

Citizens’ Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Minutes
July 11, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Aspen Room/Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Angie Binder – Chair, Dick Eason - Vice Chair, Jay Campbell (Teams), Daniel Widrich, Tom Coker, Janet Marlow, Dennis Dechant

Absent:

Staff Present: Alex Gagliardi, Greg Baker, Rory Franklin (Teams), Melina Bourdeau (Teams), Sonya Gonzalez (Teams), Gail Thrasher (Teams), Marshall Brown, Cat Olukotun, Cheinette Van Wyk (Teams), Alex Davis (Teams)

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

1. Approval of June 13, 2023 Minutes

The June 13, 2023, minutes were approved.

2. Introductions/Public Invited to be Heard

None.

3. Communications Update

G. Baker advised the committee that City Council has lifted the drought declaration.

T. Coker mentioned that he has heard some concerns from people about how we will be able to handle growth when there are drought issues.

G. Baker answered that growth and drought are two different discussions, with growth being about having enough water to be sustainable in the long term, while drought is a temporary shortage.

M. Brown explained that Aurora Water takes drought restrictions into consideration approximately every 10 years and plan accordingly.

G. Baker shared that the changes to the CWAC Ordinance have entered into the study session and will then be sent to the regular session. This will go into effect September. Name changes from Citizen’s Water Advisory Committee to the Citizen’s Water Advisory Commission and the department will recommend that existing members will be reappointed to finish their term.

T. Coker asked how the discussion went the council member that thought we should give a rebate to customers after the drought.

M. Brown has been coordinating with that member and they are open to an alternative idea which would be to create a Water Conservation or a Water WISE Day. There will be a discussion at the July 24th study session on what that looks like.

G. Baker explained that 76% of residential customers did not see a drought surcharge.

4. 2024 Preliminary Budget

C. Olukotun, DD of Business Services, presented Aurora Water’s 2024 proposed operating budget and the 2024-2028 capital improvement budget. The 2024 revenue assumptions, 2024 service fees, 2024 proposed operating costs, 2024-2028 capital improvement program, and changes in funds available for the Water and Wastewater Funds were presented for discussion. All figures are preliminary pending final budget recommendations from City Management. 2022 Utility Sales were up but 2023 is down and 2024 Utility Sales are expected to rise. The 2024 budget will see an increase in Personal Services, Supplies/Services, Utilities and Debt Related expenses while Interfund Charges and Capital Related expenses should decrease. A brief description of the projects included in the 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Program was provided.

T. Coker asked how we can give back to customer when inflation goes down.

M. Brown explained that while the price of some goods go down, the price of other goods often go up and we’ve been able to maintain rate increases of around 3% per year. If prices come down enough, the overall rate increase would be 0%. There are also assistance programs for customers who may need it.

T. Coker asked if there was any Federal financial help for Wild Horse.

M. Brown answered that there are no grants but some favorable loans that are being looked at.

T. Coker asked for clarification on what PFAS is and where it comes from.

M. Brown gave a brief explanation of what PFAS is and the many sources that contain them. They are considered “forever” chemicals that cannot be broken down. There are some studies being conducted to remove and break down the chemicals.

5. New/Old Business

None

6. Review Follow-Up Questions

D. Widrich asked for an update on outdoor water use after all the rain lately.

G. Baker answered that we are 60% under what we used last year.

7. Confirm Next Meeting – Tuesday August 8, 2023.

The next meeting on August 8, 2023 was confirmed.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22PM



Angie Binder, Chair
Citizens’ Water Advisory Committee

Adopted: 8/8/2023







1. 07-11-23 CWAC Minutes Final

Final Audit Report

2023-10-17

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