



CITY OF FULLERTON
INFRASTRUCTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 21, 2021

City Hall Council Chamber
303 W. Commonwealth Avenue
Fullerton, California

Infrastructure and Natural Resources Advisory Committee conducted this meeting in accordance with California Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ryan Alcantara
Munish Bharadwaja
Arnel Dino
Adel Hagekhalil
Gregory Sebourn
Mark Shapiro
Patricia Tutor

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Charles Sik Chong
Patrick McNelly

STAFF PRESENT:

Meg McWade, Public Works Director
David Grantham, Principal Civil Engineer
Dustin Ensminger, Water Systems Manager
Kristi Nordell, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. MINUTES – May 5, 2021

Shapiro moved, seconded by Alcantara to approve the May 5, 2021 meeting minutes.

Motion carried 6-0-3 (Absent: Bharadwaja, Chong, McNelly).

REGULAR BUSINESS

2. WATER RATES, RULES AND REGULATIONS/AMENDMENTS REVISIONS

City Attorney Scott Porter provided a summary of Proposition 218 and its relevance to Rule 10 of the City's Water Rates, Rules and Regulations. Mr. Porter presented five different options for the Committee to consider in regards to revising the water bill dispute process. Members discussed the options and asked questions of Staff and the City Attorney.

Member Hagekhalil asked for a future agenda item to discuss the possibility of using federal funds to provide assistance to low-income community members for their water and wastewater bills.

The following addressed the Committee:

- Maureen Milton commented that many apartment tenants in Fullerton pay a third-party company for their water and it would be preferable for the tenants to pay the City directly. She asked if the City can do anything about that situation.
- Brad Campbell asked the Committee to ensure meters are replaced when they are found to be faulty, to avoid ongoing problems with inaccurate reads.

Chair Sebourn and Staff responded to the public comments.

Alcantara moved, seconded by Tutor to amend the language in Rule 10 authorizing the Water Bill Dispute Panel to utilize funds collected through water bill penalties to offset costs of individual water bills, and waive penalties, as a means of mitigating disputes that are brought before the Panel.

Motion carried 6-0-3 (Absent: Bharadwaja, Chong, and McNelly).

Staff Member Dustin Ensminger gave a presentation on water meters in Fullerton and the established procedures for meter accuracy testing and replacement. Mr. Ensminger answered questions from Committee Members.

Member Hagekhalil recommended that the Water Division provide the public with reports on a regular basis showing the number of tests performed in a given time period and the percentage of meters that read incorrectly.

3. CITY ENERGY AUDIT STATUS UPDATE

Staff Member McWade, with Ryan Gunstream and Jeff Schaller from Noresco, provided an update on the City's energy audit and answered questions and received feedback from Committee Members.

Member Bharadwaja arrived at 6:05 p.m. via teleconference and arrived in person at 6:33 p.m.

The following addressed the Committee:

- Brad Campbell urged the City to use a public relations or lobbying firm to obtain state and federal funds for Fullerton's infrastructure.

4. SANITATION FEE

Staff Member McWade gave a presentation on the sanitation fee, including historical background and plans for an RFQ and study in the future. After receiving feedback from the Committee, Chair Sebourn directed Staff to add an item to the agenda forecast for the formation of a subcommittee to review and provide direction on the sanitation fee study.

5. STREET REHABILITATION POLICIES AND FUNDING NEEDS

Staff Member Grantham provided a brief overview of street rehabilitation policies and funding needs and requested a special meeting to discuss the topics in more detail. Chair Sebourn asked Staff to coordinate a special meeting in early July. Committee Members provided feedback on the presentation and direction to Staff.

Member Shapiro left the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

The following addressed the Committee:

- Brad Campbell urged the City to be aggressive in obtaining state and federal funds for Fullerton's infrastructure. He also commented that the roads near Rosecrans and Euclid are technically newer than others in Fullerton; however, they are full of patches and chunks of asphalt are coming off due to the cabling that was done.
- Maureen Milton commented that there is a one-year warranty on road projects, so pedestrians and residents need to notify Staff when they see cracks and issues in the street.

Chair Sebourn responded to the public comments.

6. CIP PROJECT STATUS

Staff Member Grantham provided a brief update on the CIP projects and staffing in the Engineering Division.

The following addressed the Committee:

- Brad Campbell asked for a status update and completion date for the project on Euclid.

Staff Member Grantham responded to the public comment.

STAFF/COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION

Member Dino asked if part of the American Rescue Plan Act funds can be used to provide WiFi access in parks or other recreation facilities. Staff Member McWade advised there have been some conversations regarding partnering with a contractor, but there would be ongoing costs to the City.

At the request of Member Dino, Staff Member McWade provided a brief update on the status of the SiFi project.

Member Bharadwaja thanked City Staff for their work.

Staff Member Grantham and Chair Sebourn congratulated Member Hagekhalil on his appointment to General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

AGENDA FORECAST

- July
 - Street/Infrastructure Funding (potential special meeting)
 - City Energy Audit Status Update
 - Street Light Upgrade Status Update
 - CIP Project Status – regular update
- August
 - Trash and Recycling
 - Drought Issue
 - PFAS Update
 - Climate Action Plan Update
 - CIP Project Status – regular update

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Infrastructure and Natural Resources Advisory Committee will be on July 19, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.