

UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
July 13, 2015
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Daniel Peterson, Chairman
Arthur Hoffman
Shawn Libby
Thomas H. Willis, Jr

OTHERS PRESENT

Blaine Cox, Deputy City Manager
John B. Storer, PE – Director City Services
Mathew Locke, Owner, 38 Summer Street
Nancy Kierstead, Owner, 52 Stillings Court
Tamra Bushong, Owner, 415 N.Main Street
Lisa Nicholson, Owner, 25-27 Maple Street

MINUTES

1. Call to order:

Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:30PM. All board members were present.

2. Appeals

Chairman Peterson stated that he would take the appeals in the order in which the four appellants arrived.

2.1 Matthew Locke, 38 Summer Street abatement request.

Mr. Locke stated that he does accept full responsibility for the water leak at the property. He stated that the leak was significant as the toilet was running for a long period of time. He stated that he found out about the leak and prior to getting over to the property he ended up hospitalized. Due to significant health concerns he then forgot to make the repairs. He stated that toilet flapper leak had gone on for six or more weeks. Mr. Locke also stated that he was hopeful that the Board would be able to abate at least some portion of the sewer charges. He stated he could use some help as the financial situation due to these new health issues are going to create a hardship. His letter of request was for 66 units of both water and sewer for a total of \$720.06. Chairman Peterson asked if this was a rental property. Mr. Locke stated that it is. Mr. Willis stated that he could not see abating any water charges as the water was used and even though the water went into the sewer he would consider some help there. Mr. Hoffman stated that to abate this would be more of a compassionate issue.

Mr. Willis made a motion to abate 66 units of sewer at 6.24 per unit for a total of \$411.84, and to abate any accrued interest charges. Mr. Libby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.2 Nancy Kierstead, Owner, 52 Stillings Court

Ms. Kierstead described a water leak that had occurred under the flooring in the dirt crawl space. Ms. Kierstead brought in the pipe to show where the split occurred and showed a diagram of where in the home the leak had occurred. Chairman Peterson asked if the pipe had been capped. Ms. Kierstead stated that a “shark bite” had been used to close off the pipe. Mr. Libby stated she should have it capped and soldered by plumber to keep the pipe securely closed off.

Mr. Hoffman made a motion to abate the 46 units of sewer at \$6.24 each for a total of \$287.04 along with all accrued interest charges. The motion was seconded by Chairman Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.

2.3 Tamra Bushong, Owner Integrity Automotive, 415 N.Main Street

Ms. Bushong stated that due to the harsh winter conditions the water line had froze on the City side of the water connection and that the city staff had directed them to run the water to keep it from freezing. There was a staff email that stated it froze on the property owner side of connection. There was discussion as to the harsh conditions this past winter.

Mr. Hoffman made a motion to abate 15 units of water at \$4.67 each, 15 units of sewer at \$6.24 each, and \$53.94 which is half of the \$107.87 service invoice for a total of \$217.59, plus all accrued interest charges. The motion was seconded by Chairman Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.

2.4 Lisa Nicholson, Owner, 25-27 Maple Street

Ms. Nicholson stated that this two unit rental property has been in her family for many years and that it is has always been well maintained because they are aware of the repercussions of a water leak that is left unrepaired. Ms. Nicholson stated that the one lady renting the unit did not notice the leak in the bathroom that is seldom used. She stated that her repair man found it immediately when he checked. He stated it was the flapper in the toilet tank not closing all the way. Ms. Nicholson stated that he then found a second leak at the hot water heater. She stated that they replaced it immediately. A receipt was included in abatement request. Mr. Willis stated that the toilet leak would not constitute abatement as the water was used and it did go into the sewer system. He went on to say that the water heater leaking would be considered for sewer abatement but it would be hard to quantify as there were two issues occurring.

Mr. Willis made a motion to abate 15 units of Sewer at \$6.24 for a total of \$93.60, plus all accrued interest charges. Mr. Libby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.5 Hanlon & Zubkus, 27 North Main Street

Per agenda packet Mr. Storer recommended an abatement of 12 Units of water and sewer based on the average normal consumption for the previous 4 cycles. The Board concurred. The appellant was not present.

Mr. Hoffman made a motion to abate 12 units of water at \$4.67 each and 12 units of sewer at \$6.24 each for a total of \$130.92, plus all accrued interest charges. The motion was seconded by Mr. Willis. The motion passed unanimously.

2.6 Cheryl Stockman, 130 Eagle Drive.

Per agenda packet Mr. Storer recommended no abatement on the appeal. The Board concurred. The appellant was not present.

Mr. Hoffman made a motion to deny the abatement request. Chairman Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Minutes for June 11, 2015

Chairman Peterson asked for a recommendation on June 11, 2015 meeting minutes.

Mr. Willis made a motion to accept the June 11, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Hoffman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Financial Reports

The board reviewed all financial reports. Mr. Willis asked if this was the year end status. Mr. Cox said there are still payments and adjustments to be made.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Libby made a motion to adjourn at 6:13. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hoffman. The motion passed unanimously.

Daniel Peterson made a motion for adjournment at 6:24. The motion was seconded by Thomas Willis. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa J. Clark, City of Rochester Office Manager.