

**CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG UTILITIES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 17, 2011**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities Advisory Committee met Thursday, February 17, 2011, 3:30 pm at 4222 Westmont Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Members Present: David Jarrett, George Beckwith, Jim Merrifield, Ron Charbonneau, Marco Varela, Erica Carter (via phone)

Staff:	Barry Gullet	Director
	Kim Eagle	Deputy Director
	Barry Shearin	Chief Engineer
	Mickey Hicks	Business Manager
	Steve Miller	Customer Service Division Manager
	Regina Cousar	Continuous Improvement Officer
	David Czerr	Engineering Planning Section Program Manager

Minutes

A motion was made by Jim Merrifield, and seconded by Ron Charbonneau, to approve the January 2011 minutes.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

David Czerr presented a PowerPoint on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities FY12-16 CIP. Public meetings were held last week and the presentation is posted on the Utilities website. The CIP process begins in October and is 95% complete by February of the following year which includes input sources, capital planning, data flow and review/finalization. CMU is in the process of transitioning from a growth to stable utility. One goal for the future is to have CIP projects funded 60% by bonds and 40% by Paygo. There are 43 water and 53 sewer projects proposed in the FY12-16 CIP totaling \$486 million, the least amount since FY04-08. A few of the upcoming projects include Ramah Creek trunk sewer, Heathers pump station and North Fork Crooked Creek trunk sewer, and Little Sugar Creek preliminary design.

Rate Methodology Study

A joint public hearing of the Advisory Committee and City Council was held on February 14th. No one spoke at the hearing. The proposed rate structure emphasizes equity and revenue stability for Utilities. City Council has received a few letters of both opposition and approval. Utilities will be going before City Council on Monday, February 28th for approval of the proposed rate methodology and amendment to the City Code. A motion was made by George Beckwith, seconded by Marco Varela, to approve the proposed rate methodology; vote for approval was unanimous.

Citizen Liaison Committee

The Utilities Leadership Team had a retreat last Friday which included discussion about collaboration and cultural changes within the City. One idea that came from the retreat is to establish a Citizen Liaison Committee, similar to the Developers Liaison Committee which was set up approximately 20 years ago. The Citizen Liaison Committee would be comprised of approximately 10 members appointed by the Director who would give feedback on issues encountered and the day-to-day operations of CMU.

Fluoride

Utilities began adding fluoride to its water supply in 1949. The North Carolina rule states if fluoride is added, it must be added at one part per million (1.0 ppm). A recommendation was made by the CDC recently to reduce the level to 0.7 ppm. County health officials indicated they agree with the reduction. A decision has not been made whether or not Utilities will lower the amount of fluoride at this time.

Drought

The Charlotte area is currently in Stage I drought. The stream flow trigger is currently at Stage III level, but the lake level trigger is appropriate for this time of year. The drought could reach Stage II by the beginning of March. The Drought Management Advisory Group (DMAG) will send a media release at the end of the month.

Democratic National Convention (DNC)

The City and Utilities are beginning to look at the infrastructure for security purposes. Utilities staff is currently working with the Denver utility to get an understanding of their experience and/or issues when the DNC was held there.

Adjourn 5:17 pm
Karen L. Baldwin