

**CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG UTILITIES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
June 16, 2011**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities Advisory Committee met Thursday, June 16, 2011, 3:30 pm at 4222 Westmont Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Members Present: David Jarrett, George Beckwith, Jim Duke, Ron Charbonneau, Jim Merrifield

Members Absent: Erica Carter, Marco Varela

Staff:	Kim Eagle	Deputy Director
	Barry Shearin	Chief Engineer
	Bab Westall	Human Resources Manager
	Regina Cousar	Continuous Improvement Officer
	Karen Whichard	Public Information Officer
	Lucy Basaldua	Training Manager

Minutes

A motion was made by George Beckwith, and seconded by Ron Charbonneau, to approve the May 2011 minutes.

FY2012 Budget Approval

Kim Eagle discussed the approved budget and the CMU-related pages from the City of Charlotte budget book which indicated service delivery challenges, accomplishments, performance measures and achievements and a budget summary. Forty-six funded vacant positions were eliminated from the Utilities budget while funding was restored for the remaining 37 unfunded vacant positions. These 37 positions will allow for 11 additional crews in the Field Operations division. Funds were also restored in the budget to cover the increasing costs of chemicals, power, telecommunications and maintenance/repair of small tools and motorized equipment which had been paid for with salary savings for the past few years.

Repair on Runnymede

On June 7th, a 24-inch concrete water line ruptured on Runnymede. Portions of the line have been replaced both upstream and downstream of this incident site. Dellinger, Inc. will be relaying the pipe at a cost of approximately \$150,000. Blythe Construction will be repairing the roadway at a cost of approximately \$500,000. There are currently two of four lanes open on Runnymede. Utilities is currently researching any other locations that may contain this same type of concrete pipe in the system to determine replacement costs.

Update on Key Organizational Initiatives –

New Training Manager: Lucy Basaldua was introduced as the newly hired Utilities Training Manager. Lucy previously worked with CDOT as the training manager.

Vacancy Strategy: Bab Westall is putting a strategy in place for hiring to fill the current vacancies. Field Operations positions are top priority. As of July 1, Utilities will have 100 funded vacancies.

Risk Management and Safety Program Evaluation: Utilities is currently focusing on ways to handle situations that are more likely to occur in our day-to-day operations rather than a catastrophe. A Safety Program Evaluation is in the near future. In this evaluation, Utilities will be looking for improvements to help with costs and performance.

Meter Equipment Pilot Follow-up

There are currently 740 meters being piloted in each neighborhood of River Run and Hidden Valley. The biggest challenged faced in the Hidden Valley neighborhood was rain outs/dig outs of meter boxes. Mud will not affect the transmitter, but it is our preference to keep the meter box as clean as possible. After the installation was

complete at each residence, a door hanger was placed on the front door with information for the customer. 311 did not receive any calls from customers regarding the meter pilot. Both neighborhoods have encountered issues with tampering of equipment. Utilities currently has 40 FC300 handhelds in service to read the meters. Customer Service is conducting a triple check of readings including an initial read, reload reread and pre-bill query.

A second pilot is currently being discussed. Badger will be coming in to work on the engineering pre-planning stage during the end of July through beginning of August. Utilities is hopeful to begin installation of the second pilot equipment in September and be completed by the end of October 2011. This particular pilot will be held in the Peninsula and Faires Farm neighborhoods. There will be many parameters used to determine which homes in the neighborhoods will be used in the pilot.

Adjourned Meeting 4:28 pm
Karen L. Baldwin