



CITY OF BISHOP

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Minutes

Water and Sewer Commission

March 10, 2009

Call To Order:

Vice-Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chairman Martin

Commissioners Present:

Martin, Bhakta and Underhill

Commissioners Absent:

Cross and Mathieu

Others Present:

Dave Grah, Public Works Director
Deston Dishion, Public Works Superintendent
Michele Thomas, Secretary

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

(1) Approval of the Minutes:

Vice Chairman Martin moved to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2008 meeting as written and motion carried.

New Business:

(2) Storage Units

Grah explained how the City is charging storage unit accounts for water fees only and would like to discuss whether these accounts should be charged for sewer in addition even though they do not generate wastewater. Martin asked if different lots in city limits are charged in the same manner. Grah stated that very few developed lots within City limits are charged for water only and said the reason they were only charged for water is because they are not served by city sewer. It was noted there are large undeveloped lots around the city, especially in the north-west part of the city, that are not charged for either water or sewer. Dishion added that the empty lots we now charge water and sewer, previously had houses on the property and still have water and

sewer availability. At this time, our connections fees are \$0 and we will look into charging a connection fee when development seems more likely.

Commissioner Underhill brought up the question of how some of the accounts only receive water or sewer because their location is outside of city limits. Grah explained how our city limit line goes down West Line Street at one point and some properties in this area on the north side are within limits and properties on the south side are outside city limits.

The best time to change fees to an account is when the new fiscal year starts in July. Grah feels all properties in the city with the availability to water and sewer suitable for development, regardless if they should be charged for both.

Chairman Martin made a motion to go forward and start charging storage unit accounts for both water and sewer at the beginning of the 2009/2010 fiscal year in July.

Ayes: Underhill, Bhakta and Martin

MOTION CARRIED: 3-0

(3) Jim Tatum – Tri-County Fairgrounds

Dishion added that the city is not responsible for any water leaks or line breaks at the fairgrounds. Tatum has expressed to Dishion that he does understand now why and how the fairgrounds are charged. This was discussed in greater detail at an earlier meeting.

Old Business:

(4) Update on rate study.

We received the updated draft on Monday March 9th from Ecologic. We expect to have the finals prior to the next water/sewer commission meeting in May. Ecologic's draft studies suggest the water fees change from \$32.00 to \$29.05 per month and sewer fees from \$20.00 to \$26.61 per month. The consultant feels that our categories are pretty good with the exception of gas station islands and hotels and how they are charged for water and sewer. When we do receive the final draft, Grah would like the commission to discuss any recommendations for the City Council for any rate changes. Due to the delay in the rate study and how our billing system works, we will not be able to implement any changes until the 2010/2011 fiscal year. The rates from Ecologic came from our current assets, their depreciation span, and when we will need replacements.

(5) Meter Readings

Dishion went over the meter readings for all accounts a water meter is installed. The city does not charge by meters at this time. The meters are for city use only but provide interesting information on usage for various accounts.

(6) Cash Balance and Revenue & Expenditures Update On Water and Sewer Reserves

Grah discussed the reports for water and sewer reserves for January and February. In sewer, expenditures tend to exceed income.

(7) Public Works Reports for January and February

Dishion highlighted the reports for January and February. The Well Assessment project was completed tonight, with Well 2 put back together, treated with chlorine, and is now having chlorine flushed out of it. Well 2 had the bowls rebuilt, was videoed, and the casing was found to be in good shape. Well 4 has a new pump, new strainer, new head shaft, was also videoed and also shows to be in good shape. The well was pumping 1663 gallons a minute before we started and now we are pumping 1805 gallons with an 8% improvement. This increase will save us \$5,000 to \$6,000 a year in electricity.

Once Well 4 was put back together, there was a large amount of chlorine added to disinfect it and then the chlorine was flushed out. Once this was done, a water sample was taken and it came back positive for bacteria. We re-chlorinated and flushed and received a second positive bacteria sample. Again the flushing was done with chlorine, and for the third sample, it came back negative, so we put the well back in service. The positive bacteria sample showed total coliform, no e. coli or fecal indications. Last week when the weekly water samples were taken, they too came back positive for total coliform again. This could be caused by something dirty in the system, but at the moment there is no reason for this to happen that we can identify. We have notified the state as this is part of our procedure. We will continue to chlorinate and monitor the system. We have been told this problem will fix itself in time. We will be notifying the newspapers this week to inform the public of the issue.

Staff and Commission Reports:

There was no staff and commission report at this time.

Items to Be Discussed at the Meeting of May 12, 2009:

- Update on the Rate Study
- Meter Readings
- Cash balance and revenue and expenditures update on water and sewer reserves
- Well 4

Vice Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 8:22 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

Clarence Martin, Vice-Chairman

Michele Thomas, Secretary