



CITY OF BISHOP

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Minutes

Water and Sewer Commission

14 January 2014

(1) Call to Order

Chairman Pecsí called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Pecsí.

(3) Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Cross, Martin, Bhakta and Pecsí

Commissioners Absent:

Mathieu

Others Present:

David Grah, Public Works Director

Deston Dishion, Public Works Superintendent

Michele Thomas, Public Works Secretary

(4) Public Comment

None

(5) Approval of the Minutes

Vice Chairman Cross moved to approve the minutes of the 13 November 2013 meeting as written and motion carried.

(6) Correspondence

A reply was sent to the Lion's Club regarding their 31 October letter about the fairness of water and sewer rates for the Boy Scout's building. Grah noted in the letter that he would bring the subject up to the City Council for a recommendation. At the 10 January City Council Budget Workshop, it was suggested that requests for relief would be handled as a community promotion during the time when other non-profit organizations ask the council for financial support. Grah will send a letter to the Lion's Club explaining the process.

The second correspondence was emailed to Mike Johnston of 663 Schley Street.

(7) Rate Study

The public hearing is set for 10 February at the City Council meeting. The public hearing notices were sent out in December to all property owners and bill payers. Of approximately 1110 notices sent out, two protests have been received to-date. Pecsí tentatively plans to attend the 10 February City Council meeting.

Martin asked if Kate Nelson of SRE, the consultant for the rate study, is finish with her work and what her total expenses were for the study. And, how much was paid previously to Willdan for their work on the study. Grah said that Nelson is done although there could still be another payment to her for any small expenditures she may still have to bill for. Thomas believes the total paid-to-date for this fiscal year for the rate study to SRE is approximately \$17,000.00. Pecsí asked what the original budget was for the rate study. Grah said that the contract for Nelson was \$30,000.00 and the contract for Willdan was also \$30,000.00. We paid out approximately \$16,000.00 to Willdan.

(8) Meter Readings

There is a very slight increase in water usage due to the dry weather. Meters are for informational use only.

(9) Cash balances and revenue and expenditures update

Grah stated that work continues on the Positive Pressure Project (aka the Tank Project). There is continuing slow work on Headworks Project and the Automated Sludge Transfer Project.

Martin commented about Workers Comp being significantly under in the budgets. Grah said that staff will ask the financial manager about this and get back to the commission with an answer.

(10) Public Works Reports – September, October, November, December

Dishion shared that the tank is nearly completed. Once water samples are received back around the end of the week, the tank should be ready. Pecsí asked why Marzano & Sons suspended the Wye Road project. Dishion stated that due to weather, the permanent striping needed to be delayed until warmer temperatures.

Martin asked what the iMain project was about. Grah explained that it is a project that the Bishop Chamber of Commerce has taken the lead with. It is funded with funds from Inyo County Superintendent of Schools. The project is to provide free public wireless along Main Street from South Street to Mac Iver Street. Schat.Net will be working with private property owners along Main Street to install between 15-25 different antenna sites to provide the coverage.

Martin asked what the purpose of the California Department of Housing and Urban Development tour was for in October. Grah stated that they are the state agency that administers Community Development Block Grants funds. The city struggles to meet their requirements with our Housing Element and General Plan because of standards for building new units and so much land owned by the City of Los Angeles. City staff asked the state to visit the City of Bishop to view the obstacles we face in our area for developing new housing.

Cross stated that there wasn't any sewer lateral cleanings reported over the past four months. Dishion stated that Las Palmas put in a new interceptor and Jack's added a new interceptor. The only restaurant that has not done anything is Whiskey Creek. Our crew cleans the lateral regularly to help avoid any issues from excessive grease. Dishion still plans to meet with the owner of Whiskey Creek concerning grease problems from the restaurant. Dishion explained that were it is listed that crew did routine sewer inspections of grease interceptors is part of the cleanings.

Martin asked about the discussing of recycling with county waste management staff and if anything came from the discussion. Grah explained that recycling is a very big deal with the state. The city and county are working cooperatively to meet requirements. The city currently is not meeting all newest requirements. The county has the staff and expertise to help the city stay ahead and deal with the recycling programs by the state. Meetings will continue between the city and county quarterly.

(11) Staff and Commission reports

Pecsi asked how the new brewery construction is progressing. Grah said that Mountain Rambler Brewery is working diligently. The city hears from Mammoth Brewery occasionally but hasn't heard from them since November. Pecsi asked if there were any water or sewer issues at 871 North Main Street where Aaron Schat is doing work to open a new restaurant. Grah said that the plumbing is being re-done including an interceptor. Pecsi then asked if Cottonwood Plaza is any closer to re-opening. Grah said that the next step would be for tenants to make improvements to spaces so they can move in. The city isn't aware of anyone proposing to rent any of the spaces as of yet. A building permit would need to be obtained to make the tenant improvements for each space.

Items to be Discussed at the Meeting of 11 March 2014:

- Rate Study
- Meter readings
- Public Works reports for January and February
- Cash balance and revenue and expenditures update on water and sewer reserves

(12) Adjournment

Chairman Pecsi adjourned the meeting at 7:30 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, 11 March 2014 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

Joe Pecsi, Chairman

Michele Thomas, Secretary