

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE UTILITY COMMISSION OF THE  
CITY OF SILOAM SPRINGS, ARKANSAS  
HELD ON JANUARY 26, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by City Administrator Phillip Patterson.

Mr. Patterson held the Roll Call and those present were: Jody Wiggins, Bernadette Keck, David Neff, Alyssa Weyl, and Herbie Galicia.

City representatives present included: Phillip Patterson City Administrator, Renea Ellis City Clerk, Steve Gorszczyk Public Works Director, Phil Stokes Electric Director, Glenn Severn Electric Supervisor, and John Bland Electric Supervisor.

The City Administrator lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

- I. Swearing In of Members: The City Clerk administered the Swearing in Ceremony to Commissioners Wiggins, Keck, Neff, Weyl, and Galicia.
- II. Introductions: The new Commissioners introduced themselves to each other, and the city staff members present introduced themselves to the Commission.
- III. Ordinance 22-23: City Administrator Patterson reviewed Ordinance No. 22-23 with the Commission. Ordinance 22-23 is the ordinance adopted by the City Board establishing the Utility Commission. Items reviewed included the Mission Statement, Member Position and Terms of Office, Compensation, Meetings, Officers, Procedural Rules, Required Training, Tasks, and the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.
- IV. Future Meeting Topics and Training: City Administrator lead the Commissioners through a discussion of future meeting topics related to training that included: City Code Chapters 80 – Solid Waste and Chapter 98 – Utilities; Tours of the Water Treatment Plant, the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the Sanitation Transfer Center; an overview of the Water and Wastewater Distribution Systems and Water District Boundary; an overview of the Electrical Distribution System and Electric District Boundary; the Wholesale Electric Contract with the Grand River Dam Authority; Utility Rates including historic rate increases and the 2021 Rate Study; Utility Billing and Disconnects; Utility Budgets; the Solar Buy-All Sell-All vs Net Metering Policy; Carroll Electric Cooperative Buy-outs and Annexations; the proposed upgrades to the 69 KV Electric Lines; the Waste Management Contract; Green Energy Programs; and training as required by State Retail Water Providers Act 605 of 2021.

Discussion from the Commission included questions regarding trash and recycling trucks, and the hauling of trash to the landfill; renewable energy programs and solar; infiltration into the sanitary sewer system; requiring all occupied buildings to be connected to the City's electric system; and the number of lift stations in the sanitary sewer system.

Commissioner Weyl suggested that staff contact JBU about having a professor speak to the Commission about renewable energy.

- V. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair: Commissioner Wiggins made a motion to nominate Commissioner Neff as Chair. Commissioner Galicia 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Commissioner Neff was elected by acclamation.

Commissioner Wiggins made a motion to nominate Commissioner Galicia as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Neff 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Commissioner Galicia was elected by acclamation.

- VI. Email Accounts: All Commissioners indicated that they had been able to establish their City email accounts.

- VII. Adjournment: Commissioner Keck made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wiggins 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

APPROVED

  
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David Neff, Chair

2-27-23  
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Date