

**Commission Members Present:** Bill Szmyd, Clinton O'Neill, Dan Herlihey (Vice Chair), Don Cook, Gary Hausman (Chair), Gene Packer (late), John Butler, Matt Elkins, Randy Williams, and Richard Rhoads.

**LUC Commission Members Absent:** N/A

**Council Liaison Present:** Councilor Jon Mallo and Councilor Steve Olson.

**City Staff Members Present:** Derek Turner, Frank Lindauer, Jim Lees, John Beckstrom, John Faulkner, Kevin Gertig (Director), Laurie Cecere, Lynn Valdez, Michelle Erickson, Roger Berg, Ryan Van Pelt, Steve Johnson, Tanner Randall, Todd Hanlin, and Tyler Groce. Christine Schraeder, Brian Gandy, Tim Bohling, Shelby Craver, Donald Cecil, Tracey Hewson

**Guest Attendance:** Bruce Croissant, Davis Fogerty, Mike Kruger, Dick Mallot, Dave Mills, Jason Sharpe, and Molly Williams, Rick Coen, and Rod Straub.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Gary Hausman called the meeting to order at 3:59 PM.

**Item 2.1: Adoption of Minutes – Gary Hausman**

This item requested a motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2021 meeting.

**Recommendation:** Adopt A Motion to Approve of the Loveland Utilities Commission Meeting Minutes from December 15, 2021.

**Motion:** John Butler made the motion.

**Second:** Bill Szmyd seconded the motion. The minutes were **approved** unanimously with a **7-0 vote**.

### **CITIZENS REPORT**

**Item 3.1 Citizens Report – Mike Kruger spoke after item 6.1** due to his late attendance. Mike is from Colorado Solar & Storage Association (COSSA) and spoke to the Commission regarding solar electric in the City of Loveland. He reviewed information from Namaste Solar Residential Solar projects installed in 2019-2021. He claimed that solar is treated as a service upgrade in the City, saying that installing solar can trigger upgrades to a home's electrical infrastructure that would not otherwise be necessary. According to Kruger, this service upgrade can add thousands of dollars to individual projects. Kruger's request to the Commission is that we stop treating solar installations as a service upgrade and engage in a collaborative process to increase availability of solar in Loveland.

Rod Straub (Steve Olson is rep) gave comment regarding the sewer charge calculations that are billed to the customers in the City based on water usage and a three month average (Dec-Feb) for the "Winter Calculation". He is recommending that we use actual usage during the January to March timeframe instead. He would also like to recommend that we have a consistent read cycle during that read period. He was charged a lot this past cycle and wants a fair and equitable calculation.

Dick Mallott leader of Renewable Now Loveland organization. 3 years ago when Loveland passed the goal to be 100 percent non-fossil fuel by 2030, this was done at many levels like PRPA and City Council. He put in a lot of work to get support in this regard.

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**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS****Item 4.1: 2021 Levels of Service Update for Water and Wastewater Utilities – Michelle Erickson**

Our Levels of Service (LOS) targets are the minimum acceptable levels that water and wastewater should strive to maintain. When we initially worked on setting our LOS, we took into consideration LUC, internal staff, and customer expectations, regulatory requirements, actual performance, and the physical capabilities and limits of our current assets. Please see the attached presentation slides to view the results of our 2021 LOS compared to historical records back to 2009.

**Recommendation:** Information Only. No Action Required.

**Item 4.2: Water Law and Legislative Update– Derek Turner**

This item provides a brief update on water-related legislation introduced or under discussion by the Colorado General Assembly during the legislative season, water court developments or items of interest in District 4 of Water Division 1 (The Big Thompson and Little Thompson River basins), and Colorado or Loveland-related water news.

**Recommendation:** Information Only. No Action Required.

**Item 4.3: Water Supply Update – Ryan Van Pelt**

This item provides the raw water supply update.

**Recommendation:** Information Only. No Action Required.

**Item 4.4: Electric Legislative Update – Laurie Cecere**

This item and Attachment A are intended to give a brief update on electric-related legislation at both the state and federal level. Loveland Water and Power works closely with Platte River Power Authority (PRPA) and its sister cities but relies primarily on the Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities (CAMU) for information on electric-related legislation.

**Recommendation:** Information Only. No Action Required.

**CONSENT AGENDA****Item 5.1: Electric Vehicle Chargers – Christine Schraeder**

The City of Loveland Power division had four electric vehicle (EV) chargers in 2021 that were turned over to Public Works Department, Fleet Maintenance (FM). In 2022, with federal grant money available, the City intends to expand its EV charging equipment fleet across its busiest corridors. Since FM is now maintaining chargers at their expense, Power seeks to remove the current wording in the Schedule of Rates and Fees and replace it with a reference to the posted price.

**Recommendation:** Staff Recommends Removing the Pricing Information from Our Rates, Charges and Fees and Allowing Fleet Management to Maintain the EV Chargers and Set the Pricing for the Service of Providing the Chargers Throughout the City in Order to Optimize Maintenance, Reduce Costs, and Consolidate Control of the Equipment.

**Motion:** John Butler made the motion.

**Second:** Bill Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was **approved** unanimously with a **8-0 vote**.

## REGULAR AGENDA

### **Item 6.1: 2022 Supplemental Budget Appropriation for Various Water Projects and Amendment to the Little Thompson Water District IGA – Roger Berg**

The purpose of this item is to request the LUC to adopt a motion recommending that City Council approve a supplemental budget appropriation to the 2022 Water Utility Unrestricted Fund budget for various water related projects, and to approve an amendment to the Little Thompson Water District (LTWD) Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA).

**Recommendation:** Approve a Motion Recommending that City Council Approve an Ordinance Making a Supplemental Budget Appropriation to the 2022 Water Utility Unrestricted Fund Budget Of \$790,000, and Approve a Resolution that Authorizes the City Manager to Execute an Amendment to the Little Thompson Water District Intergovernmental Agreement to Increase the City's Funding Obligation to \$140,000.

**Motion:** John Butler made the motion.

**Second:** Don Cook seconded the motion. The motion was **approved** unanimously with a **7-0 vote**.  
**Bill S had recused since he is on LTB**

## STAFF REPORT

### **Item 7.1: SARS-CoV-2 RNA Monitoring in Wastewater Influent Update Presentation– Shelby Craver**

Across the state of Colorado, 20+ utilities in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado State University and Metropolitan State University are sampling wastewater influent and measuring the amount of SARS-CoV-2 RNA coming into their utilities. The purpose of this presentation is to update the Loveland Utilities Commission on the City of Loveland Water Reclamation Facility's ongoing participation in this project.

**Recommendation:** Staff item only. No action required.

### **Item 7.2: Late 2021 Outdoor Water Usage and Impact on Sewer Bills – Jim Lees**

The purpose of this item is to address concerns raised by City Councilor Olson regarding two matters: 1) customers having their sewer bills impacted by late year water usage; and 2) the appropriate time window for the sewer Winter Quarter Average (WQA) calculation.

**Recommendation:** Staff item only. No action required.

### **Item 7.3: Quarterly Financial Report – Jim Lees**

The purpose of this item is to address concerns raised by City Councilor Olson regarding two matters: 1) customers having their sewer bills impacted by late year water usage; and 2) the appropriate time window for the sewer Winter Quarter Average (WQA) calculation.

**Recommendation:** Staff item only. No action required.

## COMMISSION & COUNCIL REPORTS

**Item 8.1: Commission Reports**

**Dan Herlihey:** Appreciated the Chimney Hollow Report.

**Gene Packer:** Packer did read the Chimney Hollow Report and was interested in the information regarding the concrete base. He also saw that we got an update on the Boards and Commissions Handbook. Has a customer on North Garfield & 5th, and with all the utilities going underground it seems like there are excessive charges related to infrastructure in order to complete his project. This has not been the case in other cities nearby, so he would like to talk about this concern later.

**Bill Szmyd:** Being on the board of the Little Thompson Water District, he wanted the commission to know that Loveland has been the easiest municipality to work with from all of the cities they work with. He thanks us from LTW.

**Clinton O'Neill:** Thanks to Kruger for his presentation, he is a COSSA member. Thanked Kevin for meeting with him one on one with excellent information. He sees a lot of opportunities in front of us and looks forward to being involved with the LUC.

**Don Cook:** Asked about Kruger's presentation, what happens with that, do we follow up? Kevin Gertig said that there are points he brought up that we need to take into consideration, and then we need to bring this back to the Commission for further discussion. There are a lot of other factors that we need to consider, so we need to analyze the options that are feasible. Jim and his staff will have a cost of service study and this discussion can be part of that process. May want to consider extra meetings to talk through and dive into this issue.

**Gary Hausman:** None.

**John Butler:** None.

**Matt Elkins:** None.

**Randy Williams:** None.

**Richard Rhoads:** None.

**Item 8.2: Council reports**

**Councilor Steve Olson:** Councilor Steve Olson said they are looking at their rules and procedures. Nothing very significant for utilities dealt with in Council except the budget process and the enterprise funds involved. He thinks it would be effective to give Councilors an overview of the current issues facing the utilities industry. Three of the new councilors are very well attuned to the financial needs when building the budget and the enterprise fund. He encourages the city to have the LUC chair present at City Council when an issue is coming to CC. There are two Commissions that have a lot of power, utilities and planning. John added from a new councilor standpoint that the budget binder is thick, and there is not training involved in understanding the budget so any help in understanding it is invaluable. They get seated in their position after the budget process, so there is a steep learning curve. Steve mentioned that they don't get to have much involvement in the budget process.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT****Item 9.1: Director's Report**

- Kevin Gertig, Director of Water and Power, will discuss recent the transitions of roles in the Power Division of Water and Power.
- An overview will be provided by Gertig regarding the City Council retreat that he attended on February 5, 2022.



- In addition, Gertig attended the Platte River Power Authority (PRPA) Strategic Planning Session on February 11, 2022. Gertig provided the Commission a summary about this meeting.
- An update will be provided regarding the supply chain challenges facing our industry.
- On February 12-15, 2022, Gertig attended the American Public Power Association, Chief Executive Officer meeting. Details of this meeting were shared with the Commission during the Director's report.
- Based off the input from the Commission, Gertig will be inviting several outside presenters to speak at future LUC Meetings in order to further our education and collaboration with the community. The input from the LUC is a vital part of Water and Power, and staff would like to thank the Commissioners for their contribution.
- Plans are made to update the City of Loveland Utilities Strategic Plan beginning in March of 2022. Any updates will be made available to the Commission as soon as possible.
- Each year, staff prepares a document for the Commission named "Getting to Know Loveland Water and Power". The document has been updated for 2022. A word version and a pdf version of the document were given out during the meeting on a thumb drive. Staff always appreciates feedback from the Commissioners.
- Please let the LUC Staff Liaison know if you wish to attend the Upper Colorado River Basin Tour that is currently scheduled for June 15-17, 2022. A save the date reminder has been emailed to each Commissioner. This is a three-day, annual River Basin Tour that consists of about 50-60 other water professionals, agriculture producers, elected officials, educators, and interested community members. The tour will take place on a coach bus throughout the Upper Colorado River Basin. This tour features: multiple Colorado Western Slope watersheds within the Upper Colorado River system, speakers from a diversity of perspectives who are grappling with the future of Colorado River management, restoration, and protection within Colorado, on the ground projects, research and examples of program implementation, and three full days of in-field learning covering a broad geographic reach. Registration will open in March, and Water Education Colorado members will have the first opportunity to register.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Valdez  
Recording Secretary  
Loveland Utilities Commission /s/ Gary Hausman, Chair

