

DEPARTMENT: Finance

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Staff briefing on the History and Governance of the City's Municipally Owned Utilities.

SUMMARY:

The City Council Committee roster includes the addition of the Municipal Utilities Committee for the 2021-2023 term. The charge of this Committee is to “oversee the implementation of programs and policies at San Antonio Water System and CPS Energy, including the recommendation from the Emergency Preparedness Committee. This charge is limited to program coordination efforts and does not include items traditionally heard by the full City Council, such as rate adjustments and board appointments”. As part of the introductory meeting, staff will be providing a briefing to the Committee on the history of the Municipally Owned Utilities and the oversight exercised by the City Council.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 1942, San Antonio acquired utilities from the American Light and Traction Company. Today, that City owned utility is known as CPS Energy (CPSE). Currently, CPSE provides electricity and natural gas to San Antonio and surrounding areas and serves more than 888,000 electric and 367,000 natural gas customers in and around San Antonio. The CPSE Board of Trustees is comprised of five citizens, one of whom is the Mayor (ex-officio).

The San Antonio Water System (SAWS) was created on April 30, 1992, by City Ordinance 75686. Through the Ordinance, the City consolidated the operations of the existing waterworks (formerly the City Water Board), wastewater and water reuse system (formerly departments of the City). In 2012, the former Bexar Metropolitan Water District (BexarMet) was dissolved, and all its assets and liability were transferred to SAWS. SAWS provides water and wastewater services to San Antonio and surrounding areas. SAWS serves more than 529,000 water and 473,000 wastewater customers in and around San Antonio and maintains over 13,000 miles of water and sewer mains. The Board consists of the Mayor (ex-officio) and up to six people who are residents of the City or reside within the area served by the SAWS.

For this item, City staff will provide a briefing on the history of the utilities, governance structure, and oversight exercised by the San Antonio City Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

This briefing is for informational purposes only.