

Session 12-10 A Regular Meeting of the Water and Sewer Rate Task Force was called to order at 6:01 pm on November 20, 2012 by Chair Beth Wythe at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: SHARON MINSCH, KEN CASTNER, BETH WYTHE
BEAU BURGESS

ABSENT: LLOYD MOORE, BOB HOWARD (EXCUSED)

STAFF: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Chair Wythe was detained and the meeting did not start until 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Wythe called for approval of the agenda.

MINSCH/BURGESS – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Task Force.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA *(3 Minute Time Limit)*

Mr. Walter Suomela, non-resident, owns rental property within city limits, commented on the high water and sewer bills he receives; his tenants do not pay these bills he does and pays well over \$3000 a year; he would like to see uniform rates that are fair across the board and his understanding is that is the goal of this Task Force. He commented that in his opinion there has been bias; this is an expensive system; he noted a recommendation that was made to Council previously when the rates were in discussion at charging everyone \$144; Mr. Suomela apologized for being ill prepared to testify at this meeting but had just come back into town from being aboard his boat.

Mr. Burgess provided direction where Mr. Suomela may find the information he was seeking regarding the work the Task Force has been doing.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES *(Minutes are approved during Regular Meetings only)*

A. Regular Meeting Minutes for October 23, 2012

Chair Wythe requested a motion to approve the minutes.

MINSCH/BURGESS – SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

The minutes were approved by consensus of the Task Force.

VISITORS

There were no visitors scheduled.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS *(Chair set time limit not to exceed 5 minutes)*

There were no reports included for this meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING *(3 minute time limit)*

There were no items for public hearing.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Staff Responses to Requests for Information

1. Email from Carey Meyer dated November 13, 2012 Re: Number of Meters per Meter Size and Response to Request for Number of Six Inch Meters For Identifying Fire Service
2. Email from Carey Meyer dated November 13, 2012 Re: Spit Restroom Water Usage 2011
3. Email from Carey Meyer dated November 13, 2012 Re: Analysis of Spit Surcharge
4. Response from Regina Mauras/Laurie Moore dated November 13, 2012 Re: Kachemak City Rates and Questions with Resolution 11-094(S) as backup.
5. Copies of Actual Invoices for Water and Sewer Service
6. Kachemak City Rates, Billing Formulas, Number of Commercial Units

There was no discussion on the information provided by staff.

B. Review and Discussion on Working Draft Rate Model November 5, 2012

- a. Draft Models printed from Working Spreadsheets - for reference only

Chair Wythe introduced the item for discussion and asked how the group wished to proceed.

Discussion ensued and it was agreed to review the draft rate model as provided by Mr. Castner line item by line item. There were no recommendations to change the draft presented. Mr. Castner responded to questions from Mr. Burgess and Ms. Minsch regarding particular line items and accounting for various components of the model. Mr. Castner explained how the Rate Model Committee approached the task and accomplished the draft model as presented. Ms. Minsch presented her concerns on accounting for the multi-family customers and covering all the costs that those customers could bring or cause to the system and adequately covering the expenses.

Mr. Castner announced he had a prior commitment at 7:10 p.m. and needed to leave the meeting.

Chair Wythe noted his statement; asked for further questions and then confirmed with the Clerk the next meeting for the group was December 4 and it was a worksession. She stated they could discuss this further at that meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business on the agenda.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Meeting Calendar as of November 14, 2012
- B. Timeline as of November 14
- C. Resolution 12-094 Amending Resolution 12-027(A), Allowing Mayor Wythe to Remain on the Task Force.
- D. Confirming the Appointment of Beauregard Burgess to the Task Force

Chair Wythe noted the items under Informational materials for the record and asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Mr. Suomela questioned how the invoices in the packet were chosen. Mr. Castner explained what they represented and Mr. Suomela argued that they were not representative of what people pay and the average usage. He opined that it was very low. He commented that with the high cost of living in Homer he needed to determine if he could improve two additional lots he owned. He acknowledged earlier comments of the Task Force that customers have phones and could call and complain but he would like to see the true costs and where this money is actually going.

Ms. Minsch inquired what Mr. Suomela's average usage was and his response was vague since he was not present for the last several months being out on his boat.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Ms. Krause had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair apologized for her tardiness and thanked the members for attending the meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE TASK FORCE

There were no comments from the Task Force members present.

ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Water and Sewer Rate Task Force Chair Wythe adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m. The next meeting is a **WORKSESSION** scheduled for **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2012 at 5:15 P.M.** The next **REGULAR MEETING** is **DECEMBER 18, 2012 at 5:15 P.M.** All meetings are scheduled in the **UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM** at City Hall, 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: _____