

Ogden City

Ogden City Council Town Meeting Notice April 5, 2012 – 6:00 p.m. City Council Chambers – Third Floor Municipal Building, 2549 Washington Boulevard

Notice is hereby given that the Ogden City Council will hold a Town Meeting on Thursday, April 5, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, on the third floor of the Municipal Building, 2549 Washington Boulevard, in Ogden City, Weber County, Utah.

The purpose of the Town Meeting is to discuss and receive public input regarding the Utility Rate Study, and to discuss Council Business.

The schedule for the town meeting will be as follows:

- Present several scenarios regarding funding and timing options for capital projects.
- Review and address frequently asked questions regarding the Utility Rate Study.
- Citizens will have the opportunity to express their ideas and view, with comments being limited to three (3) minutes.

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In compliance with the Americans Disabilities Act, persons needing auxiliary communicative aids and services for this meeting should contact the Management Services Department at 629-8701 (TDD # 629-8949) or by email: <a href="mailto:ADACompliance@ci.ogden.ut.us">ADACompliance@ci.ogden.ut.us</a> at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF POSTING**

The undersigned, duly appointed City Recorder, does hereby certify that the above notice and agenda was posted in three public places within the Ogden City limits on this  $4^{th}$  day of <u>April</u>, 2012. These public places being: 1) City Recorder's Office on the  $2^{nd}$  floor of the Municipal Building; 2) 2nd floor foyer of the Municipal Building; and 3) the Weber County Library. Copy provided to the <u>Standard-Examiner</u> on April 4, 2012 and posted to the City web page - <u>www.ogdencity.com</u>.

CINDI MANSELL, MMC/CRM OGDEN CITY RECORDER

Council Agenda Information Line – 629-8159

# **UTILITY RATE STUDY TOWN MEETING**

# PURPOSE OF TOWN MEETING:

- Present several scenarios regarding funding and timing options for capital projects
- Review and address frequently asked questions regarding the Utility Rate Study
- Receive public input on the Utility Rate Study

# **Background**

The purpose of the Town Meeting is to allow the City's consultants to present several different scenario options for the Council's and the public's review regarding the funding and timing of major capital improvements over the next five to ten years. The scenarios that will be presented are the result of direction given by the Council from several work session discussions during which the Council and Administration, with facilitation by the consultants, worked through policy and project options. The work sessions, held on March 21, 2012 and March 27, 2012, were intended to allow the Council and the Administration to build consensus regarding which projects and policies should be included in a final proposal for the Council's consideration. The scenarios to be covered in the Town Meeting include options for including or not including the renovation/reconstruction of the City's water filter plant and options for extending the timeline for the replacement of water distribution lines.

In addition to the presentation of the funding scenarios, the consultants and the Administration will be reviewing and addressing a list of the most frequently asked questions regarding the Utility Rate Study. These questions were compiled by the internal steering committee and based on the questions that the committee felt were the most commonly asked and which were the most important questions to answer regarding the utility systems and the Utility Rate Study. The questions were developed using feedback received during the public comment period at the fact finding work session on March 6<sup>th</sup>, the first online survey, comments received by Administration and Council members, comments received by the Council office, comment cards submitted from previous utility rates work sessions, interaction with residents, and from other public meetings where public

comment was accepted. Copies of the document containing the responses to these questions will be available for the public at the meeting and will be distributed to those who have signed up for the Utility Rate Study email distribution list.

Following the review of the frequently asked questions, the Council will be accepting public input. Citizens and members of the public will be allowed to comment on the Utility Rate Study, the utility system, the scenarios presented, the frequently asked questions or any other topic pertinent to utility rates. Comments received during the public comment section will be incorporated into the remainder of the Utility Rate Study. In addition to the public comment section offered at the town meeting, a second online survey will be opened the week of April 9, 2012 to receive additional input from participants regarding the Utility Rate Study.

As with the discussions regarding projects and policies to be included in the rates model, the Council will need to provide direction to the internal steering committee regarding the preferred funding and timing scenarios. Council staff is recommending that direction on the scenarios be delayed until after public comment is received at the town meeting to allow consideration of all public comments on the different scenarios. Direction will need to be given by the Council in order to provide the internal steering committee with the necessary funding and timing parameters to finalize the rates proposal. Once direction is given, the internal steering committee will finalize a proposal and transmit the study and the rates ordinance to the Council office. The Council will then have the option of setting the public hearing on the ordinance at the April 17, 2012 meeting. The currently anticipated public hearing date is May 1, 2012. It is anticipated that the Culinary Water Master Plan, the Storm Water Master Plan and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) will be considered at the same time as the utility rates ordinance.

# Timeline of Events

July 2007

The City contracts with LYRB to begin a utility rates study that includes rates for water, sewer and storm sewer and a process of identifying major infrastructure needs for the purposes of bonding.

December 2007

The City Council adopts the utility rates study and the proposed fee schedule that resulted from the Water Horizons study process.

# January 1, 2008

The rate schedule from the utility rates study takes effect. The rate schedule includes built-in annual increases that go through June 2012.

# May 2008

The City issues approximately \$50 million in bonds for capital projects identified through the utility rates study.

#### October 2008

The Council approves an amendment to the rate schedule to reduces the highest tier rates from the "punitive" rate to a rate more in line with the graduated tier rates adopted in December 2007.

#### *November 1. 2011*

The last of the built-in rate increases takes effect based on the 2007 rate study.

#### November 15, 2011

Council introduces and adopts Resolution 2011-31 outlining the intent of the Council to complete a new utility rates study and the anticipated timeline for the new study.

#### December 13, 2011

A work session was held to review and educate the Council about the policy considerations established with the 2007 Water Horizons utility rates study. At the meeting, representatives from Lewis Young Robertson and Burningham reviewed the policy considerations established with the 2007 study and reviewed the notes and comments received from Council members when those policies were considered.

#### January 31, 2012

A work session was held to review policy considerations for the 2012 Utility Rates Study and to gather information from Council members regarding the policies and considerations that Council members felt were necessary for moving forward.

#### February 21, 2012

A work session was held to review preliminary analysis of revenue sufficiency for the water utility. Several general scenarios were presented to the Council for the funding of capital projects included in the proposed capital improvements plan and the proposed culinary water master plan.

# March 6, 2012

A fact finding work session is held at which Council Staff and Administration presented background information on the Utility Rates Study and reviewed public comments received from an online survey. The Council accepted public input on the rate study at the meeting and reviewed revenue sufficiency data for the sewer and storm sewer utilities.

# March 13, 2012

The Council reviewed the proposed Culinary Water Master Plan and the proposed Storm Water Master Plan at a work session.

#### March 21, 2012

The Council began the discussion regarding which capital projects are to be included within the rates model and which policies are to be included in the rate structure. The discussion was continued to the March 27, 2012 meeting.

#### March 27, 2012

The Council finished the discussion regarding which policies were to be included in the creation of the rates model. The discussion was continued from March 21, 2012.

**Memos Prepared By:** 

Council Staff - Glenn Symes, 629-8164