

Sept. 28, 2015 UAC meeting

Members present: Andy Maron (chairperson), Steve Johnson, Jeff Kanter, Steven Leach, Nancy Nolan, and Emily Sato. Not present: Jim Thrash.

Designated Council representative Van Tollefson was not present.

Also present: Barry Loveless (COBI Public Works Director), Tom Brobst (Puget Sound Energy), Robert Dashiell, Jaco ten Hove, and Dan Hamlin (Park District).

There being a quorum, the chairperson called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

The Committee approved the September 28 published agenda and minutes of the September 14, 2015 regular meeting as submitted.

Public Comment

Regarding the Water Quality Flow Management Program (WQFMP), as a ratepayer, Mr. Dashiell asked the Committee to tell him what WQFMP costs his SSWM (Storm and Surface Water Management) utility fees pay for.

Mr. Brobst distributed copies of a map showing 2015-16 PSE projects planned for Bainbridge Island.

Mr. ten Hove, a member of Island Power, spoke in favor of public power to replace PSE and explained that the group was urging the City Council to include this issue on a spring 2016 ballot.

SSWM Operating Expenses

The Committee reviewed an updated draft version of a Report on SSWM Operating Expenses. The Committee deferred further discussion of SSWM fees and a decision on the draft (September 28) recommendations until its October 12 meeting when Mr. Loveless will present the results of Public Works' evaluation of billable units subject to SSWM fees.

Water-Sewage Rate Increase

According to Mr. Loveless, the deferral of a scheduled water-sewer rate increase will be on the Council's meeting agenda next week. City code provides for an automatic annual rate increase of CPI plus 2% unless Council votes down or defers the increase by December of each year. Mr. Maron provided background about the rate increase provision. This issue has not come before the UAC. The Committee discussed, but made no decision, whether the UAC should conduct an annual review of city-managed utilities' revenues and expense to inform Council's deliberations.

Draft Water System Plans

Mr. Loveless said the consultant should be prepared to present the draft water system plans to the UAC at its October 26 meeting.

Tour of City Water and Sewage Facilities

The orientation for members will be 9:00 to 12:00 on Friday, October 16, departing from City Hall.

Comprehensive Plan for Utilities and Water Resources Elements

The committee considered what process to adopt for its markup of the utilities elements goals and policies, starting with the goals for all utilities in the 2004 Comp Plan (Goals 1-7). After considering changes to those goals, the committee tasked Mr. Leach to prepare a draft for the next meeting. Other members are to continue working on their assigned utility elements and to incorporate any goals/policies from the 2004 Comp Plan (Goals 1-7) germane to their assignments.

Special Meeting

There will be a special meeting of the UAC on Wednesday, October 7, at 4:30 p.m. to continue work on the utilities element of the Comp Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

 10/12/15

Andy Maron, Chair Date