Utilities Customer Advisory Group
Minutes for the Meeting on
May 8, 2019
3:00 p.m.
Utilities Center
Conference Room 225

Committee Members Present
Eugene Suttmiller, Chairman
Shirley Clark, Vice-Chairman
Robert Snyder, Committee Member
Paul Royalty, Committee Member

City Staff Present
Jorge A. Garcia, Utilities Director
Jose Provencio, Business Services Administrator
Domonique Rodriquez, Rate Econ. Analyst Mgr.
Mario Puentes, Gas Business Analyst
James Safford, Management Analysis
Alma Ruiz, Office Manager Senior
Tanya Cereleres, Administrative Assistant
Renee Armijo, Office Assistant

Committee Members Absent
Frank D. Gomez, Committee Member

Others:
Susan Schmugge, League of Women Voters
Cassie McClure, Public Outreach Consultant
Becky Baum, RC Creations, LLC
Gregory Schervanick

Chair Suttmiller called the regular meeting to order at approximately 3:02 p.m.

1. **Conflict of Interest:**
Chair Suttmiller: Is there anybody else, anybody expecting anybody else here that we should wait for? Didn't think so. Okay, we'll start out as usual with the Conflict of Interest statement. At the opening of each meeting, the Chairperson shall ask if any member on the Committee or any member of the City staff has any known conflict of interest with any item on the agenda. No response indicates to me that nobody has a conflict.

There were none.

2. **Acceptance of Agenda:**
Chair Suttmiller: We will now move to Acceptance of the Agenda. Has everybody had an opportunity to read the agenda?

Clark: Move to accept the agenda.

Snyder: I'll second.

Chair Suttmiller: All in favor?

The Agenda was Accepted Unanimously 4-0.

3. **Acceptance of Minutes:**
Chair Suttmiller: Acceptance of Minutes from January 9th, 2019. Has everybody had a chance except possibly Mr. Royalty?

Royalty: I read them.

Chair Suttmiller: You read them sir?

Royalty: Yes.

Chair Suttmiller: Dedication.

Clark: Move to approve the minutes.

Royalty: I second.

Chair Suttmiller: Everybody in favor?

**The Minutes were Approved Unanimously 4-0.**

4. **Public Participation:**

Chair Suttmiller: Public Participation. Is there anybody who would like to make a statement to the UCAG at this time? Be aware that if at later in the day before we go away, you'll have another opportunity if you decide to make a statement over anything we've covered during the meeting.

There was none.

5. **Soiled Waste Rate Review:**
   a. **Solid Waste Rate Review Update**

Chair Suttmiller: Solid Waste Rate Review. Ms. Domonique Rodriguez. Thank you.

Rodriguez: Hello. My name is Domonique Rodriguez. I'm the Rate and Economic Analysis Manager. The update for the Solid Waste Review is that it is under way. Information was requested by Stantec. We have provided all documentation as requested to them. I will have a call with him on Monday to go over the documents that were given over to them and if they have any questions. They are currently working on using the information to populate and go through the Revenue Requirement model. That is where we are. We are working on it but we do not have anything today to give to the UCAG.

Clark: We're doing solid waste next and then gas last?

Rodriguez: Yes, that is correct.

Clark: Okay, because it wasn't real clear in January. I don't think we really knew which one we were going.

Rodriguez: Okay. Yes, solid waste and then gas.
6. **Other Items of Interest:**
Chair Suttmiller: Other items of interest? Anybody on the Board?

7. **Committee Member Discussion:**
   a. **Introduction of the newly appointed UCAG Member**
Chair Suttmiller: Then we'll move to Committee Discussion. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce our newest member. Mr. Paul Royalty has been appointed to the UCAG. He's got extensive experience working for El Paso Electric. He's worked with the New Mexico Public PRC. He's got a lot of experience dealing with the same things that we're dealing with. Welcome to the Board sir.

Royalty: Thank you.

Chair Suttmiller: We're glad you're here. Do you have any comments or anything else you want to tell us about yourself?

Royalty: No, I'm pretty interested in getting started and understanding what, how far along we are and that sort of thing.

Chair Suttmiller: We're set up to do each one of the four parts of the utilities. One year for each one basically. We do the full cycle.

Royalty: Do the full cycle, yes.

Chair Suttmiller: We had a period where there was not, where there were no rate increases for a long period of time and then people got gobsmacked and we're trying to avoid that. We're now in the beginning of the Solid Waste.

Royalty: You're doing Cost of Service analysis now?

Chair Suttmiller: Right. Once that's in, all the fun starts. We do a lot of activities to get together with public so that they know it's coming and what it is and why it is. It's got its high points. I really welcome you to the Committee. I'm glad you're here.

Royalty: Thank you.

Chair Suttmiller: Ma'am, you got anything you want to say?

Clark: In the minutes, we were talking about changing the public open houses and we got an e-mail after we had talked about this from staff. The suggestion was made to do community discussion and I felt like that was a really strong contender because it makes the public believe that we're going to discuss things with them. Open house tells them nothing. We've had a lot of problems with not a lot of people showing up. We had most of our 10 meetings last cycle on Wastewater that nobody showed up at all. It's real
disheartening because staff puts in a lot of time and we put in a lot of time attending this stuff and with nobody showing up it's very difficult. We discussed in January changing what we call them instead of open houses maybe changing them, and then we had a really good, and I wanted to mention that I was very much in favor of community discussion. I think it talks about what we're doing. We're talking.

Chair Suttmiller: I'd go along with it. You all heard me ramble on forever about how we need to change what we're doing and that's one part of it. The other part is going to places where we know we're going to have large crowds of people before we get there rather than setting up a lone place and say you all come to us.

Clark: Because that's not been very successful.

Chair Suttmiller: That's not very successful. I'm hoping that we'll see a much better, more focused way of doing it. Again the key in my mind to it is going where there's already a crowd.

Clark: Agreed.

Chair Suttmiller: Bob, do you have anything?

Snyder: I think that our most successful has been going downtown during like the Farmer's Market and going into the mall because you meet a lot of people.

Chair Suttmiller: Then the railroad museum. They had that open house and all that kind of stuff really, really is much more. You're meeting more people if nothing else. Do you have any suggestions sir?

Royalty: No, I read the minutes. I don't have any input because I wasn't there.

Chair Suttmiller: If you have any suggestions we more than want to hear them.

Royalty: Okay.

Chair Suttmiller: Anything that you know was successful with the electric company on getting people to show up. Before it was no problem once the rate proposed increases are published. Then there are a lot of people who want to comment about it.

Royalty: Same issue with the electric company.

Clark: Exactly.

Royalty: You call all kinds of community meetings and nobody shows up but then once you raise the rates then everybody starts screaming.
Chair Suttmiller: We're working hard to try to put that over. I'd rather hear the screaming before we make propositions on it.

Clark: We have. You missed that meeting. Left it to me.

Chair Suttmiller: That's good.

Clark: I know, good for you. Not for me.

8. **Next Meeting Date:**

a. June 12, 2019

Chair Suttmiller: The next proposed meeting date is June 12, 2019. Does anybody have a problem with that date? Mr. Royalty?

Royalty: I may be on vacation that week. I need to check that out and see.

Clark: Domonique, are we going to have the work group meet between now and June 12th?

Rodriguez: They're just starting to work on it so I don't see that for the next month.

Clark: Okay.

Rodriguez: Like I said, we'll talk on Monday and we'll go through all of it and I can get a better idea of where they're at inputting it for the Revenue Requirement. Once we do get it, yes we'll meet with the working group to go over it similar to what we did for Water and Wastewater. Then we'll have it presented to the UCAG as a whole.

Clark: Okay. I didn't know if we were going to be doing that between here and June 12th or be between the June meeting and the July meeting.

Rodriguez: Probably between the June and July meeting.

Clark: Okay. That should be okay. The only trip I've got is a weekend. They don't meet on weekends.

9. **Adjournment:**

Chair Suttmiller: The next thing on the agenda is adjournment.

Clark: Move to adjourn.

Chair Suttmiller: Anybody have any comments they want to make? There anything they want to say? Okay, move for adjournment.

Clark: Move for adjournment.

Snyder: Well, that was fast.
Chair Suttmiller: If we don't have anything to say, let's get on out. You want to take our picture but Mr. Gomez is not here.

[Signature]

Chairperson