

# Minutes of the Water Committee Budget Review Meeting

Bountiful City Water Department  
April 23, 2025 (8:00 a.m.)

Present:

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Committee Members:           | Matt Murri (Chair), Kate Bradshaw, Beth Child, Kendalyn Harris   |
| City Manager:                | Gary Hill  |
| Assistant City Manager:      | Galen Rasmussen  |
| Other City Department Staff: | Kraig Christensen, Gerald Wilson, Tracy Hatch, Lloyd Cheney, Charles Benson, Jessica Sims, Scott Redding, Allen Johnson, Jess Pearce, Luke Veigel, Tyrone Hansen |

Official Notice of this meeting was given by posting a written notice of same and an agenda at the City Hall and providing copies to the following newspapers of general circulation: Davis Journal, Standard Examiner, and on the Utah Public Notice Website.

Committee chair Matt Murri called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

## **PRESENTATION OF BUDGET**

Kraig Christensen, Water Department Director, presented an overview of the Water Department operations along with the Major Roles and Critical Functions of the department. A slide presentation showed some projects that the staff has worked on for illustration of work products. The major roles and critical functions of the Water Department include:

- Construction and maintenance (Meter sets, Main line pipe, 230 Pressure Reducing Valves (PRV), Fire Hydrants)
- Regulations (EPA, state of Utah, Davis County), Water Quality sampling and flushing, Meters (monthly readings and repairs as needed) and SCADA monitoring
- Facilities (1 Treatment Plant, 9 wells, 14 Booster Stations, 15 Reservoirs, 1 Office and Shop)
- Repair of leaks (Main lines, Service lines, Meters, PRVs, Valves and Fire Hydrants)

A question was asked about the number and function of PRVs. Bountiful has more PRVs than most cities due to the elevation of the city. Most homes have their own PRV installed to regulate water pressure, and the city has PRVs throughout the city to regulate pressure in the system overall.

1 Major Roles and Functions:

- 2 • Deliver the best quality water that meets industry standards
- 3 • Quick response to calls
- 4 • Maintain the city water system infrastructure
- 5 • Maintain all facilities
- 6 • Open communication with residents

7 Fiscal Year Priorities for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 include:

- 8 • Viewmont Well rehabilitation project
- 9 • LCRI (Lead and Copper rule improvements) – inventories to be available for the EPA by 2027
- 10 • Fire hydrant and valve maintenance
- 11 • Main line pipe replacement (3.5 miles replaced per year on average)
- 12 • Improve Cross Connection program – verifications are made every two years to ensure no
- 13 cross connections between culinary and secondary sources develop in the system
- 14 • HB81 Stop fluoridation in public drinking water systems (May 7<sup>th</sup> deadline to disconnect from
- 15 fluoride distribution)

16 Operational budget highlights were reviewed with the Committee. Metered water sales are expected  
17 to increase in fiscal year 2026 due to a proposed 20% increase in water rates and some natural growth  
18 in usage. Changes in personnel services are due to the 5% cost of living allowance and a 12% change  
19 in health insurance premiums along with merit increases for employees that qualify. Operations and  
20 maintenance category changes were reviewed. These changes include increases in utility costs,  
21 computer and software costs, and other varied expense lines in the budget.

22 Lloyd Cheney and Kraig Christensen reviewed graphs reflecting water revenue trends in both the base  
23 rate and overage categories. It was noted that the overage category is the most difficult to forecast  
24 due to water conservation efforts, weather patterns, and customer perception and demand.

25 A transition was then made to display a separate forecasting model developed by the City Engineer.  
26 This model was designed by the former City Engineer to reflect the impact of revenues and expenses  
27 on the fund balance of the Water Fund utilizing both historical financial data as well as reasonable  
28 projections. Projections are based on conservative estimates for such items as construction costs,  
29 inflation, and related factors. The graphical output of the model has the appearance of a roller  
30 coaster when trends are viewed over a selection of years. These trends help in forecasting future  
31 infrastructure needs, and necessary rate increases to support the expense needs of the Water Fund.  
32 The forecast for fiscal year 2026 calls for a 20% increase in water rates with an ongoing 2% annual  
33 increase to address inflation.

1 In commenting on the model and recommendations, some on the committee expressed concerns that  
2 the increase would not be sufficient ongoing to address infrastructure and operating expense needs.  
3 Additionally, a discussion ensued related to the need for communication with residents about the  
4 planned increase in rates. Options for this communication included separate mailings, or a website  
5 for reference by residents. The committee felt most comfortable with a website resource for resident  
6 use with a mailing by June with a reference link to the website.

7 The committee asked follow-up questions about planned reservoir site additions including the Barton  
8 Creek Well site. Staff noted that there is still much work underway with this site to develop its future  
9 uses.

10 With no further comments or questions raised, Committee member Bradshaw made a motion to  
11 accept the tentative budget of the Water fund, as presented, and send a budget recommendation to  
12 the full city council for approval. Committee member Child seconded the motion. Voting was  
13 unanimous with Committee members Murri, Child, Bradshaw and Harris voting “aye”.

14 The meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m. on a motion made by Committee member Bradshaw and  
15 seconded by Committee member Child. Voting was unanimous with Committee members Murri,  
16 Child, Harris, and Bradshaw voting “aye”.