



CITY OF ROLLINGWOOD UTILITY COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, March 08, 2022

The Utility Commission of the City of Rollingwood, Texas held a regular meeting, open to the public, in the Municipal Building at 403 Nixon Drive in Rollingwood, Texas on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Members of the public and the commission were permitted to participate in the meeting virtually, as long as a quorum of the commission and the presiding officer were physically present at the Municipal Building, in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. The public was permitted watch this meeting live and have the opportunity to comment via audio devices at the link below. The public was also permitted to participate in this meeting by dialing one of the toll-free numbers below and entering the meeting ID and Passcode.

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5307372193?pwd=QmNUbmZBQ1lwUINjNmK5RnJrelRFUT09>

Toll-Free Numbers: (833) 548-0276 or (833) 548-0282

Meeting ID: 530 737 2193

Password: 9fryms

A video recording of the meeting was made and was posted to the City's website and is available to the public in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act upon written request.

CALL UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING TO ORDER

1. Roll Call

Chair Jonathan Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present Members: Chair Jonathan Miller, Elizabeth Bray, Ronald Hasso, Sam Attal, Clark Wilson, Christopher Meakin and Chris Kirksey.

Also Present: Council Member Phil McDuffee, Mayor Gavin Massingill, Interim City Administrator Ashley Wayman, Utility Billing Manager Sharon Davis and Assistant to the City Administrator Makayla Rodriguez

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Citizens wishing to address the Utility Commission for items not on the agenda will be received at this time. Please limit comments to 3 minutes. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the Utility Commission is restricted from discussing or taking action on items not listed on the agenda.

Citizens who wish to address the Utility Commission with regard to matters on the agenda will be received at the time the item is considered.

2. Public Comments

The following individuals spoke during public comments:

- Mayor Gavin Massingill introduced himself and the city's newest employee, Makayla Rodriguez, to the Commission. He discussed the events of the last year in regards to utility billing, the water Capital Improvement Plan, the transition to in-house utility billing, and work being done with Crossroads Utility Services.

CONSENT AGENDA

All Consent Agenda items listed are considered to be routine by the Utility Commission and may be enacted by one (1) motion. There will be no separate discussion of Consent Agenda items unless a Board Member has requested that the item be discussed, in which case the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Regular Agenda.

3. Discussion and possible action on the minutes from the February 1, 2022 Utility Commission meeting

Chris Meakin moved to approve the consent agenda. Chris Kirksey seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. Discussion and possible action on a utility bill appeal for 2601 Pickwick Lane

Robert Turner, 2601 Pickwick Lane, introduced himself and discussed his utility bill appeal. He asked the Commission to recognize that there was a blip in the system and either charge him at his 8-year average for September or to charge him in the lower tier for his water.

The Commission and Robert Turner discussed his appeal request and his historical usage.

Utility Billing Manager Sharon Davis and the Commission discussed the adjustment amount that would normally be made. The Commission discussed their remedy to the situation, in which wholesale rate plus 10% would be charged.

The Commission discussed the requirements of the bill appeal process.

Chris Meakin moved to charge wholesale rate plus 10% for the usage. Sam Attal seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Interim City Administrator Ashley Wayman discussed that staff would bring back information regarding the appeals process to be reviewed at the next meeting.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding cellular and internet service in the City of Rollingwood

Chair Jonathan Miller discussed that this and the remaining items are items that may be of interest to the Commission to talk about now or at a future meeting.

The Commission and Council Member Phil McDuffee discussed cellular service issues and what options the city has explored to correct those issues.

Sam Attal discussed that it would be a good idea to see how widespread the cellular service issues are by sending a questionnaire to the community.

Elizabeth Bray discussed her personal issues with T-Mobile and the Commission further discussed the different options to increase the service in the city.

The Commission and Council Member Phil McDuffee further discussed a potential survey to the community and the potential option of a cellular tower in the future.

Sam Attal moved to make a recommendation to the City Council to provide to the community a brief questionnaire on the quality of their cellular service and see what comes in. Clark Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding tree trimming around power lines

Chair Jonathan Miller discussed that this issue continues to be a work in progress.

Interim City Administrator Ashley Wayman discussed the franchise agreement with Austin Energy and the discussion that will be taking place at the next City Council meeting.

The Commission and Interim City Administrator Ashley Wayman discussed specific instances of tree trimming issues that they have seen in the community.

Sam Attal discussed issues the he been made aware of regarding cable carriers having difficulties connecting to the city's cable lines.

The Commission discussed the city's cable lines and fiber optic service.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding the relocation of service lines and water meters

Interim City Administrator Ashley Wayman discussed that the city is working on its water line abandonment plan, and is particularly interested abandoning backyard water lines and locating all water meters it the front yards. She discussed that the City Council will be discussing a potential future ordinance to require lines and meters to be relocated when a house is demolished. She also explained the status of the electronic water meters and that the city is in the process of hiring a public works superintendent that will be instrumental in organizing the electronic water meter roll-out.

The Commission and Interim City Administrator Ashley Wayman discussed the impact of inflation on the city's costs of replacing lines.

8. Discussion regarding future agenda items and topics for consideration by the Utility Commission

Chair Jonathan Miller discussed that this item is to discuss future items of interest for the Commission and that items could be brought up to him or Interim City Administrator Ashley Wayman for placement on a future agenda.

Chris Meakin discussed budgeting for water and wastewater rate studies in the future.

Elizabeth Bray asked if the city has reached out to Google Fiber and the Commission discussed that they thought that there would be no further expansion of Google Fiber.

Elizabeth Bray asked what the Utility Commission's role would be in addressing the city's needed infrastructure issues and Chair Jonathan Miller discussed that the City Council would be sending projects to the Commission as they find things that they can help with.

Elizabeth Bray discussed the city's water quality reports and concerns about the quality of water and that we are due for another water quality report in the coming months. She also discussed the EPA guidelines vs. what the City of Austin does.

Chair Jonathan Miller asked that when the next water quality report is available that it be brought to the Commission for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Minutes Adopted on the 7th day of June 2022.



Jonathan Miller, Chair

ATTEST:



Ashley Wayman, Interim City Administrator