

City of Green River

460 East Main Street, Green River, Utah

City Council Minutes

Special Meeting

Thursday, September 29, 2011

ATTENDING: Mayor Pat Brady, Council Members Keith Brady, Irene Daw, Kent Johnson; Employees Conae Black; Citizens Troy Pettit

CONDUCTING: Mayor Pat Brady, the meeting began at 7:18 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

1. Discuss/approve/deny amending water rates. There was not any action taken on this, just discussion only.

Mayor Brady said the reason that this meeting was called is so these rates can be changed for this months billing cycle but they can't officially be changed until there is a Resolution. Conae Black said the bills will be going out tomorrow. Mayor Brady asked why they were even meeting today. Philip Engleman worked on the rates and has suggested not tiering the county residential rates. He felt they should be structured the same as the residential rates within city limits just charged double for being outside of the city limits. Keith Brady feels the commercial rates should not be scaled on residential usage. He thought they should be broken tiered based on the usage. Conae Black said that six different scenarios were given and each one states how much money the water department needs to make in order to stay out of the red to operate. She said the city needs to make about \$400,000 in order for the water department to function properly. Keith Brady said that was good to know and did not recall that ever being mentioned. Keith Brady asked if that included putting a little money into a slush fund. Conae Black said yes. That slush fund will allow the water and sewer departments to make the needed improvements. Mayor Brady said raising the rates is a tough pill to swallow. Conae Black said now that the shock is over since the rates have been changed and there are not near as many calls into the office. People have accepted that the rates have been raised. Kent Johnson said the rates should have been raised a little bit each year instead of waiting until the departments were in the red and needing to raise them so high all at once. Keith Brady asked if these rates were comparable to other cities. Conae Black said you don't want to compare water and sewer rates to other municipalities. Keith Brady asked why not. Conae Black said Rural Water has explained it that treating our water is different than the way it is treated in another town. Keith Brady said he still does not agree that commercial rates should be based on residential usage. Conae Black said that a business can pass that onto the customer. Keith Brady said he has heard that before but still feels it should be phased better in different gallon usage. Conae Black asked who the biggest water users are. Keith Brady said commercial. He asked if Rural Water can come up with a rate that is based on gallon usage. Conae Black said they could probably do that. Keith Brady said he understands that the commercial water user's rates will be higher than the residential water rates but would like the gallon usage spread out like it should be and not based on residential. Conae Black asked Keith Brady to suggest a rate that would clarify what he wants. She showed him a scenario where a commercial base rate was higher but the usage rate was the same as the residential usage rate. Keith Brady said the base rate was really nothing for businesses where they take the biggest hit is in the usage rate. There was other discussion on the different scenarios and what would be the best rate to implement. Kent Johnson felt that a straight across the board rate would be fairer than a progressive rate. Mayor Brady said what has been concluded is Conae Black will call up Rural Water and ask them to come up with a water rate structure that is not tiered. Keith Brady asked for the contact information for Rural Water and said he would contact them. He has a couple of different rates he would like to run.

2. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Pat Brady, Mayor

Conae Black, City Recorder

Approved: _____