



MINUTES

City Council Public Works & Utilities Committee

Wednesday, January 11, 2017 – 5:30 PM
Administrative Conference Room at City Hall

Members Present: Mac Morrow, Chair, Council Member
Maurice Jones, Vice-Chair, Council Member
Jim Fatland, City Manager
Mayor Jimmy Harris
Emory Owen, WWTP Director
Dennis Richardson, WTP Director
David Lutz, Public Works Director

Staff Present: Tom Williams, WWTP Lab Supervisor
Jill Murray, Deputy City Clerk

Absent: Citizen Appointment Clay Sykes



Media: Matt McGregor, Transylvania Times

Welcome & Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Mac Morrow, Committee Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Agenda was accepted as presented.

Certification of Quorum

Deputy City Clerk Jill Murray certified that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes from December 28, 2016 Meeting

Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Mr. Owen, the December 28, 2016, meeting minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

WWTP High Strength Surcharges.



Mr. Fatland started by saying that the current high strength rate charges are higher than the MSD of Buncombe County and Hendersonville, however, we still need to recoup our costs. Everyone in the system pays for flow but the question is how does our current rate compare to Asheville and

Hendersonville? Our rates are higher but they were set in the early days. Oskar Blues is aware that they are in a small town and they're fully aware of the surcharges and ready to pay for them. We can look at setting rates any time during the year, but Mr. Fatland would like to ask staff to further refine the numbers and set rates for July 1st of any proposed changes.

Mr. Williams stated that he took the actual numbers, instead of market value, and calculated the total pounds treated during the 2015-2016 budget and used the total and divided it by the total budget number and that was \$.68 a pound for both. Mr. Sikes made a good point about labor which is a fixed cost, so I removed labor and that came out to about \$.50 a pound and that's probably a more realistic number. BOD and TSS are the main reason that we are trying to recoup our costs. We are required by the permit to monitor it and repair it.

Mr. Owen added that they have not received their new permit yet as the state is about 2 years behind. Therefore, they are operating under the current permit until the new one comes in. The last time there was a significant change was in 2000. We have limits on BOD and TSS but not on ammonia, but we still monitor ammonia. If they are going to change our permit, we usually get a letter saying what's coming in to play.

Mr. Fatland said that he would like to sit down with Oskar Blues and break down our costs. I don't want to sit down and give them these costs and then find out that it's not enough so we need a punch list of things we want to add in there. It will come across better that way and then we can bring it back to this committee and then have it in time for the FY18 budget year starting July 1, 2017.

Mayor Harris' concern is that we're in a good spot so should we absorb all the funds at one time or should we say in the next two years our goal is to get up to whatever amount that might be. I wouldn't want them to think we're a business unfriendly place when really we've been very accommodating. Mr. Jones added that he has a valid point, however, we've been on the losing end for 3 years. Mayor Harris added that he is just thinking of future development that may come to Brevard.

Mr. Jones asked if the rates that the MSD and Hendersonville charge are lower per pound because there are less individuals using it and Mr. Williams said yes he does believe that. Right now they're taking 15%-20% of our capacity, however, if they expand, it could go up to 40%. Mr. Owen added that when the WWTP gets the equalization tank, we'll be able to use that, but right now everything Oskar Blues sends us goes straight to the RBCs.

After much discussion, it was decided that Mr. Owens' staff come back with a fiscal impact of BOD and TSS and present it to the Public Works & Utilities Committee during the budget process.

Set Date for Next Meeting.

No meeting date was set forth.

Adjourn.

There being no further business, Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Mr. Fatland, the meeting be adjourned.
Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:57 P.M.

X 

Mac Morrow
Chair, Council Member

X 

Jill Murray
Deputy City Clerk