



CITY OF BISHOP

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Minutes

Water and Sewer Commission

November 10, 2009

Call To Order:

Chairman Cross called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Cross

Commissioners Present:

Cross, Bhakta, Mathieu and Underhill

Commissioners Absent:

Martin

Others Present:

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

Public Comment:

None

(1) Approval of the Minutes:

Cross made a comment regarding the EDU factor to be increased from 0.25 to 0.48 for hotel rooms, not 0.4 as written in the minutes. Grah verified the correct number and Cross made a notation for the correction. Chairman Cross moved to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2009 meeting with the correction of 0.4 to 0.48 and motion carried.

New Business:

(2) Correspondence

Public Works received letters from two account holders. The first one commented on asking the City to install water meters. The second letter was in regards to the City of Bishop now charging storage unit accounts both water and sewer. The City previously charged these accounts water only. Grah explained that the account holder has been talking to City Council about this situation. At the 9 November study session, council did not give any direction on the matter.

Cross brought up a previous time the commission talked about properties whether they are vacant, undeveloped or not specifically using water or sewer. The recommendation from the commission was to charge the accounts for both water and sewer. Cross asked Grah if the City will be responding to the account holder regarding the outcome. Grah stated he would clarify with the council at the 23 November meeting, if a response should be addressed.

Old Business:

(3) Water and Sewer rate adjustment status

Cross stated he went to the City Council meeting on 21 September along with the majority of the other commissioners. Grah commented that the City sent out 1200 notices to residence and property owners. Grah also explained that the City Attorney's opinion is if the City Council wanted to institute rates that were less than what was in the notices, it would be ok. The rates in the notices create a ceiling. Grah is not sure if the council will lower the rates below what is in the notices. The City Council is preparing for the public hearing 14 December, and anticipates hearing from hotel owners.

Cross asked if there had been any public comment at the previous night's City Council meeting regarding the water and sewer rate adjustments. Grah stated that there had been none. City Hall has only received one written protest from the public at this time.

Grah stated that at the upcoming Public Hearing in December, EcoLogic will have a presentation. Grah feels it will be appropriate and important for the Commission to be present and give their recommendations. Cross said he would attend and give a presentation on the recommendation from the Water and Sewer Commission.

Grah added that there has been some concern with the charges to the gas stations. Gas stations that do not have public restrooms should be charged differently. City Council has shown interest in making changes to which gas stations will be charged the increased rates. Cross asked if the Commission should make a change to the recommended gas station island rate increase to include gas stations with public restrooms to Council. Grah feels gas island should be clarified to be gas station island with public restroom available rather than changing the fee structure overall. The Commission should include this in their recommendation to the City Council at the public hearing.

(4) Meter Readings

Deston Dishion went over the meter readings for all accounts a water meter is installed. Cross asked if there has been a drop off in usage due to weather changing. Dishion stated that most accounts did begin dropping. The only account that did have a drop in September but then an increase in October was Kmart. Water usage had been about 2.5 million gallons per day and is decreasing to about 1.1. Residents are starting to turn off their irrigation systems. Grah asked how long Field 4, City of Bishop Parks, has been on the meter reading log. Dishion commented it has been listed for four months. Their usage is very high due to irrigation for the ball field at over 20,000 gallons a day. Dishion explained that both Grah and he had spoken to Keith

Caldwell, Community Services Director, regarding the high water usage. The City is looking into putting a meter at each of the ball fields at the park to monitor usage. The meters are for city use only but provide interesting information on usage for various accounts.

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

Reports for water and sewer reserves for September and October were reviewed. Grah pointed out the sewer cash balance is slightly higher than a year ago, mostly because the delay of the Project A road improvement project and its related sewer improvement. The water balance is lower than it was a year ago. This is reflected by the work the City did on South Second Street and Grove Street. Over 3,100 feet of water line has been replaced. The City is looking forward to a road construction project this spring on Hanby, with replacing the water line. Replacing the water line on May Street and adding new hydrants. And also, closing the connection between Hanby and East Yaney along the east side of the park.

(6) Public Works Reports

Deston Dishion highlighted the reports for September and October. Dishion talked about Aquatic Inspections who had cleaned and inspected our 1 million gallon water storage tank in September. Grah included that in the report, the tank should be drained and the bottom recoated sometime within 5 years. We had an emergency repair to the Well 4 pump motor controls that had burned up. With Well 4 down for awhile, Well 1 had to be run with no problems reported.

For October, Dishion commented on the replacement of a 2 inch steel water main on Schley Street that was approved from City Council to go out to bid for materials and proposals for a backhoe operator and have our crew do the labor. This will save the City money. Rollins Electric constructed an emergency power connection at Well 4 to make it compatible with our emergency generator. We have started the process to hire a contractor to design and build a SCADA system for the City's water system. We have received 3 proposals and will be interviewing next week. The project has been budgeted at \$100,000 and the proposals all came in at over \$160,000. We have asked the companies to bring information to the interview on how we can reduce our cost.

Staff and Commission Reports:

Grah would like to have feed back from the Commission about making adjustments to the City Municipal Code. One is to allow a meter option. If a property owner would prefer a meter to be installed on their property and then be charged by the meter. Next would be to figure out a way to stop the water wasters within City limits with fines or some other way. Thirdly, would be to update the code for turning off delinquent residential accounts. At this time, the code states commercial accounts shall be turned off but is silent on residential accounts. City Council is interested in making this available. Other agencies and cities within California turn off residential and we seem to be the only city not doing this. At this time City of Bishop places liens on delinquent residential properties. Cross expressed that the Town of Mammoth does turn off delinquent water accounts. There is a process they go through with notices to the owners and

the renters. Cross asked to have these three questions on the agenda for the next water sewer meeting in January.

Grah said it appears some at the Eastern Sierra Community Services District may have been taking an adversarial position with the City recently. Some with the district appeared to have made allegations about improper handling of a range of Public Works-related activities, including the City's operation of the sewer system and treatment plan. The City is confident it is doing the right thing but is concerned about damage the unfounded allegations may have caused to its reputation. There is talk about an upcoming joint meeting between the City Council and the District Board to discuss the issues. Grah feels the Commission should be aware of the problems and it would be appropriate to have members of the Commission present.

The relationship with ESCSD and the Bishop Piute Tribe may be improving and it appears they are in the process of making arrangements for the Tribe to pay for improvements at the District plant as opposed to making a connection between the two systems as has recently been studied by R. O. Anderson. The City has been planning on using the excess plant capacity we have, but it looks like ESCSD may be taking a different direction. The connection project we were working on may now be mute.

Items to Be Discussed at the Meeting of January 12, 2010:

- Meter installation option
- Fines to water wasters
- Residential shut-offs
- Meter Readings
- Cash balance and revenue and expenditures update on water and sewer reserves

Chairman Cross adjourned the meeting at 7:57 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

Forrest Cross, Chairman

Michele Thomas, Secretary