

DRAFT
UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
March 21 2024

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm

Members Present: Wanda Schulze, Andy Maron, Charlie Averill, Svend Brandt-Erichsen, Ted Jones, Sheina Hughes, Martin Pastucha, John Quitsland

Also Present: Chris Wierzbicki (Public Works Director), Blair King (City Manager), Adam???

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest: None

There were no meeting minutes to approve.

Update on Solid Waste Objectives

The City is beginning a dialogue with Bainbridge Disposal with the intent of entering into a contract with them for solid waste services including garbage, recycling and organic (yard and kitchen) waste. Having such a contract would give the City more control over how waste is collected and managed to ensure it is consistent with City policies and goals. The City Manager presented a set of 11 objectives that could be addressed in a contract (included in the meeting agenda packet). Primary objectives include:

- Increase recycling and composting
- Improve service for hard to service areas
- Improve recycling and composting at multi-family housing

UAC members had various questions and minor comments but no changes to the set of objectives were requested. The City Manager expects to present these objectives for Council approval in April.

Comprehensive Plan Update

As we prepare to develop the Utilities element of the new Comp Plan, Ted suggested a revised approach from what we had previously discussed. Instead of each committee member taking individual sections, he suggested that we go through each section as a group. This would allow new committee members to get up to speed and we could all benefit from each others insights. After a brief discussion it was agreed that this would be a better way to proceed. We plan to take the next two or three meetings to go over the sections. At the April meeting, we will discuss the potable water and sanitary sewer sections.

Groundwater Management Plan

Chris provided an update on the Groundwater Management Plan. The project consists of three phases: gather data/ run model scenarios/ develop policies. We have completed phase 1 and are starting on phase 2. Chris expects to get parameters for modeling scenarios approved at an April City Council meeting.

Stormwater Source Control and Sewage Pretreatment

Chris presented two draft ordinances - one for stormwater source control and the other for sewage pretreatment. The ordinances are based on models from Department of Ecology. These are required by the latest NPDES permit and the Sewage Pretreatment ordinance will help preserve the life of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. In general, the committee liked the

phasing in both ordinances where the first two years are primarily inspections and education and then enforcement begins in year 3. Some changes were recommended in the Applicability section of the Source Control Ordinance to specify that these apply to commercial/industrial land uses, instead of the current more general language.

As the sampling gets underway for the pretreatment program, we are expecting some issues related to pH and BOD. BOD is already a problem at the WWTP. Some businesses on the island may have to install treatment equipment to comply with these rules. The committee supported the language in the draft ordinance that allows existing businesses to apply for a 50% rebate (up to a limit) for treatment equipment. Since the equipment benefits the City by protecting the WWTP, rebates or other cost sharing options seem like a fair approach.

The pretreatment ordinance as drafted would apply to businesses across the island, even those that discharge to a KPUD WWTP. But would not apply to businesses that discharge to septic systems such as at Day Road. The committee observed that it is not entirely clear whether responsibility for compliance rests with tenants or property owners. A grace period is provided for new “owners/operators” to come into compliance.

The committee had a discussion of how this program is funded and suggested that we may need to revisit stormwater fees. One FTE is being requested to staff both of these new programs.

The committee will have another chance to comment on these two ordinances at the April meeting and then Chris would like to take it to the Council in May.

PSE Partnership Agreement

PSE Partnership Agreement - City executive team will meet with PSE in early April.

Anticipated Topics for Next Month

The April meeting will focus on the Committee review of the Potable water and Sewer sections of the Utilities Element of the comp plan. A look ahead on the 2024 utility capital plan will also be presented. It was the consensus of the committee that the next meetings should be scheduled for two hours from 5:30- 7:30pm.