

THE UTILITIES COMMISSION

February 24, 2020 3:00 P.M.

All Commission Members Present Chair William Biedenbach, Vice Chair Jack Holcomb, Secretary-Treasurer Lillian Conrad, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer James Buddy Davenport, Lee Griffith, General Manager Joe Bunch **Also in Attendance** General Counsel Thomas Cloud

General Manager's Report

a. Financial Status - Instead of rate increases, the Commission is considering implementing an automatic annual customer rate adjustment (similar to a cost of living adjustment) for labor, goods and services. A rate study will begin at the end of summer this year.

c. Presentation of Vehicle Replacement Plan / Schedule

Currently the Commission owns 84 vehicles. A comprehensive study indicated an 11 vehicle reduction could save approximately \$500,000 overall in replacement costs. Coinciding with the replacement vehicle purchases would coincide with the implementation of new software tools to better track the Commission vehicles for more timely preventative maintenance and subsequent replacements. Recommended vehicle replacements were:

2020 16 vehicles \$565K

2021 8 vehicles (mostly buckets) \$1.895M

2022 2 buckets \$650K

2023 1 bucket \$350K

In response to Buddy Davenport's inquiry the commission was told de-accessioned vehicles would be sold at auction with the Purchasing Department handling the process. Jack Holcomb inquired about leasing the vehicles, noting that leased vehicles had a known level monthly cost and recommending considering the leasing of 50% of the vehicles currently scheduled for purchase. William Biedenbach questioned the need for cruise control or chrome bumpers on fleet vehicles unless they were part of a package.

4.d Joint U.C-City Topics – Discussions with the City are ongoing regarding a shared fleet facility. The UC might receive up to 100% reimbursement for the installation of electric charging stations for fleet e-vehicles.

Commission Counsel's Report

Sale of Commission owned water facilities The City of Edgewater approved the agreement and it should be executed in March.

AT&T Pole Attachment Costs AT&T reported they had tendered a check for \$275K, however, as of this meeting, the check had not yet been received.

Possible other Business - Time for Commissioners

Several Commissioners thanked the Commission staff for their professionalism and their efforts to work collaboratively with the City regarding the potential sharing of facilities and possible software packages.

Meeting Adjourned