

Commission Members Present: Bill Szmyd, Christopher Say, Craig Bialy, Dan Herlihey (Chair), Don Cook (Vice Chair), Gary Hausman, Gene Packer, John Butler, Matt Elkins, Randy Lee Williams, Richard Bilancia

LUC Commission Members Absent: None

Council Liaison Present: Steve Olson

Council Liaison Absent: Andrea Samson

City Staff Members Present: Aaron Rodriguez, Adam Bromley, Catharine Kellogg, Chad Birgenheier, Clinton O'Neill, Eric Eads, Jim Lees, Kevin Gertig (Director), Kraig Bader, Melanie Reeves, Nathan Alburn, Noah Cecil, Ryan Van Pelt, Tracey Hewson.

Guest Attendance: Javier Camacho (PRPA), Masood Ahmad (PRPA), Paul Davis (PRPA), Leigh Gibson (PRPA), Mike Jones (PRPA).

CALL TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER: Dan Herlihey called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

Item 1.1: Elect Loveland Utilities Chairperson and Vice Chairperson – Melanie Reeves

Discussion regarding and nominations of the Loveland Utilities Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Recommendation: Adopt A Motion to Nominate **Dan Herlihey** as Chairperson of the Loveland Utilities Commission and **Don Cook** as Vice Chairperson of the Loveland Utilities Commission.

Motion: Randy Willams made the motion.

Second: Bill Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was **approved** unanimously with a **9-0 vote**.

Item 1.2: Loveland Utilities Commission member appointments to City Council – Melanie Reeves

At the July 16, 2024 Loveland City Council Meeting the following motions were made and approved:

A motion to appoint **Gary Hausman** to the Loveland Utilities Commission with a term dated July 17, 2024 to June 30, 2027

A motion to appoint **Matt Elkins** to the Loveland Utilities Commission with a term dated July 17, 2024 to June 30, 2027

A motion to appoint **Dan Herlihey** to the Loveland Utilities Commission with a term dated July 17, 2024 to June 30, 2027

A motion to appoint **Craig Bialy** to the Loveland Utilities Commission as an alternate with a term dated July 17, 2024 to June 30, 2027

Recommendation: Information item only.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Item 2.1: Adoption of Minutes – Dan Herlihey

This item requested a motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2024 Joint Meeting of the Loveland Utilities Commission (LUC) and Loveland Communications Advisory Board (LCAB).

Recommendation: Adopt A Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Loveland Utilities Commission (LUC) and Loveland Communications Advisory Board (LCAB) on June 12, 2024.

Motion: Don Cook made the motion.

Second: Gene Packer seconded the motion. The minutes were **approved** with a **6-0 vote**.

There were three abstentions: John Butler, Matt Elkins and Richard Bilancia did not vote since they were not present at the June joint meeting.

CITIZENS REPORT

Item 3.1: Citizens Report

None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Item 4.1: Water Law and Legislative Update – Ryan Van Pelt

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 Item Only. No Action Required.

Item 4.2: Water Treatment Plant Daily and Monthly Flow Report – Chad Birgenheier

This item provides an update on the Loveland Water Treatment Plant daily and monthly flows for the month of June 2024.

Recommendation: Information Item Only. No Action Required.

REGULAR AGENDA

Item 5.1: 2025 Proposed Budgets for Water, Wastewater and Power – Jim Lees

The purpose of this item is to ask the Loveland Utilities Commission (LUC) to adopt a motion indicating support for the proposed 2025 Water and Power budget for City Council's consideration.

Recommendation:

Adopt A Motion to Support the Proposed 2025 Water and Power Budget For City Council's Consideration.

Discussion:

Bill Szmyd wanted to know what happens if the Council ‘balks’ and thinks the request for the 2025 budget is too high. **Jim Lees** acknowledged that could be a risk, but the majority of our budget requests are regulatory-driven and are necessary. **Kevin Gertig** acknowledged that we need to increase our messaging to the citizens to show them how essential these capital investments are. If we need to cut items, we will need to make a risk assessment and determine what projects we cut or scale back.

Jim Lees clarified that the 6% increase suggested for the Power utility equates to an approximately \$7 per month increase on an average bill to our customers.

Motion: Don Cook made the motion.

Second: Gary Hausman seconded the motion. The motion was **approved** unanimously with a **9-0** vote.

Item 5.2: 2025 Proposed 10-Year Capital Improvement Plans – Water and Power Staff

The purpose of this item is to present an overview of the 2025 to 2034 10-year Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) for the Water, Raw Water, Wastewater, and Power Utilities. Staff is requesting that the Loveland Utilities Commission (LUC) adopt a motion recommending that City Council approve the proposed 10-Year CIPs.

Recommendation:

Adopt A Motion Recommending That City Council Approve the Proposed 2025 10-Year CIPS for the Raw Water, Water, Wastewater and Power Utilities.

Motion: Don Cook made the motion.

Second: Gary Hausman seconded the motion. The motion was **approved** unanimously with a **9-0** vote.

STAFF REPORT**Item 6.1: Platte River Power Authority 2024 Integrated Resource Plan presentation – Kevin Gertig**

Platte River staff members Javier Camacho, director of public and external affairs, strategic communications and social marketing, Masood Ahmad, senior manager, resource planning and Paul Davis, distributed energy resources manager will present the results of the 2024 IRP and their recommended portfolio.

Recommendation: Staff Item Only. No Action Required.

Item 6.2: Quarterly Financial Report – Jim Lees

This item summarizes the preliminary monthly and year-to-date financials for June 2024.

Recommendation: Staff Item Only. No Action Required.

Item 6.3: Utility Financial Dashboards – Aaron Rodriguez

This agenda item shows the Utility Financial Dashboards based on June 2024 year-to-date financial and operational data.

Recommendation: Staff Item Only. No Action Required.

COMMISSION & COUNCIL REPORTS**Item 7.1:****Commission Reports**

Dan Herlihey: None.

Gene Packer: None.

Bill Szmyd: Bill commented to **Councilor Olson** that it's not IF we have a flood, it's WHEN we have a flood.

Don Cook: None.

Gary Hausman: None.

John Butler: None.

Matt Elkins: None.

Randy Williams: Randy attended the Chimney Hollow community day, and he enjoyed the event.

Richard Bilancia: Richard feels that we are on the cusp of the pendulum swinging back to the community. He encouraged everyone to read 'Fourth Turning'.

Christopher Say: Christopher would also like to thank staff as they work through the regulatory environment.

Craig Bialy: None.

Council Reports

Steve Olson: Councilor Olson gave an update on the structural imbalance that the city is experiencing (keeping our expenses below our revenues). Council has made two attempts at getting a sales tax increase approved that have been unsuccessful. Council continues to look at potential budget cuts. Most of the Council's perspective is to preserve public safety, roads, and other items deemed essential, but that means that those 'added services' (like the library, museum, and parks) are taking the hit. Councilor Olson is convinced that if the citizens don't experience the loss, they will not agree to a tax increase. He anticipates that the Mayor and some members of council will use the City's reserve funds to meet the 2024 shortfall, which prohibits the city from being able to immediately fund an emergency. Olson also gave a brief update on the homeless issue in Loveland.

Andrea Samson: N.A.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT**Item 8.1: Director's Report – Kevin Gertig**

1. Water Project Updates for June – see **Attachment A**.
2. AMI Deployment Project Updates for July - see **Attachment B**.
3. Electric Capital Project Updates - See **Attachment C**.
4. Platte River Power Authority's final community IRP presentation will be tonight, July 17 from 6-8 p.m. at Platte River headquarters in Fort Collins. Join their dedicated staff to learn about the results of their 2024 IRP process and recommended portfolio. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Free parking and food will be provided. The Zoom link is now available on [PRPA's website](#). A version of this presentation will be given to Loveland City Council at the July 23, 2024 Study Session.
5. Reminder: On Friday, July 19, 2024, we are hosting the in-person interview process for the Water Utilities Manager position. All commission members are invited and welcome to attend the candidate presentations that will be held at the Public Works Building (2525 West 1st Street, Loveland, CO 80537). Presentations will begin promptly at 7:30 a.m. and doors to the building will be manned starting at 7:15 a.m. We have four highly qualified candidates with diverse backgrounds. We welcome your attendance and feedback on these interview candidates.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Reeves
Recording Secretary
Loveland Utilities Commission /s/ Dan Herlihey, Chair

