

**Utility Advisory Board
July 18, 2016 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Council Conference Room**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Peterson, Chairman

Shawn Libby

Thomas H. Willis, Jr

OTHERS PRESENT

John B. Storer, PE Director of City Services

Karen Bonneau, Utility Billing

Anthony Coraine, Representative 3 Gloria St

Sandra LaRoche, 4 Daniel Court

Thomas & Gerry Markam, Tenants 13 Moores Ct.

Mr. & Mrs Cheng Kam Chu, Owner 13 Moores Ct.

MINUTES

1. Call to order:

Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

2. Appeals -

2.1 3 Gloria Street, Dorothy Osgood - Owner

The appellant was unable to attend the meeting and sent Attorney Anthony Coraine to represent her. Mr. Coraine stated that this residence has one occupant and health staff that is in and out daily. He stated that the issue that caused the excessive water use was in a basement bathroom that is not in use. Mr. Coraine stated that there were at least two plumbing invoices to determine the problem and that it is now fixed.

Chairman Peterson explained that as the water passed through the meter and did enter the sewer system the property owner is responsible for the charges. Mr. Willis stated that there may be a leak abatement policy instituted soon. He stated it is currently at the Committee level and it will likely go to the City Council for adoption in September. He stated that depending on what is decided this is the kind of situation the policy is meant to address and will give a onetime abatement of a percentage to be determined on both water and sewer charges.

Mr. Willis made a motion to table the appeal until the abatement policy has been voted on by the City Council in September. Mr. Libby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.2 4 Daniel Court, Sandra Laroche - Owner

The appellant Sandra Laroche was present. Ms. Laroche stated that her tenant had not informed her of the leaking pipe in the basement. She requested an abatement of both water and sewer charges. Chairman Peterson stated that as the water did pass

through the meter and is not in dispute that the water charges are not eligible for abatement.

Chairman Peterson made a motion to abate 32 units of sewer at \$6.24 each, for a total of \$199.68, plus all accrued interest. Mr. Willis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.3 13 Moores Court – Mr. & Mrs Cheng Kam Chu - Owners

The appellants Mr. & Mrs Cheng Kam Chu were present and stated that their tenants informed them of a leaking toilet and that they fixed it as soon as notified. The tenants, Mr. & Mrs. Markam were also present. Mrs. Markam stated that her husband worked on the fixture and they thought it was fixed. She then got very ill and spent many weeks in the hospital with him staying with her most of the time. When she returned home she realized it was leaking and called the owner who came and fixed it immediately. Chairman Peterson stated that this is a case where the water did pass through the meter and into the sewer system and under the current ordinances would not be eligible for an abatement. Mr. Willis stated that this appeal should be tabled until the City Council makes a decision on the leak abatement policy currently on the Codes and Ordinance Committee agenda for August.

Mr. Willis made a motion to table the appeal until the abatement policy has been voted on by the City Council in September. Chairman Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.4 22 Richardson Street, Guy Harvey - Owner

The appellant did not attend the meeting. Mr. Storer stated that the appeal paperwork does not describe the recent increase in consumption well. He stated that there are currently two separate issues going on at this location. The first is that there was a leak at the meter connection going into the house. He stated that the Utilities Supervisor stated that the City is assuming the responsibility for that leak and that he has made a recommendation to abate both the water and sewer charges for the above average consumption. The second issue is that there is also an underground leak on the homeowner's property that has been going on for months and has not been resolved yet. Mr. Storer stated that he is working with the home owner who is attempting to hand dig the line and make the repairs.

Chairman Peterson made a motion to abate 20 units of water and sewer totaling \$221.00, and all accrued interest. Mr. Libby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.5 665 Portland Street, Matthew Cheney - Owner

The appellant did not attend the meeting. The Board discussed the appeal which noted several spikes in consumption. They also noted that the meter was tested and was found to be recording accurately. Mr. Willis stated that the appeal does not give any excuse or cause for the increase in consumption and without a reason the board cannot determine if abatement on the sewer would be appropriate. Mr. Storer stated

that he would send a letter explaining the need for additional information if available. ***Mr. Willis made a motion to table the appeal for one month in order for the appellant to supply any additional information. Mr. Libby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

2.6 504 Oakridge Condo, Robert Lemoine – Owner

The appellant did not attend the meeting. The Board discussed the appeal which noted a large spike in consumption. They also noted that it appeared to be a onetime spike and that the next reading had a slight increase but the problem had appeared to be resolved. Mr. Willis stated that the appeal does not give any excuse or cause for the increase in consumption and without a reason the board cannot determine if abatement on the sewer would be appropriate.

Mr. Willis made a motion to table the appeal for one month in order for the appellant to supply any additional information, and asked that the Utility Billing Office obtain one additional read to ensure that the problem is resolved. Chairman Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the June Meeting Minutes

Chairman Peterson requested an action on the minutes from last meeting.

Mr. Libby made a motion to accept the June 13, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Willis. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Financial Reports – The Board noted that the reports were missing from the packet and requested them for next month.

5. Water & Sewer Rate Discussion

The Board discussed the handouts sent by Mark Sullivan in the business office. Per last month discussion Mr. Sullivan had run the rate projections with the water at a increase of 10% for FY17 and 9.8% for FY18. They also discussed the Sewer rate projection with 4.49% increase for FY 17 and an increase of 7.36% for FY18.

Mr. Willis made a motion to make a recommendation that the full Council approve the Water rate increase of 10% and the Sewer rate increase of 4.49%. Chairman Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Adjournment:

Mr. Libby made a motion to adjourn at 6:40 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Willis. The motion passed unanimously.

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