

UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
April 20, 2015
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Daniel Peterson
Shawn Libby
Tom Willis

OTHERS PRESENT

Mayor Jean (5:36 P.M.-5:49 P.M.)
Deputy Mayor Varney (5:30-6:46 P.M.)
Accountant Sullivan (5:30-6:46 P.M.)
Deputy City Manager Cox

MEMBERS ABSENT

Arthur Hoffman

MINUTES

1. Call to Order.

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

2. Acceptance of March 9, 2015 Minutes

Tom Willis **MOVED** to accept the March 9, 2015 minutes as written. The motion was **ADOPTED**.

3. Old Business

3.1 Water Rates Recommendation

Tom Willis **MOVED** that the Utility Advisory Board recommend to the City Council that water user rates be increased by 3% or 14 cents from the current rate of \$4.67 per 100 cubic feet. The motion was **ADOPTED**.

3.2 Sewer Rates Recommendation

Tom Willis **MOVED** that the Utility Advisory Board recommend to the City Council that sewer user rates not be changed from the current \$6.74 per 100 cubic feet. The motion was **ADOPTED**.

3.3 Blougouras Appeal

This appeal was originally heard at the January 26, 2015 UAB meeting. Action on the abatement request was postponed until the next set of usage readings were available to better inform the Board's decision.

Deputy City Manager Cox's recommendation is to abate 33 units of sewer fees valued at \$205.92.

Tom Willis **MOVED** to abate 33 units of sewer fees valued at \$205.92. The motion was **ADOPTED**.

4. Appeals

4.1 Wilkinson Appeal (2 Appeals)

Appeal #1

Mr. Richard Greenlaw was present to represent the appellant in this case.

The appellant seeks an abatement of sewer fees due to a leak.

Deputy City Manager Cox's recommendation is that no abatement be granted in response to this first appeal.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

- 1) The billing period for which the abatement is requested is 8/18/2014 to 11/19/2014.
- 2) The subsequent billing was issued on February 27, 2015
- 3) The abatement request was submitted on March 9, 2015.
- 4) The Sewer Ordinance in part states in section 16:18 Appeals, subsection (a) Notification: "The aggrieved user shall notify the Business Office in writing that said bill is contested before the next billing for this wastewater service."
- 5) Therefore, this request is untimely per the ordinance.

Tom Willis **MOVED** to deny Wilkinson's first abatement request. The motion was **ADOPTED**.

Appeal #2

Deputy City Manager Cox recommends abatement of 77 units of sewer valued at \$319.55 for the second part of the appeal.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

- 1) The customer has documented that a leak occurred during the billing period, that the leak has been repaired and has stipulated upon a signed application that the leaked usage did not enter the sewer collection system.

2) The leaked usage and value is estimated as follows:

a. Current Billed Invoice	84 units
b. Estimated Average Usage	<u>- 7 units</u>
c. Estimated leaked usage	77 units

$$77 \text{ units} \times \$4.15 \text{ Elderly Sewer Rate} = \$319.55.$$

3) The customer does not dispute the metered usage of water. No abatement of water fees is warranted as the water was received by the customer.

Tom Willis **MOVED** to abate on Wilkinson's second request 77 units of sewer fees valued at \$319.55. The motion was **ADOPTED**.

4.2 Ramsdell Appeal

The appellant seeks an abatement of \$106.08 due to a burst pipe. All water was discharged into the ground.

Deputy City Manager Cox recommends abatement of 27 units of sewer fees valued at \$168.48, provided the customer supplies proof of the leak and subsequent repair.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

- 1) A leak is claimed to have occurred and the customer's representative (tenant) has signed the application stating that the leaked usage did not enter the sewer collection system.
- 2) The leaked usage and its value is estimated as follows:

a) Current billed usage	34 units
b) Estimated average usage	<u>- 7 units</u>
c) Estimated leaked usage	27 units

$$27 \text{ units sewer fees} \times \$6.24/\text{unit} = \$168.48.$$

Tom Willis **MOVED** to abate 21 units of sewer fees valued at **\$131.04** provided the appellant supply proof of the repair. The motion was **ADOPTED**.

4.3 AARTI Investments, LLC

Scot Spewok was present to represent the appellant.

The appellant seeks an abatement of \$13,550.22 in water and sewer fees due to a meter pipe that froze and burst in an unoccupied residence.

Deputy City Manager Cox's recommendation is to abate 1,242 units of sewer fees valued at \$7,750.08, provided the customer supplies proof that the leaked usage did not enter the sewer system.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

- 1) The residence is unoccupied and has had no usage in prior billing periods.
- 2) City personnel verified a leak in the basement that resulted in the extreme metered usage.
- 3) All usage of 1,242 units is attributed to the leak.
- 4) Customer does not dispute water usage recorded by the meter, therefore, abatement of water fees is not warranted.

Daniel Peterson **MOVED** to abate 1,242 units of sewer fees valued at **\$7,750.08**. The motion was **ADOPTED**.

4.4 McGroen Partners, LLC Appeal

Scott Smith was present to represent the appellant. He indicated that an onsite water well would be used for outside irrigation in the future if possible. Otherwise, a sewer deduct meter will be installed.

Deputy City Manager Cox's recommendation is to abate 259 units of sewer fees valued at \$1,616.16, contingent upon the customer arranging the installation of a sewer deduct meter on the irrigation system.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

- 1) City staff has verified that the irrigation system was most likely responsible for the high summer period usage.
- 2) Improper programming of the meter caused confusion and delay in proper usage measurements and billing timeliness.

Tom Willis **MOVED** to abate 259 units of sewer fees valued at **\$1,616.16** contingent upon proof from the appellant that the water well is to be used for irrigation or a sewer deduct meter is to be installed. The motion was **ADOPTED**.

4.5 Colwell Appeal

The appellant seeks an abatement of water and sewer fees in the amount of \$316.39 because of possible theft of water from an outside spigot.

Deputy City Manager Cox's recommendation is that no abatement be granted upon this request.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

- 1) There is no indication that the metered usage readings are inaccurate.
- 2) There is no indication that there were any leaks during the billing period.
- 3) If payment is a hardship, a payment plan is available to the customer.

Tom Willis **MOVED** to deny the abatement request. The motion was **ADOPTED**.

4.6 Tarling Appeal

The appellant seeks an abatement due to a ruptured bathroom faucet.

Deputy City Manager Cox's recommendation is to abate 10.5 units of sewer usage valued at \$65.52.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

- 1) The customer has documented that a leak occurred during the billing period, that the leak was repaired and the customer has stipulated upon a signed application that the leaked usage did not enter the sewer collection system.
- 2) The leaked usage and value is estimated as follows:

a) Current Billed Usage	15.0 units
b) Estimated Average Usage	- 4.5 units
c) Estimated Leaked Usage	10.5 units

$$10.5 \text{ units of sewer fees} \times \$6.24/\text{unit} = \$65.52$$

Daniel Peterson **MOVED** to abate 10.5 units of sewer fees valued at **\$65.52**. The motion was **ADOPTED**.

5. Financial Reports

There was no discussion on the Monthly Financial Statements.

6. Other

6.1 Tom Willis **MOVED** to recommend to the City Council that shut-off and turn-on fees charged by the Water Department which are currently at \$30.00 each, be increased by \$20.00 to an amount of \$50.00 each. The motion was **ADOPTED**.

7. Adjournment

Daniel Peterson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The motion was **ADOPTED** and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully,

Blaine M. Cox
Deputy City Manager