

**UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
January 14, 2013
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
5:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

George Lewis
Arthur Hoffman
Sharon Parshley

OTHERS PRESENT

Blaine Cox, Deputy CM
Greg Hoey, Appellant Rep
Shawn Libby, Appellant
George Manuel, Appellant

ABSENT

Daniel Peterson (Excused)

MINUTES

I. Call to Order.

George Lewis called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. Daniel Peterson was absent; all other Board members were present.

II. Acceptance of December 10, 2012 Minutes

Arthur Hoffman **MOVED** to accept the December 10, 2012 minutes as written. The motion was seconded and the **MOTION PASSED** on a unanimous voice vote.

III. Appeals

A. Jaime Hoey Appeal

Greg Hoey, father of the appellant, presented the appeal. The customer, Jaime Hoey, seeks an abatement of \$699.60 in both water and sewer fees due to a leak.

Deputy City Manager Cox's recommendation is to abate 90.5 units of sewer usage at a total value of \$552.96 based upon the following findings:

1. The customer has provided documentation that a leak occurred on the residential side of the piping from the water meter.
2. The customer states the leaked usage flowed into the ground and not into the sewer system.
3. Based upon the previous four billing cycles, the average quarterly usage is 74.5 units (mean average of 89 units, 79 units, 69 units, 61 units). Therefore, it is estimated that 90.5 units of usage was leaked (165 units this billing – 74.5 units average = 90.5 units).

4. 90.5 units of sewer usage fees totals \$552.96 (90.5 units x \$6.11/per unit = \$552.96).

Arthur Hoffman **MOVED** to abate 90.5 units of sewer usage at a total value of \$552.96. . The motion was seconded and the **MOTION PASSED** on a unanimous voice vote.

B. Ms. Darlene Grassie Appeal

The appellant seeks an abatement of \$36.66 in sewer usage due to a broken water pipe.

The recommendation of the Deputy City Manager is to abate 6 units of sewer usage at a value of \$36.66.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

1. The customer has provided documentation that a leak occurred under the residence.
2. It is assumed the leaked usage did not enter the sewer system because of the location of the leak.
3. Based upon the previous four billing cycle usage of 8 units, it is estimated that the leaked usage was approximately 6 units (14 units this billing cycle – 8 units last billing cycle = 6 units).
4. Six (6) units of sewer usage fees totals \$36.66 (6 units x \$6.11/per unit = \$36.66).

Arthur Hoffman **MOVED** to abate 6 units of sewer usage at a value of \$36.66. The motion was seconded and the **MOTION PASSED** on a unanimous voice vote.

C. Fuller Lane Realty Appeal

The appellant is seeking an abatement of \$1,840.30.

The Deputy City Manager's recommendation is to abate 173.61 units of water and sewer usage at a total value of \$1,840.30.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

1. The City's work to reconstruct the Pine Street road surface as well as underground utilities revealed that the usage for 15 ½ Pine Street was also included in the usage recorded for 15 Pine Street (in other words the meter at 15 Pine Street captures the usage for both 15 and 15 ½ Pine Street).

2. The usage measured on the meter for 15 ½ Pine Street for the last quarter and start of current quarter is as follows:

08/08/2012 to 11/07/2012 = 162 units
11/08/2012 to 11/29/2012 = 11.6132 units
Total 173.6132 units

The 173.6132 units of water and sewer fees total \$1,840.30 (173.6132 units x 10.60 per unit = \$1,840.30).

George Lewis **MOVED** to abate 173.61 units of water and sewer usage at a total value of \$1,840.30. The motion was seconded and the **MOTION PASSED** on a unanimous voice vote.

D. Windswept Acres Co-op Appeal

Mr. George Manuel was present representing the appellant.

The Co-op seeks an abatement in the amount of \$5,725.00 for water usage. The Finance Director's recommendation is that no abatement be granted based upon the following findings:

1. There is no indication that the metered water usage is inaccurate.
2. The customer's claim that the City's system caused damage to the customer's private meters and hot water tank resulting in leaked usage is not supported by the City Engineer's review of the situation.

Sharon Parshley **MOVED** to deny any abatement of water and sewer fees. The motion was seconded and the **MOTION PASSED** on a unanimous voice vote.

Arthur Hoffman **MOVED** to abate the interest charges on the unpaid fees up to and including today's date, however, interest fees beyond today's date are not to be abated. The motion was seconded and the **MOTION PASSED** on a unanimous voice vote.

E. Ms. Helen F. Anderson

The appellant is seeking an abatement of sewer usage fees in the amount of \$366.60 due to a leak under her home.

The Deputy City Manager recommends an abatement of 60.75 units of sewer usage at a value of \$371.83.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

1. The customer has provided documentation that a leak occurred at the main valve under the residence.
2. The customer states the leaked usage flowed into the ground and not into the sewer system.
3. Based upon the previous four billing cycles, the average quarterly usage is 4.25 units (mean average of 6 units, 4 units, 4 units, 3 units). Therefore, it is estimated that 60.75 units of usage was leaked (65 units this billing – 4.25 units average = 60.75 units).
4. 60.75 units of sewer usage fees totals \$371.83 (60.75 units x \$6.11/per unit = \$371.83).

Sharon Parshley **MOVED** to abate 60.75 units of sewer usage at a value of \$371.83. The motion was seconded and the **MOTION PASSED** on a unanimous voice vote.

IV. Interest Charges on Bills Pending Abatement

After a brief discussion the Board took no action on this issue.

V. Mobile Home Park Sewer Question

The UAB recognized Mr. Shawn Libby of Pineview Mobile Home Park. Mr. Libby reported that he was present to follow-up his abatement request from last month's UAB meeting. He reported that he found a leaking shut-off valve on his system that was responsible for the variance between the Master Meter and the individual park meters. The UAB requested that Mr. Libby submit a letter and photograph to document the repairs he made to this leaking valve.

The UAB then directed Deputy City Manager Cox to research and determine which governing body has the authority to remove the practice of charging sewer fees in situations such as Pineview, i.e. the park owner has no sewer fixtures between the Master meter and individual sub-meters.

VI. Sewer Deduct Meters

No action was taken on this agenda item.

VII. Skating Rink Abatement

No action was taken on this agenda item.

VIII. Financial Statements

No action was taken on this agenda item.

IX. Other

Arthur Hoffman **MOVED** that Deputy City Manager Cox begin audio recording the monthly UAB meetings. The motion was seconded and the **MOTION PASSED** on a unanimous voice vote.

X. Adjournment

George Lewis **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the **MOTION PASSED** on a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

Respectfully,

Blaine M. Cox
Deputy City Manager

BMC: sam