



Minutes
Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC)
Wednesday, October 5, 2022
Blue River Boardroom, 5th floor, 121 S. Tejon St., Colorado Springs, CO
and Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Committee members present in the boardroom or via Microsoft Teams: Chair Gary Burghart, Vice Chair Larry Barrett, Michael Borden, Katherine Danner, Hilary Dussing, Scott Callihan, Chris Francis and Ruth Ann Schonbachler.

Committee members excused: None

Staff members present in the Boardroom or via Microsoft Teams: Al Wells, Andie Buhl, Monica Indrebo, Natalie Watts, Bethany Schoemer, Christian Nelson, Tara McGowan, Joe Marcotte, Scott Shirola, Joe Awad, Aram Benyamin, Justin Fecteau, Sydni Sich, Tim Benedict, Tiffany Runge, Kim Gortz, John Hunter, Danielle Nieves and Kyle Wilson.

City of Colorado Springs staff present in the boardroom or via Microsoft Teams: David Beckett and Chris Bidlack

Citizens Present: Jerry Edwards and Marla Novak

1. Call to Order

Chair Gary Burghart called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. Approval of July 6, 2022, UPAC Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Larry Barrett motioned, and Committee Member Hilary Dussing seconded the motion to approve the July 6, 2022, meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved with a voice vote.

3. Cost Recovery Assignment Draft Scope

Mr. Scott Shirola, Pricing and Rates Manager, introduces the Cost Recovery Assignment Draft Scope to UPAC. The scope, as approved by the Utilities Board, is to evaluate existing and identify new cost recovery mechanisms for funding new resources and infrastructure to support changes in the community. Public input into any recommendation will be considered for this assignment. The objective will be focused on what types of costs should be recovered due to changes in community and investments, and what should be refocused in fees and charges.

This assignment will review the planning process and forecasted demands, as well as areas of consistency to identify current and potential new sources of cost recovery.

Recovery mechanisms should be based on the cost of service and remain competitive while also supporting each of the four services to be able to financially stand alone. Supporting resources and economic efficiency will address how the fees and charges support resource conservation, infrastructure, infill and economic development. The assignment will look to allocate costs appropriately to parties in an equitable manner.

Mr. Christian Nelson, Public Affairs Lead, introduced public engagement goals for this assignment, including a comprehensive view of public opinion and industry advisement. A key group the assignment will seek input from includes the City and Planning Department for a high-level view of changes in growth to the city and how it impacts the municipality. Several communications channels will be used for public input.

For stakeholder involvement, several groups will be included in the discussion such as the city, the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs Economic Forum, and other similar groups. However, the list provided is not comprehensive, and more groups will be included as the as the assignment develops.

UPAC members advised including environmental, military, schools, and other non-business communities in the targeted audience.

Mr. Shirola explained the assignment preliminary timeline and expects a recommendation from this assignment will be presented to the Utilities Board by June 2023.

4. Citizen Comment

None

5. Committee Member General Discussion

None

6. Adjournment

Chair Burghart adjourned the meeting at 8:59 a.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2022, at 8:00 a.m.