

**VERO BEACH UTILITIES COMMISSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023 - 9:30 A.M.
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

PRESENT: Chairman, Jane Burton; Vice Chairman, Taylor Dingle; **Members:** Peter Dold, Bill Eggers and Alternate Member, Mark Mucher (arrived at 9:31 a.m.) **Also Present:** City Attorney, John Turner and Deputy City Clerk, Sherri Philo

Excused Absence: Bob Auwaerter
Unexcused Absence: James Maxwell

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called today's meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and the Deputy City Clerk performed the roll call.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) April 11, 2023

Mr. Dingle made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2023 Utilities Commission meeting. Mr. Dold seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

At this time, Mr. Mark Mucher took his seat at the dais.

Mr. John Turner, City Attorney, noted that Mr. Mucher could participate in discussions, but would not be able to vote.

3. NEW BUSINESS

None

4. OLD BUSINESS

A) Report on the STEP System – Mr. Rob Bolton, Water and Sewer Director (Resolution Attached)

Mrs. Burton reported that Mr. Bolton was unable to attend today's meeting. She said the Commission members could ask the questions that they have regarding the Resolution (attached to the original minutes) so that they are on record and they could get some answers.

Mr. Dold's questions referred to the Step Up And Save and the wastewater utility extension credits. He asked if it is a new build and they want to connect to the STEP System, would they receive these credits.

Mr. Turner said that would probably be a question for the Finance Department. He noted that this Resolution was only for a specific area with limited qualifications for participants.

Mr. Dold asked with this Pilot Program, would the participants be able to access both credits.

Mr. Turner said that was his understanding.

Mr. Mucher said it seemed like they received a lot of overly favorable headlines for the septic to sewer conversion on the Atlantic Basin. He said those people are still going to have to pay a lot of money. It was not like they were getting this for free. He said it seemed like they were not doing all that the headlines might indicate.

Mr. Dingle said that he attended the City Council meeting when they made the presentation. He said the program was great and it was great to see public/private partnerships like this. The only question that he had was the start date.

The Chairman opened and closed public comments at 9:39 a.m.

Mrs. Burton said they would put this item on their next agenda.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

6. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

A) Sunshine Law Briefing – Mr. John Turner, City Attorney

Mr. Turner briefly went over the Sunshine Law and the Public Records Law with the Commission members. He said if they had any questions they could contact either the City Clerk's office or the City Attorney's office.

Mr. Turner reported that there was a Bill signed by the Governor that was related to the Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) in Gainesville. He said the Commission members were once appointed by the City Commission and now they will be appointed by the Governor's office.

The Chairman opened and closed public comments at 9:50 a.m.

7. MEMBER'S MATTERS

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

/sp