



COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

Public Utilities Committee

Date: April 15, 2015

Agenda Item #: 3

Agenda Item: Briefing, public comment, and possible Committee action relating to a proposed Service Extension Request No. 3524 for water service to a 1.93-acre tract at 6720 Vaught Ranch Road located within the Drinking Water Protection Zone, the City's 2-mile extraterritorial jurisdiction and Austin Water Utility's service area. Related to Item #4.

Vote: Approved unanimously 4-0-0-0

Original Sponsors/Department: Austin Water Utility

Summary of Discussion:

Jeff Howard representing the applicant provided an overview about the project, and discussed their requirement of being before council to address any environmental concerns. Bart Jennings, Austin Water Utility's Manager of Business Strategy, delivered a presentation to cover the following:

- Water and wastewater Service Extension Requests (SERs) in general, which included an overview of when the City of Austin cost participates in service extension projects; and
- The specific service extension requests that were the subject of agenda items 3 and 4.

Following the presentation, there was discussion about the reason for the dissenting votes from three Water and Wastewater Commissioners. According to Staff, the commissioners were concerned about the impact of the provision of water during our current drought, and from a policy perspective, believed that Austin Water should not participate in service extension requests.

The Committee had further discussions about SERs as to when they should be presented to the Committee before being posted on the Council agenda.

The Committee decided that

- An SER should be posted on the City Council agenda without Committee review if staff, the community, and boards and commissions are in general agreement about the request;
- Any SER that includes City cost participation should be presented to the Public Utilities Committee.

Public Comments:

For the Item:

- Peter Torgimson, 2222 Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) spoke in favor to convey the neighborhood's support.
- Jeff Howard, representing the applicant spoke in favor of the project.

Direction:

A motion was made by Council Member Zimmerman to refer the item to the full Council with staff's recommendation for approval. Council Member Troxclair seconded the motion.

Mr. Jennings clarified that the motion applied to both items 3 and 4. Council Member Garza and the Committee confirmed that this was the case.

Recommendation:

Refer both agenda items 3 and 4 to the full Council with staff's recommendation for approval.