



**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, October 21, 2015**

**The Public Utilities Committee convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Council Chambers in Austin, Texas.**

**Chair Delia Garza called the Public Utilities Committee Meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.**

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

**Council Member Delia Garza, Chair, Council Member Don Zimmerman, Vice Chair, Council Member Ann Kitchen, and Council Member Ellen Troxclair**

**Staff in Attendance: (26 Staff Members)**

Denise Avery, Tina Bui, Natasha Goodwin, Patricia Campos, Elaine Kelly Diaz, Kerry Overton, Rick Coronado, Chris Chen, Daryl Slusher, Greg Meszaros, Dan Strub, David Anders, Alice Flora, Jason Hill, Kyle Carvell, Carlos Cordova, Mark Dreyfus, Jadell Hines, Jawana Gutierrez, Andy Perry, Jeff Vice, Joseph Gonzales, Mark Dollins, Matt Cullen, Laura Williamson, Joe Petronis.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the Public Utilities Committee meeting of September 16, 2015.

**The minutes from the Public Utilities Committee of September 16, 2015 were approved on Council Member Zimmerman's motion, Council Member Garza's second on a 4-0 vote.**

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

2. The first five speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed three minutes to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.
  - a) Sharon Blythe – odor issues with water and wastewater lift station at Bull Creek
  - b) Dave Anderson – telecommunication infrastructure in the public right-of-way

**ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION - NONE**

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

3. Discussion and possible action regarding Austin Water Utility billing issues.

**Names of speakers on this item:**

- a) **Vicky Couch – Homeowners’ Association Committee at Greenslopes – leak problem and unusually high bills;**
- b) **Jason Crone - Green Slopes – supports Council Member Zimmerman’s proposal;**
- c) **Richard Haas – leak problem at Greenslopes;**
- d) **Barbara Szalay – billing issues with Lost Creek neighborhood and supports Council Member Zimmerman’s proposal;**
- e) **Madeleine Connor – President of Homeowners’ Association at Lost Creek neighborhood – high billing issues.**

**The committee did not make a motion but made the recommendation (4-0 vote) to return this item to the PUC committee in November for further discussion.**

**City Staff will:**

- **Provide an update/briefing in November;**
- **Provide an estimate for doing a full meter reading audit;**
- **Provide an update of the investigation at Greenslopes;**
- **Provide samples of “estimated” bills;**
- **Provide suggestions for water pressure problems;**
- **Provide examples of consequences that could raise a customer’s bill**

**In the meantime, staff was asked to work with the citizens from Lost Creek neighborhood and Greenslopes who attended the meeting and provide assistance with the issues mentioned (high bills and water pressure problems).**

4. **Discussion and possible action regarding aging infrastructure and the amount of water loss each year.**

**The committee did not make a motion or a recommendation on this item. There were no questions from the committee.**

**FUTURE ITEMS**

5. **Discussion of future agenda items.**  
**None**

**ADJOURN**

**Chair Delia Garza adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m. without objection.**

**The minutes were approved on this the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 18, 2015 on Council Member Troxclair’s motion, Council Member Zimmerman’s second on a 3-0 vote. Council Member Kitchen was off the dais.**