

JOINT CITY AND UTILITIES COMMISSION MEETING **February 24, 2022** **View Meeting [HERE](#).**

Present: Mayor Russ Owen, Vice Mayor Jason McGuirk, City Commissioners Randy Hartman, Michael Kolody and Jake Sachs. UC Chair Buddy Davenport, Vice Chair Rick Hawes, UC Commissioners Lillian Conrad, Larry Kelly Jr. and James Smith.

Public Participation: A citizen commented that there was a need for a parking garage downtown. He feels that the UC now owns a prime location for that use.

Presentations:

[Septic to Sewer Initiatives](#): Brad Blais from Mead and Hunt outlined a PowerPoint presentation.

City Manager Khalid Resheidat shared information about the American Rescue Plan Act. He and USNSB CEO Joe Bunch made a [presentation on the current initiatives](#) being worked in collaboration by the UC and the City

[Water Sustainability Update](#): Utilities Commission Director of Engineering Julie Couillard and Director of Water Resources, Scott Heil, made the Presentation.

[Modernization Strategy](#): Utilities Commission Director of Strategic Programs, John McMurry made the presentation.

Mr. Bunch provided an update regarding the Western Utility Complex.

[Electric Reliability Improvement Program \(ERIP\) Update](#): Ms. Couillard presented.

Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioner Kolody complimented the presentations and shared that he found the UC responsive responding to a recent issue on Beacon Street. He thinks the communication between the UC and the City on joint contracts is very good.
- UC Vice Chair Hawes commented on how important long-term planning is and how pleased he was that the City had the opportunity to view UC plans today.
- Commissioner Sachs was encouraged by the UC's efforts to improve service.
- UC Commissioner Kelly concurred with Vice Chair Hawes and commended Mr. Bunch and his team for doing an excellent job.
- Vice Mayor McGuirk commended the way the UC and City were working together and addressing issues. He commented on sea level rise and recharge areas.
- UC Commissioner Smith shared that he thought the best efforts made would be water conservation.
- Commissioner Hartman commented about the affordable housing issue. He asked if there was anything that the Utilities Commission could do to help with this project.
- UC Chair Buddy Davenport shared that the energy between the two commissions felt good. He thanked the public for attending and sharing their ideas. He shared that the Swoope plan was on the radar.
- Mayor Owen commented on the dedicated efforts it takes to make an impact on water usage and other issues. His hope is continued effective collaboration with the UC
- City manager Resheidat commented on the step forward on the septic to sewer issue.
- Mr. Bunch closed that their joint success was enabled by the City's support and encouragement.