City of LOMPOC

Utility Commission

Utility Commission Meeting Date: January 8, 2024

TO: City of Lompoc Utility Commissions

FROM: Brad Wilkie, Utility Director
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SUBJECT: Staff Introductions

Recommendation:

No action required.

Discussion:

In September 2023, the City replaced management within the Utility Department.

On September 5th, CJ Berry separated from the City; taking on an opportunity with another Electric Utility in Southern California. Brad Wilkie was brought on in an interim capacity by the City Manager with CJ's separation. The next week, CJ's Electric Manager hire arrived.

Tim Berringer was hired by CJ after an extensive and nationwide search for an Electric Utility Manager. The Manager position had been vacant effectively for a number of years resulting in a weakness in the leadership over the Electric Division as CJ had to provide that leadership as well as providing management over the other utilities operated by the City.

Tim started less than a week after CJ left so Tim and I have been able to get up to speed on utility and electric issues together.

Attached is a summary provided by Tim of his professional and personal background.

Tim Berringer's Work and Community Resume

Tim Berringer comes to us from Iowa. He graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering with emphasis in power. He is a Professional Engineer in two states and has been an IEEE member for over 30 years.

Tim started his career with the largest Public Power utility in the United States with respect to area, Nebraska Public Power District. He has worked for the third largest electric cooperative in the nation, CoServ in Texas, with over 280,000 electric and 150,000 natural gas meters. From an investor-owned utility standpoint, he has worked for Berkshire Hathaway Energy Company in the electric distribution, electric generation, and natural gas transmission divisions. He also worked for Union Pacific Railroad as the head of the Electrical Department covering 23 states including California where he was responsible for all NEC (internal building electrical design), and the NESC/General Orders (electric utility associated work). Tim has been directly responsible for design, construction, maintenance, safety, training, and documentation for his employers.

Tim has also worked several years in power production which includes a nuclear plant, a four-unit coal plant campus, and numerous Distributed Energy Resources (DER). The DER's include natural gas, diesel, and propane Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines (RICE), and small- and large-scale PV systems. These projects included customers such as farmers replacing potato fields with solar fields, corporations, NASA, NOAA, and the United States Military.

Tim has a wide range of other electrical and utility experiences. Tim's other utility experiences include installing public water distribution systems in Kansas and Oklahoma, designing and operating wastewater treatment plants across the United States, designing and constructing natural gas facilities, and performing human resources evaluations/recommendations for adequate staffing. Tim states he has held just about every title in the electrical utility business from technician to Director of the utility.

From a personal perspective, he married his high-school sweetheart, Gayla. They have five grown children, three girls and two boys. Tim enjoys being connected with the community in which he resides and has participated in STEM programs as a mentor for high school students interested in science and engineering. He is a very big proponent for high school and college internships. He has also coached youth soccer and baseball and likes volunteering for community betterment projects. Tim enjoys traveling, reading, bike riding, hiking, working on old Chevelles/El Caminos, hunting, fishing, and remodeling houses. Tim has recently purchased a home within the city limits of Lompoc where he intends to relandscape the yard and remodel the house.