

Utility Departments of Hildale/Colorado City

Utility Board Meeting Minutes

320 East Newel Ave, Hildale Utah

Tuesday, November 27, 2018 6:00 P.M.

Present: Utility Board

Board Members:	Present	Absent	Excused
Haven Barlow	X		
Sterling Jessop, Jr.	X		
Ralph Johnson			X
Arvin Black	X		
Jason Black	X		
Nathan Burnham	X (by phone)		
JVar Dutson	X		
Stacy Seay	X		
Michael Cawley	X		

Staff Present: Weston Barlow, Harrison Johnson, Vance Barlow, Mayor Joseph Allred (by phone), Ralph Johnson Jr., Todd Jim, Mariah La Corti

Court Monitor: Roger Carter

Public Present: None

#1 Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. Quorum present.

Nathan Burnham was present by phone, but the Board was not aware of this until 7:24 p.m. when he made himself known. He was included in the vote from then on.

#2. Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance

Haven Barlow offered a prayer and the crowd joined in the pledge of allegiance.

#3. Approval of Minutes of October 30, 2018 Meeting

No corrections noted.

JVar Dutson moved to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2018 Meeting.

Jason Black seconded. Roll call vote:

Board Members:	Yes	No	Abstain
Haven Barlow	X		
Sterling Jessop, Jr.	X		
Arvin Black	X		
Jason Black	X		
JVar Dutson	X		
Stacy Seay	X		
Michael Cawley	X		

Motion carried.

#4. Public Comment

None

#5. Consideration of Utility Waiver Requests

The Board was presented with one request, account 3117003, which was simply a new account asking their sewer rate to be re-evaluated based off their usage. Staff recommended approving the request.

Jason Black moved to approve the request per staff recommendation.

JVar Dutson seconded. Roll call vote:

Board Members:	Yes	No	Abstain
Haven Barlow	X		
Sterling Jessop, Jr.	X		
Arvin Black	X		
Jason Black	X		
JVar Dutson	X		
Stacy Seay	X		
Michael Cawley	X		

Motion carried.

#6. Manager Report

JVar asked for discussion on the sewer rate for larger homes with smaller families. Harrison confirmed that it is an issue, but without completely re-writing the policy there is no other solution at this time.

Harrison briefly discussed the idea of incorporating Centennial Park into the water customers. Michael explained where Centennial Park is at with their water right now.

Radium in the water is still an issue that no amount of well flushing will alleviate. A decision on water quality vs. reduced water rate will have to be made in the future. There are treatment options available that may provide cost effective solutions. The Department is currently waiting for feedback from Sunrise engineering on available grant funding that may provide funds to explore these options. Harrison would like any of these solutions to be only temporary, the best option would be to be able to provide spring water throughout. A water master plan grant application has been submitted and Harrison is still waiting to hear back. If this is granted, the funds would be focused on getting spring water from Maxwell/Jans Canyon and irrigation water from Water Canyon.

The Arizona Gas Inspector conducted an annual review of our system this month. An official report has not been received, but a preliminary list of deficiencies has, and staff has begun reviewing these.

Harrison provided the board with statistics on the number of accounts, shut-off notices printed, final billed accounts, new connections and accounts on auto pay as of October 2018.

#7. Financial Report

Harrison presented. Water sales are down from previous years. Far less water is being used due to dramatic drop in number of accounts. There is not a water shortage.

The Board was provided with an invoice register and financial report. A few specific items were briefly discussed.

Harrison pointed out a few big expenditures coming up next month.

#8. Consideration of Approval to Pay Bills

Jason commented that local businesses should be supported when possible, as it would be beneficial to the entire community.

Stacy Seay moved to pay the bills as they become due and the funds become available.

Michael Cawley seconded. Roll call vote:

Board Members:	Yes	No	Abstain
Haven Barlow	X		
Sterling Jessop, Jr.	X		
Arvin Black	X		
Jason Black	X		
JVar Dutson	X		
Stacy Seay	X		
Michael Cawley	X		

Motion carried.

#9. Review Financial Aid Flier

A couple local organizations have reached out to the Utility Department offering to help individuals that need it pay their bills. Harrison is proposing a flier to give to delinquent customers with the information for these organizations. Board members were pleased with the flier.

Stacy had a customer ask if the Utility Department can go back to posting notices on the door. The only significant issue with this request is the lack of staff. Customers that are able are encouraged to go on automatic bill pay to avoid shut-offs.

#10. Review Facilities Plan Forecast Update

Harrison provided a revised facilities plan as the impact fee has garnered no significant amount of funds to dedicate towards any improvements.

#11. Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of Sewer Dredging Plan

The Department is planning to dredge sludge around its outtake valve on pond one, where it will deposit to a designated hazardous waste area adjacent to the pond. The Department will refill the pond and begin adding a probiotic solution to the pond in order to reduce pond sludge. Harrison provided a timeline and budget for the project. The total project cost appears to be in line with the work, a little under the original estimation.

Jason Black moved to approve the Sewer Dredge Project plan.

JVar Dutson seconded. Roll call vote:

Board Members:	Yes	No	Abstain
Haven Barlow	X		
Sterling Jessop, Jr.	X		
Arvin Black	X		
Jason Black	X		
JVar Dutson	X		
Stacy Seay	X		
Michael Cawley	X		
Nathan Burnham	X		

Motion carried.

#12. Consideration and Possible Action on Propane Tariff Modification

Weston and Harrison presented. The Department is wanting to change the cylinder filling rate to commodity plus \$1.00/gallon. This will make our rate competitive with other companies. There was brief discussion on advertising this change in order to increase revenue. The current rate is \$2.34.

JVar Dutson moved to approve the change in the propane tariff and advertise in the next utility bill.

Jason Black seconded. Roll call vote:

Board Members:	Yes	No	Abstain
Haven Barlow	X		
Sterling Jessop, Jr.	X		
Arvin Black	X		
Jason Black	X		
JVar Dutson	X		
Stacy Seay	X		
Michael Cawley	X		
Nathan Burnham	X		

Motion carried.

#13. Consideration and Possible Action on Gas Pipeline Extension

The objective is to extend the 2” pipeline south on Redwood St. to supply customers downstream from there metered propane without charging the customers the new meter fee. There are 6 existing tank customers on this route. The Department would pay for the meter run up to the current tank. Harrison provided a plan and budget for such. The budget for this will come from the special project capital.

Michael asked if a cost analysis was completed. Harrison expects the costs (\$900) would be recouped in no time.

**Haven Barlow moved to approve the Gas Pipeline Extension as Proposed.
Stacy Seay seconded. Roll call vote:**

Board Members:	Yes	No	Abstain
Haven Barlow	X		
Sterling Jessop, Jr.	X		
Arvin Black	X		
Jason Black	X		
JVar Dutson		X	
Stacy Seay	X		
Michael Cawley	X		
Nathan Burnham	X		

Motion carried.

Nathan asked for discussion on getting natural gas to Colorado City. Harrison explained that FIRK Commission regulations are the things holding us up. Small communities can apply for an HMSHA exemption. Harrison would like to avoid Dominion Energy buying us out completely and becoming our supplier.

#14. Consideration and Possible Action on Recommendation of Inactive Water Meter

With removal of the impact fee, new development may begin to increase rapidly. This policy would enact an ordinance allowing the department to remove water meters from vacant accounts with no water service for at least 9 months. This way a large new development bypassing the impact fee cannot cause an unanticipated use of water in the future.

There was brief discussion on how this could affect meters that currently fall within this description. Ideas on how to make sure current existing meters are grandfathered were discussed.

Roger Carter asked for clarification. If an impact fee were to be reintroduced, these developments would be asked to pay the impact fee, if any, in effect at the time the meter becomes active.

Harrison asked the Board if they would like to recommend the concept of this to the city councils.

JVar Dutson moved to recommend this policy change to the City Councils with a date of 9 months from the date that impact fees are dropped.

Stacy Seay seconded. Roll call vote:

Board Members:	Yes	No	Abstain
Haven Barlow	X		
Sterling Jessop, Jr.	X		
Arvin Black	X		
Jason Black	X		
JVar Dutson	X		
Stacy Seay	X		
Michael Cawley	X		
Nathan Burnham	X		

Motion carried.

Haven pointed out that developers do not pay the impact fees, builders/customers do.

#15. Adjournment

JVar recommended Harrison to continue communications with the Centennial Water Board.

With no other business, meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Minutes were approved at the meeting on January 29, 2019.

Vincen Barlow, Hildale City Recorder

Vance Barlow, Colorado City Town Clerk

Summary of Board Actions:

Minutes of October 30, 2018 Meeting Approved

Utility Wavier Request Approved

Approval to Pay Bills

Approval of Sewer Dredge Project Plan

Approval of Change in propane Tariff

Approval of Gas Pipeline Extension

Approval of Inactive Water Meter policy