



Date and Time:	Public Utilities Commission Friday, October 4, 2024 – 12:00 p.m.	
Location:	Hybrid: Zoom/500 Second Line East	
Members Present:	Mark Howson Musa Onyuna	Chris Graham
Staff Present:	Rob Brewer, President & CEO Mark Faught, VP, Corporate Services Robert Battisti, CFO Sarah McLeod, VP People, Culture & Brand	Jairus Patterson, Supervisor, Communications Stephanie Morin, Finance Executive Assistant Brooke Suurna, Director Water Ops Katie Elliot, Manager Strategy & Brand
Guests:	David Helwig – media	
Absent:	Corey Gardi, Sandra Hollingsworth	

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

M. Howson called the meeting to order at 11:59 a.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a **MOTION** moved by C. Graham, seconded by M. Onyuna, and carried,
The Commission approved the agenda as presented.

3.0 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts were declared.

4.0 SAFETY MOMENT

B. Suurna shared a three-pronged safety moment concerning:

1. Children back in school, be extra vigilant on the roads, especially near school buses. Watch for children crossing the street and always obey school bus signals.
2. Halloween is approaching, so it's important to plan. If possible, avoid driving on Halloween night due to increased pedestrian traffic. If you must be on the road, be cautious, drive slowly, and watch for children in costumes, especially in residential areas.
3. As hunting season begins, ensure you're dressed in high-visibility clothing and follow all local safety protocols to prevent accidents.

5.0 OPEN SESSION MINUTES – April 26, 2024

On a **MOTION** moved by M. Onyuna, seconded by C. Graham, and carried,
The Commission approved the open session minutes dated April 26, 2024.

6.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None noted.

7.0 OPEN SESSION ITEMS

7.1 Q2 Financial Results

R. Battisti presented the Q2 financial results as provided in the package. He highlighted that as of June 2024:

- The year-to-date operating surplus stands at \$4.6M, which is \$339k above budget. This positive variance is primarily due to higher-than-expected revenues and lower expenses.
- Revenues have exceeded the budget by \$108k, driven by increased consumption from both general and residential customers.
- Capital expenditures is lower than budgeted, mainly due to reduced City project work and the deferral of the Goulais Well project.

Based on current trends, the organization anticipates ending the year above budget, with a more detailed update planned for November.

Questions/ Discussion

On a **MOTION** moved by M. Onyuna, seconded by C. Graham and carried,
The Public Utilities Commission accepts as information the attached 2024 Q2 financial results

7.2 Operations Update

B. Suurna provided an operations update, highlighting the initiatives undertaken in the first two quarters and the commencement of activities in the third quarter.

- The restoration of Corey Avenue and Manitou Drive will be finalized by the end of October.
- The looping of the water main from Wright Street to Connaught will effectively eliminate two dead ends in the system.
- To ensure adequate chlorine contact, preemptive work for the Goulais well is set to begin at the end of October, with completion expected by year-end.
- The recent inspections by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (“MECP”) resulted in zero non-compliances.
- The frequency of water main breaks remains consistent with the numbers reported in 2023, indicating stability and favorability for the commission.
- The unidirectional flushing plan aims to complete a third of the city each year (west-end to be completed by year-end), with flushing in the east scheduled for 2025, the north for 2026, and a return to the west afterward.
- The installation of two auto-flushing stations on Dell and Garden Avenue is projected to eliminate two dead ends in the system. This will improve operational efficiency by reducing the need for staff to manually flush these areas.

Questions/ Discussion

None noted.

7.3 Change in Signing Authority

B. Suurna introduced the motion to change signing authorities.

Questions/ Discussion

On a **MOTION** moved by C. Graham seconded by M. Onyuna and carried,

The Commission appoints the following officers to hold office until further action by the Boards:

- **Robert Battisti** - Treasurer, and Chief Financial Officer
- **Mark Faught** - Vice President, Corporate Services
- **Sarah McLeod** - Vice President, People Culture and Brand
- Remove - Guillaume Vachon
- Remove - Kelly McLellan

7.4 MOMA Updates

M. Howson provided an overview of the updates concerning the MOMA, which was implemented in 2000. This change was implemented to preserve savings by establishing a governance model that incorporates a service corporation. As a result, two separate utilities operate independently, but the service corporation centralizes manpower and resources.

The MOMAs were amended in 2011, and efforts are currently underway to modernize and update them again in 2024. Discussions regarding the updates have already taken place with the respective Chairs of the Boards (Andy McPhee - PUC Inc./PUC Service Inc, Mark Howson - Public Utilities Commission, and Jim Rennie - PUC Distribution Inc). A review of the results from the current update is scheduled for November, at which time the findings will be presented to the Commission. Approval for the updated MOMAs is anticipated in 2025.

Questions/ Discussion

None noted.

7.5 President's Report

R. Brewer reviewed the report for the Commission. Highlights include:

- **Safety:** Incidents of copper theft have been occurring frequently, posing significant dangers to those attempting these thefts. Staff are working to better understand these incidents and take proactive measures to prevent them.
- **Financial Update:** By the end of August, revenue is trending positively with a \$900k positive variance. This results in a net surplus of \$1.2 million relative to the budget, which will be reinvested in capital.
 - Capital Expenditures (CAPEX) projects for Q3 and Q4 are wrapping up, with invoicing and payments expected in the last quarter.

- **Consumption:** General service consumption has decreased by an average of 2% compared to last year, with a slight decline in water use. Residential consumption is also down, showing a 3% decrease from previous years.
- **Events:** Recent and upcoming events include Truth & Reconciliation Day, the Bring Your Kids to Work Day (BYKTWD), the Jim Boniferro PUC Junior Golf Tournament, the Chair's Cup, Rotaryfest, and the YMCA eBilling campaign.

Questions/Discussion:

None noted.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

None noted.


9.0 Next Meeting – November 29, 2024

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The open meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

11.0 CLOSED SESSION

No closed session.



Chair



Secretary