

SEWER TASK FORCE

City Hall, Conference Room 2A

Meeting Minutes- Friday, October 8, 2010

Present: Rick Buford, Ken Nivens, Scott Southwick, Greg Watts.

Absent: Mark Stevenson, Lee Terry, Brian Toohey

City Staff: Lori Fleming, Finance Director; John Glascock, Director of Public Works, 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. Tom Ratermann, and Mr. Bill Weitkemper

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Mr. Glascock. He noted that Mr. Weitkemper has asked to change the date of his presentation from October 15 to October 22. This was agreeable to those in attendance.

AGENDA ITEMS

Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of October 1, 2010 were unanimously approved by voice vote on a motion by Mr. Buford and a second by Mr. Southwick.

Continue to discuss Baker Tilly Sewer Rate Study from September 24, 2010 meeting and submit questions to staff for consultant

Mr. Buford indicated that he is leaning toward the metered equivalency to establish the base charge and then add the volume charge. Ms. Fleming stated that the information she distributed at the last meeting showed how the charge would go up based on meter size. There was a question as to whether that should be a strict multiplier or whether there should be additional costs included in the base charge. There was discussion on how the multiplier should be figured and whether it should be a linear or more of a curved line as meter gets larger.

There was some discussion about how the Winter Quarter Average is applied and that it is figured on the months of January, February, and March. The University is considered Public Authority and is billed based on Winter Quarter Average. Columbia College and Stephens College are considered commercial customers. There was also some discussion about the use of master meters in some trailer parks and apartment complexes.

If the decision is made to use metered equivalency to establish the base charge, it will no longer matter about the number of residential units. At that point each account would have to be checked. Also, the question was raised as to whether the failed billing of the renter should be passed to the property owner. Ms. Fleming recommended that exceptions to the billing policy not be made as it causes huge billing problems trying to keep track of what the conditions are.

If the proposal by the consultants is used, the base fee would go down and the volume fee would go up.

Ms. Fleming would like to see the Task Force address the following issues:

- is the recommendation from Baker Tilly that 25% of the bill come from a base charge and 75% come from a volume charge agreeable to the Task Force
- establish a policy regarding whether a master meter should be considered residential or commercial

- address both the philosophy of a billing practice and definitions to apply the philosophy correctly
- should whoever gets billed for the water meter also get billed for the sewer

Mr. Glascock will provide different methods of measurement for meter equivalency for the next meeting.

Ms. Fleming stated that the recommendation from the consultant suggested a higher rate of return than the City is looking at. It is also possible that the Task Force would recommend that the change in base fee and volume fee be phased in over a specified time period.

There were no questions submitted for the consultants.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 15, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

pfb