

City of West Columbia, SC

Public Hearing on Water and Sewer Rate Increases and Hydrant Fee Increase

June 3, 2014 following the Public Hearing on the Budget at 6 p.m.

Members Present:

Joe Owens, Mayor
Casey Jordan Hallman, Mayor Pro-Tem
Eric L. Fowler
L. Dale Harley
Temus C. Miles, Jr.
Tommy Parler
Teddy Wingard
B.J. Unthank

Members Absent:

Boyd J. Jones, out of town

Others Present:

Myron Corley, Deputy City Administrator
Mardi Valentino, City Clerk/PIO
Rick Hodge, City Treasurer
Sid Varn, Director of Planning and Engineering
Ken Ebener, Municipal Judge
Jamie Hook, Sanitation/Street/Parks Superintendent

Wyatt Coleman, Fire Chief
Brian Carter, Director of Planning and Zoning
Charles Garren, Public Works Director
Stuart Jones, Building Official
Justin Black, Staff Accountant
Anna Huffman, IT Systems Administrator

Members of the Public and Press

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

Chairperson Unthank called the public hearing to order at 6:07 p.m. and noted a quorum was present. *The State, Free Times, Lexington County Chronicle, Cayce-West Columbia News, The Columbia Star* and radio and television stations were notified of the public hearing by e-mail on May 30, 2014.

Agenda Item II – Opening Remarks

Chairperson Unthank recognized Staff Account Justin Black who stated that the city has not implemented a rate increase since July 2010. He noted that over the past 25 years the city has passed only six rate increases. He explained that the bi-monthly water charge would increase from \$15.10 to \$17.37 for in-city customers. The bi-monthly water charge would increase from \$30.10 to \$34.62 for out-of-city customers. Additionally out-of-city water customers would have a \$1 increase in hydrant fees (fire protection). The bi-monthly rate for sewer would increase from \$9.20 to \$10.58 for in-city customers. The bi-monthly rate would increase from \$16.50 to \$18.98 for out-of-city sewer customers.

Mr. Black stated that according to a 2012 Rate Survey Summary based upon information from the State Budget and Control Board that even with the 15 percent rate increase West Columbia is still significantly lower than utilities in the surrounding area and in the state. He said the rate increases would allow the city to maintain the water/sewer system infrastructure.

Chairperson Unthank asked council members if anyone had any comments or questions. He received no response.

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Agenda Item III – Public Comments on Water and Sewer Rate Increases and Hydrant Fee Increase

Chairperson Unthank asked if any members of the public had any comments or questions on the proposed water and sewer rate increases and hydrant fee increase and received no response.

Agenda Item IV – Adjourn

Chairperson Unthank declared the public hearing on the proposed water and sewer rate increases and hydrant fee increase adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marta M. Valentino, CMC
City Clerk/Public Information Officer