

Water Board Meeting
March 02, 2018
9:00AM

Members in Attendance: Administrator, Chair
 Council Cerreta, Vice Chair
 Finance Director Brown
 Director of Law Fox

Patrick DeOrio: All right. It is 9:03 A.M. on Friday, March 2nd. Ah, Water Board meeting. I'd like to call to the roll. This is Patrick DeOrio. Laura Brown?

Laura Brown: Here.

Patrick DeOrio: Tim Fox?

Tim Fox: Here.

Patrick DeOrio: Mark Cerreta?

Mark Cerreta: Here.

Patrick DeOrio: Very good, all present. Um, on the agenda, uh, do we have any appeals concerning any overages of Water utilities?

Laura Brown: I do have one.

Patrick DeOrio: All right, um, Laura Brown, would you like to tell us about it?

Laura Brown: Sure. We received a letter from a customer, ah, a week or two ago. This customer had an issue in her home where, um, she was out of town, visiting relatives, the electricity went off in the home, and she was unaware. Cold temperatures, a pipe burst. Her neighbors let her know that they saw water running out from her kitchen door, um, went in, shut off the water, but, she had used about ten times the amount of water that she would have a normal month. So she usually uses about 4,000, and that month was up 42,000 reading. Um, so, again, a normal bill for her would be about \$40.00 for the water, now her bill's about \$400.00. So she wrote to us and asked if there's anything we can do, um, but one step we've already taken, which is our standard procedure, is we've only billed her at our minimum rate per thousand gallons, rather than the rate that escalates. So we did that. That credited her account about \$35.00. Um, here on out, our usual procedure would be that we would offer her a payment plan. Uh, for example, if she could pay an extra \$15.00 or \$20.00 a month, that would get her bill paid off in about two years. And our utility billing, um, department could work with her on that.

There's anything that the Water Board would like to do additional in this case, that's our option.

Patrick DeOrio: Discussion?

Mark Cerreta: Any suggestions?

Laura Brown: I would say we would put her on a payment plan. I can give her another call back. I did speak with her after, you know, she sent her letter. She's had some financial hardships getting repairs made to the home, and, getting water and electricity restored, so ... Right now she's not in the home, she's staying with relatives, um, so I think, you know I could call her and say what, you could do, \$10.00, \$15.00 a month. She did pay her current month's bill, her regular \$40.00 amount, so she is, you know, she isn't looking to run up her own bill.

Mark Cerreta: That's probably, in my opinion that would probably be the best situation for us, also. I mean if we go down a road that we give that to everyone, you know, that has a broken pipe, then why can't we do it for the next person, and the next person. Like, you've done everything that we could possibly do with going to the lowest rate, and putting them on a payment plan, which, there's ... Is there any interest involved in that payment plan?

Laura Brown: No.

Mark Cerreta: So it's –

Laura Brown: (cross talking)...and we also...

Mark Cerreta: ...it's also a fair and secure kind of thing.

Laura Brown: And we stopped the penalties, usually if you're late on your water bill you have a penalty, but we halt those penalties while you abide by the plan.

Mark Cerreta: That's, I would agree to that. I cannot ... I would love to, if this lady needs some kind of assistant plan I'm sure I can get some people that would help her out as far as her hardship thing. But as far as setting the precedents for what we're doing here, with our utilities, it's probably not a good idea to go down that, um, that lane. So, I would think that would be my opinion in the best situation we could possibly do.

Tim Fox: One thing for the Board members to consider in making this type of decision to, um, to lessen bills, something, no longer finds. Ah, because we're a corporate municipality, (door closes), you know we can take care of the room itself; we don't need your assistance for that. Um, and to that extent, it, it's not as though as a for-profit corporation we could make a decision that we can forego certain profits that we would have, that the corporate body could absorb. In our circumstance, any amounts that we lessen for a resident or utility user, the resident absorb that, to the extent that the

amount of customers that we have and residents and so forth, it's certainly easier to absorb that over that large body, but, it is important to note that, it's not the corporation it's the residents that absorb this, on the persons behalf.

Patrick DeOrio: Having this sense of the discussion that is, ah, occurred, I would guess we would be looking to entertain a motion to deny the request to waive the overage, ah, at this time. Is there, um.

Mark Cerreta: I'll make a motion to deny the request.

Patrick DeOrio: Is there a second?

Laura Brown: I will second that.

Patrick DeOrio: You have been seconded. Um, all those in favor signify by saying "aye."

Mark Cerreta: Aye

Patrick DeOrio: Those who are abstaining.

Tim Fox: abstain.

Patrick DeOrio: Motion carries. Um, I'm not aware of any other water service agreements, ah, for new water or sewer service at this time, so that really concludes the agenda that we have for today. Um, we have a motion to adjourn?

Laura Brown: Motion.

Mark Cerreta: Second.

Patrick DeOrio: Motion seconded to adjourn. All those in favor signify by saying "aye."

Mark Cerreta: Aye.

Laura Brown: Aye.

Tim Fox: Aye.

Patrick DeOrio: All opposed? Ayes have it, meeting is adjourned, and it is 9:08 A.M.



Patrick A DeOrio

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