

WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE MINUTES

For Friday, April 4, 2014

1. Call to Order:

All Freedom of Information requirements having been met, the meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM. Those present were: Committee Members Susan Middaugh (Chair), Jerry Kaynard and Chauncey Clark; Administrators Greg Gress, Andy Benke and Jason Blanding; and three members of the public: Mrs. Nettles and Mr. and Mrs. Wilson.

2. Appeals for relief from W&S bill

Evelyn Needle, 2419 Atlantic Ave. appealed for relief from the water portion of a high W&S bill due to a leak under the concrete slab of her home. Greg Gress had granted relief from the sewer portion of the bill, above the mean for the preceding six months, on the grounds that this leaking water did not flow into the sewer system. Mrs. Needle was appealing for additional relief, from the water portion of this bill.

Motion by Jerry Kaynard, seconded by Chauncey Clark, to confirm the \$1322.17 credit allowed for relief of the sewer portion of the bill, to deny additional relief from the water portion of the bill, and to credit the \$10 penalty assessed as a late fee while Mrs. Needle was applying for relief. The motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

Margaret Wilson, 2602 Bayonne, appealed an excessive water bill caused by the renter dripping the faucet in an unused loft bathroom during a recent freeze and failing to turn the faucet off afterwards. Greg Gress had denied relief on the grounds that there was no leak, the water was used and did flow into the sewer system. Mrs. Needles was appealing for an adjustment to the bill.

Motion by Chauncey Clark, seconded by Jerry Kaynard, to deny the appeal. The motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

3. Comprehensive Plan: 2013 revisions for Water & Sewer Department Items

The proposed changes to Water and Sewer Department items in the 2013 revised Comprehensive Plan were discussed in detail. The decisions are provided in the Motions on the attached page.

4. CWS Contract and charges for future capital items

A letter of March 7, 2014 from Kin Hill, CEO of Charleston Water System, to Mayor Mike Perkis, acknowledges that under the terms of the Town of Sullivan's Island contract with CWS, the Town does not have to pay \$262,500 for a portion of the newly-constructed West Ashley Booster and Pumping Station.

Mr. Hill also requests that the Town specify whether we want to continue with the current method of billing for the Town's share of CWS capital items, as a separate line item, or whether the Town wants to change to the method specified in the current contract, in which the capital charges are automatically rolled into the water charges. After discussion, the W&S Committee decided to continue with the current method. Since this requires an addendum to the current contract, and in effect opens the contract, it provides an opportunity to open discussions with CWS on other contract terms, specifically those related to contracted water capacity.

The Motion is provided on the attached page.

5. Budget for FY 2015

The draft FY1015 budget, for capital items only, was reviewed. This will be considered in detail when the full draft budget is available.

6. Status of SRF Grant Application

The application is "close" to submission. If approved, the projected start date will be early June and run for a 5 month duration.

7. CWS water rate increases for July 1, 2014

The annual rate increase for CWS water will be provided soon. Greg uses an estimated figure for preliminary budget purposes and will amend this based on the actual amount.

8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm on a motion by Chauncey Clark, seconded by Jerry Kaynard, vote 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM

Motions from Water & Sewer Committee Meeting, Friday, April 4, 2014

I. RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO 2013 DRAFT OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

1. Regarding 1(3)D (page 10/101 in 2008 Comprehensive Plan)

The Planning Commission deleted this item from the 2013 Update.

The W&S Committee recommends that this 2008 item be retained in the 2013 Plan.

MOTION: To put Item 1(3)D (page 10/101 in 2008 Comprehensive Plan) back in the 2013 Revision of the Comprehensive Plan. (Motion made by Jerry Kaynard, seconded by Chauncey Clark, carried on a vote of 2 to 1, Susan Middaugh dissenting.)

The wording of the 2008 item, recommended to be retained as originally worded, is as follows:

1(3)D. *Examine and make recommendations on the potential for opportunities of coordination with adjacent systems/districts. (Town Council; Long Term)*

2. Regarding Water and Wastewater Systems: (pages 9/108 and 10/108 in 2013 Draft Plan)

MOTION: To revise wording in Item 1, 3rd Implementation, C. by

Deleting “three (3) year”

Deleting “,starting 2013,”

Deleting “promote water conservation and”

(Motion made by Susan Middaugh, seconded by Jerry Kaynard, carried by unanimous vote.)

The recommended wording for this item is as follows:

C. Review and assess rate structure on a regular basis to ensure sufficient resources to fund capital improvements (Town Council; Town Administration; Long Term).

MOTION: To revise wording in Item 1, 8th Implementation, by removing the wording “to avoid discharge permit fines and to facilitate development of property through additional discharge connections (i.e. I&I). (Motion made by Chauncey Clark, seconded by Jerry Kaynard, carried by unanimous vote).

The recommended wording for this item is as follows:

Implementation:

Town should prioritize funding for wastewater collection system repairs.

MOTION: To delete Item 2, 3rd Implementation. (Motion by Jerry Kaynard, seconded by Chauncey Clark, carried by unanimous vote).

The wording of the item recommended for deletion is as follows:

Implementation

Establish an advisory committee to Council, comprised of residents, whose role is to identify challenges and opportunities regarding the rate changes with primary focus on maintaining sufficient funding to meet needs of Town’s water/wastewater infrastructure.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CWS BILLING AND WATER USAGE

MOTION: To recommend to Town Council, regarding a written reply to the March 7, 2014, letter from Kin Hill, CEO of Charleston Water System: (1) to continue the current billing method by CWS with capital charges separately billed and with a five year projection of capital charges and (2) to open discussions with CWS on capacity and contract terms. (Motion by Jerry Kaynard, seconded by Chauncey Clark, carried by unanimous vote.)