

**Hurricane City Water Board
Meeting Minutes
04.30.19**

Members Present: Chairman Greg Last, Mac J Hall, John Slack, Ken Richins, Pam Humphries, Mike Vercimak, Troy Gubler, Kelby Iverson and Toni Foran.

Others Present: Melissa Stewart and Connie Martin

Item #1 Call to Order, Prayer

Chairman Greg Last called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and offered prayer.

Item #2 Review Minutes of February 26, 2019

There were no required corrections to the minutes of February 26th. Pam motioned to approve the minutes of February 26th. Toni seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Item #3 Consider and Adjustment for Melissa Stewart

Melissa Stewart was present to request an adjustment to her utility bill. In January her meter read that she used a large amount of water, resulting in a bill of over \$400.00. She requested a data log of the meter and it showed a four-day period where there was a spike in the water use. The water department changed out her meter as it was suspected that the other meter was defective. Ken motioned to reduce her water bill down to the average amount for this period of time due to meter failure. Pam seconded the motion. Motion passed. Melissa was excused. Connie will let Michelle know to make the adjustment.

Item #4 Discuss Vacant Meters

Toni led a discussion about some of the issues that have arisen since the change to the pooling agreement with the Washington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD). Basically, any meter that has been dormant for 10 years or more is subject to pay a new impact fee and back surcharge fees if they want to activate the meter. Some situations have arisen where the customer is required to pay an impact fee to the WCWCD just to close on property that may or may not be developed. The City is unaware of the transaction if the customer does not apply for a building permit. The WCWCD in turn will require the City to pay the back fees when the connection is applied for. Mac stated; the City needs to come to some agreement with the WCWCD to rectify this situation and protect the customer. Ken came up with several questions he will ask the WCWCD and report back to the Board next month. Any letters to customers will be put on hold until this issue is resolved. The following are the questions Ken will ask the WCWCD.

We are finding out that some subdivision lot owners are required to pay the WCWCD an Impact fee at the time of property closing. What if they do not build for 10 years or more? Will they forfeit their impact fee? Will the City be responsible for that impact fee? What about the water availability surcharge? We cannot collect it if there is not a utility account.

Item #5 Discuss Service Line Warranty Insurance

Toni explained the Mayor was interested in a service that would provide insurance for service line breaks. The company is asking that the City indorse their program in return for a royalty from everyone who signs up. The Board was not agreeable to this program.

Item #6 Discuss Taxes on Services Like Water

Pam explained the Legislature is considering a bill that would require a tax on services like power and water. Ken explained the bill did not pass this current legislative session, but may come up again in the future.

Item #7 Discuss Irrigation Metering

Ken led a discussion about irrigation metering. The State passed a bill requiring all new irrigation connections to meter irrigation water by April 2020. Existing connections would be exempt for now. No penalties were discussed. Ken attended a task force where it was discussed. The communities in Southern Utah feel it is impractical to meter irrigation water that comes from the Virgin River which is very muddy. The Southern Communities cannot be compared to the Northern Communities. The sponsor of the bill said his main motivation was the fact that he pays the same fee for his water as his neighbor with irrigation and his neighbor uses twice as much water as he does. The Canal Company would be excluded.

Item #8 Discuss WaterWorth

Ken explained he was hoping to show the Board the current charts created by WaterWorth, but there still needs to be some more information added and removed. He will present this at the next meeting. He asked if anyone will be absent since the next water board meeting is scheduled for the day after Memorial Day. No one plans to be absent.

Item #9 Report on System

Ken reported that the Dixie Springs Tank is completed and looks pretty. There will be some drone footage to show. He will forward it to the Board when received. They are still working on filling the tank due to some unexplained engineering issues. The Stratton Well #1 is complete and developed. The Engineers are working on testing the gpm. Stratton Well #2 is shut off right now. The City has not had

to buy any water from the WCWCD yet. The Ash Creek Reservoir is over flowing and this should be a good water year.

Item #10 Review Budget

Ken reviewed the budget. He explained it looks a bit odd right now because the Dixie Springs Tank reimbursement from the WCWCD is skewing the numbers. Greg asked about the water purchase numbers. Ken explained there wasn't enough budgeted. There were no other questions.

Item #11 New Business

Pam mentioned she attended a symposium about the Lake Powell Pipe Line. Zach Renstrom (Deputy General Manager for WCWCD) explained the project better than she has ever heard it explained before. He has offered to speak to any groups that are interested. Pam said she could arrange for him to come one Thursday before Council and invite members of all the Boards. It was mentioned that there may be a building moratorium within the next five years if the County cannot come up with enough water sources. Greg mentioned a book he has read called "Cadillac Desert" which talks about water development in the Southwest.

Kelby asked about the irrigation expansion project. Mac explained that it is still in the engineering stage. They are still doing a preliminary and environmental study. It could take as long as 5 years to complete. Ken feels it could take a shorter time. Mac said the Canal Company is not committing allowing any water savings to be returned to the in-stream flow. Ken said he believes the NRCS is still committed to make it happen.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm