

# SEWER TASK FORCE

City Hall, Conference Room 1B

## Meeting Minutes- Wednesday, December 15, 2010

**Present:** Rick Buford, John Haynes representing Greg Watts, Ken Nivens, Scott Southwick, Mark Stevenson, Lee Terry (via conference call), Brian Toohey.

**Absent:** Greg Watts

**City Staff:** John Blattel, Acting Finance Director; Patricia Bollmann, Utility Accounts/Billing Supervisor; John Glascock, Director of Public Works; Cavanaugh Noce, Assistant City 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, Mr. Curt Kirtley, Mr. Tom Ratermann, and Mr. Bill Weitkemper

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Mr. Toohey.

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

#### Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings on November 19, 2010 and November 30, 2010

The minutes of the meeting of the November 19, 2010 meeting and November 30, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Mr. Buford and a second by Mr. Nivens.

#### Review draft ordinance information provided by Legal.

The draft ordinance was distributed to the members in attendance, and a copy was e-mailed to Ms. Terry to allow her participation in the discussion.

Mr. Noce went through the draft ordinance describing the changes that were made. A copy of the draft is attached to these minutes. There was much discussion again about the issue of master meters for apartment complexes. Mr. Glascock suggested that the Task Force could give a proposal to the Council that could allow an amnesty program giving customers the opportunity to change the meter size if desired. This brought up another discussion about doing strictly volume billing. Mr. Stevenson wanted to pursue the idea that a volume only charge is possible, legal, and discuss with the consultant if there would be enough guaranteed capital to amortize the bonds. Information provided by Mr. Weitkemper showed that the University uses 10% of the City's volume. A copy of this information is attached to these minutes. Only one person disagreed with the definitions provided in the draft ordinance, so Mr. Toohey stated that he thought it was time to move on. Mr. Glascock reminded the group that when the ordinance is presented to Council, each member will have the opportunity to state what he/she disagrees with in the ordinance.

#### Review sewer rate proposals.

The usage rate table will need to be changed that is in the current ordinance. This will be done in accordance with the amount of funds that need to be generated. Public Works will provide a table that shows how the philosophy will work with the numbers needed.

Mr. Southwick asked if members of the Task Force felt that the draft ordinance is fairer than the current ordinance. Comments made indicated that it was.

Mr. Buford moved that the draft ordinance be accepted with the insertion of the table as provided by Public Works and to change the "an" to "a" on page 3, section 2b, line 3. Mr. Nivens seconded the

motion. Mr. Stevenson stated that he did not feel ready to vote on the motion. Mr. Stevenson asked that an amendment be added that there be an amnesty period during which the City will, without cost to the landlord, change the size of meters as requested. Mr. Noce suggested that instead of adding it to the ordinance, that it be suggested to Council that they consider an amnesty period because the Water and Light Department also might want to comment on this suggestion. Mr. Stevenson made that recommendation and asked that it be in the minutes of this meeting. In response to a question, Mr. Glascock stated that this would only apply to apartments, and he suggested a six month grace period. He also stated that the change would only be done once without charge. Mr. Buford asked that an analysis be run for a billing cycle and provided to the Task Force.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Toohey called for a vote. The vote was five to one and the motion passed. Vote was as follows: In favor: Buford, Haynes, Nivens, Southwick, and Toohey, Opposed: Stevenson. Ms. Terry was not available at the time of the vote.

Mr. Glascock will prepare a Council memo and will suggest a work session for Council before the Council meeting. Mr. Toohey will need to appear at the Council meeting representing the Task Force. Another Task Force meeting will be scheduled if requested by Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.