

SEWER TASK FORCE

City Hall, Conference Room 1A

Meeting Minutes- Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Present: Rick Buford, Ken Nevins, Scott Southwick, Mark Stevenson, Lee Terry, Brian Toohey, Greg Watts.

Absent: Ken Nivens

City Staff: Patricia Bollman, Utility Accounts & Billing Manager; Lori Fleming, Finance Director; Steve Hunt, Environmental Services Manager with Public Works; Cavanaugh Noce, City Assistant Counselor; and Sarah Talbert, Senior Rate Analyst with Public Works
Pat Burbridge, Public Works Department/Secretary for the meeting

Others in Attendance: Mr. Daryl Dudley, Ms. Leslie Oswald, Mr. Tom Ratermann, and Mr. Bill Weitkemper

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Mr. Toohey.

AGENDA ITEMS

Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the November 5, 2010 meeting were not available for approval.

Discuss and Recommend Changes to Sewer Ordinances and Billing

Ms. Fleming suggested that the group first decide what needs to be agreed upon. These items include the percentage of the bill that should come from base charges, if the fee is to be based on the size of the water meter, who qualifies for Winter Quarter Average and who qualifies for actual usage charges, and where the University fits in. There was discussion on using metered equivalency for commercial users and Winter Quarter Average and Actual Usage for residential customers. It was discussed that mixed use could be considered commercial. There was also some discussion regarding the use of the terms "residential" and non-residential" which would need to be defined for the ordinance. Mr. Stevenson stated that he did not feel landlords should be responsible for billing their tenants if a building is on a master water meter, and that there should be a way to tie the billing of the sewer base fee to the electric meter. Ms. Fleming said that tying sewer charges to water meter accounts is essential and easier to audit. It was suggested that a policy be set up to charge a base ccf for new customers who do not have a usage history. Mr. Noce is working on comments and recommendations for the Task Force members to consider.

In response to Mr. Buford's question at the last meeting asking if larger customers caused larger fixed costs, Mr. Glascock had provided a copy of an e-mail from Mr. David Sorrell, City Sanitary Sewer Utility Manager stating that "A large customer does not inherently cost the City more in dollars or man-power to treat the waste water or perform routine maintenance on the sewer lines. The volume charges should cover these costs and those customers that discharge greater volumes pay more, of course. Users that do cost more to the City are those that have grease traps and those that fall under pretreatment. There are no additional charges to these users for grease trap inspections, etc. The only other single factor I think of to consider regarding large users is if their use is large enough to require a larger size collection

line then the capital cost to initially install the line would be greater and cost to replace the line in the future would be greater.”

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 19, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.