

UTILITY COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
March 7, 2023, 3:30 PM

In Attendance:

Members: Councilman Ed Conley, Councilman Rob Rice, Councilman Liberty

City Staff: Michele Brown, Tracey York, Amber Box, Daniel Shelden, Donnie Beal, Joe York, Doug Potts

Visitors: Darrell Maurina

1. **Call to Order** – Councilman Conley called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. **Citizen Comments** – No citizen comments.
2. **Approval of Minutes – February 7, 2023** – Mrs. York presented the committee with minutes from the February 7th utility committee for approval. Councilman Rice made the motion to approve the minutes and Councilman Wilson seconded. All were in favor.
3. **Proposed Committee Week Schedule/Boards & Commission Week Schedule**
Mayor Pro Tem Sean Wilson presented the *Proposed Committee Week Schedule/Boards & Commission Week Schedule* to the utility committee to look over and review. Councilman Rice made the motion to approve the schedules and move to City Council for approval. Councilman Wilson seconds and all were in favor.
4. **Proposed Committee Assignments**
Mayor Pro Tem Sean Wilson presented the *Proposed Committee Assignments* to look over and review. Councilman Rice made the motion to approve and Councilman Wilson seconds. All were in favor.
5. **Rate Increases/Per Cost of Service Study (TOTH Engineering)**

- **Sewer Rate Increase, Water Rate Increase, Electric Rate Increase, Natural Gas Rate Increase**

City Clerk Michele Brown presented to the utility committee *Rate Increases/Per Cost of Service Study (TOTH Engineering) for Sewer, Water Electric and Natural Gas Rate Increase*.

Sewer Rate Increase – Effective January 1, 2024

Service Availability Charge @ \$21.00/month

Usage @ \$3.68/1,000 gallons

NID-Sewer - \$40.69 – Service Availability Charge

Non-Metered Well - \$40.69 – Service Availability Charge

Out of City Limits - \$55.02 – Service Availability Charge

Pulaski County Sewer District #1: \$3.24/1,000 gallons. A public hearing will be held prior to discuss a proposed sewer rate increase within the city.

Water Rate Increase – Effective June 1, 2023

Service Availability Charge @ \$13.00 – Inside City Limits

Service Availability Charge @ \$16.00 – Outside City Limits

Electric Rate Increase – Effective September 1, 2023

All kWh - \$0.1108 – Residential and Small Commercial Only

Natural Gas Increase – Effective June 1, 2023

Service Availability Charge @ \$15.00

Councilman Wilson made the motion to take to City Council for approval and Councilman Wilson seconded. All were in favor.

6. **Department Updates**

Water/Sewer Department- Mr. Beal stated that the water and sewer department had 3 sewer backups – jetted and cleared. Removed roots from a sewer manhole in Settlers Pass, repaired 4” main on Hospital, repaired 5 service lines and installed about 1000 ft of 8” water main in Rowden’s new subdivision. Installed 2 new hydrants and 6 new valves on new main line and clarifiers cleaned 2 times a week at the treatment plant. Department also assisted all departments removing trees in the RV park. Daily dig rites and routine maintenance on vehicles.

Natural Gas Department – Mr. York stated that his department installed 900 ft of main line in Rowden’s new subdivision. End of year checks for Public Service Commission and cathodic protection done on main lines. Keeping up with daily work orders and dig rites.

Electric Department – Mr. Shelden stated that the electric department had 3 power outages, 2 streetlights, 3 miscellaneous, 2 new services, 2 meter tests, and 1 service upgrade for the month of February. Major highlights for February include continued work in the RV Park. Continued work on Rowden’s phase 2. Maintenance done on department trucks. Cut trees at the RV Park. Keep up with daily dig rites. Our single phase reclosures saved 6 power outages.

7. Other Business

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned by Chairman Conley at 4:12 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 4 ,2023 at 3:30 pm