

City Council

Study Session Summary

October 8, 2024
Library Meeting Room
951 Spruce Street
6:00 PM

Mayor Leh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

City Council Present: Mayor Chris Leh
Mayor Pro Tem Caleb Dickinson
Councilmember Tim Bierman (attended remotely)
Councilmember Deborah Fahey
Councilmember Barbara Hamlington
Councilmember Dietrich Hoefner

Absent: Councilmember Judi Kern

Staff Present: Samma Fox, Interim City Manager
Meredyth Muth, Interim Deputy City Manager
Kurt Kowar, Director of Public Works & Utilities
Cory Peterson, Deputy Director of Utilities

UTILITIES – WATER 101

Public Works Director Kurt Kowar and Deputy Director Cory Peterson shared a video made by the American Water Works Association showing how the Public Works Department responded to the Marshall Fire and how they then used that information to help Maui water utilities respond to their fire. Kowar noted the need to have a continuity of operations plan to be able to respond to disasters.

Kowar discussed employee culture as well as departmental processes and organization. Peterson reviewed the 2024 Utility Master Plan and what it covers. Kowar reviewed the City's two water sources: South Boulder Creek and Northern Water Conservation District. He discussed where the water flows and how it gets to the City's plants.

Kowar reviewed how the department plans for water needs including new development and drought. They discussed the effects of climate change on the water system. They reviewed historical purchases of water rights and water goals.

They reviewed the water zones and the infrastructure that is needed to provide water citywide. He reviewed the distribution and storage processes. Kowar noted the impacts of residential irrigation on water demand.

Kowar reviewed water rate planning and rate structure and how the rate model and prices are set. He reviewed how tap fees are set and what they are based on. He reviewed average water use for residential homes and how that impacts a water bill. He showed rate comparisons with surrounding communities.

Adjourned at 8:25 pm.