decommissioning Regulatory Asset to consent at the October 24, 2023, City Council Meeting.

The water service extension for the property at Park Vista Estates Enclave annexation was approved to move forward as a regular business item at the October 11, 2023, City Council meeting.

#### **12. Executive session**

Ms. Congdon, read the following language to enter Executive Session.

*In accordance with City Charter art. III, § 3-60(d) and its incorporated Colorado Open Meetings Law, C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f) and Utilities Board Bylaws Rule 10(c)(6), the Utilities Board, in Open Renee Congdon, City Attorney's Office – Utilities Division Chief 2 of 116 Session, is to determine whether it will hold a Closed Executive Session on one issue. The issue to be discussed is the 2023 midyear performance review of the Chief Executive Officer.*

*The City Attorney's Office, on behalf of the Chair of the Utilities Board, shall poll the Utilities Board members, and, upon consent of two-thirds of the members present, may conduct a Closed Executive Session. In the event any Utilities Board member is participating electronically or telephonically in the Closed Executive Session, each Utilities Board member participating electronically or telephonically in the Closed Executive Session shall affirmatively state for the record that no other member of the public not authorized to participate in the electronic Closed Executive Session is present or able to hear the matters discussed as part of the Closed Executive Session. If consent to the Closed Executive Session is not given, the item may be discussed in Open Session or withdrawn from consideration.*

Ms. Congdon called the roll and polled the Utilities Board. They voted 8 to 0 to enter Executive Session, with Board Member Henjum excused. They took a break at 2:15

p.m. and entered Executive Session at 2:25 p.m. They returned to Open Session at 3:34 p.m.

**13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.