

WATERVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING  
September 1, 2015, 6:00 P.M.

There was a public hearing of the Waterville City Council held at the formerly known Waterville Senior Center at 6:00 p.m. on September 1, 2015 to discuss Ordinance No. 116 Establishing Rental Inspection Ordinance and Ordinance No. 51.125.1 Water and Sewer Fees, Charges and Rates.

Council Present: Wollin, Schmidtke, Vail, McIntyre and Mayor Mihalik;

Absent: None

Also Present: Administrator/Clerk Teresa Hill and City Attorney Jason Moran

Also Absent: None

**1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance.** Mayor Mihalik called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., noting that all Council members were present. Also present were Teresa Hill, Administrator/Clerk and City Attorney Jason Moran. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**2. Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 116 Establishing Rental Inspection Ordinance.** Mayor Mihalik said this is our third public hearing on the rental inspection ordinance. Council member Schmidtke advised that he talked to four people that did not get a letter and they did not see the public notice in their water bills. Mr. Schmidtke suggested that letters be sent to each owner of rental property. Discussion held regarding what it would entail to send a letter to each owner of rental property. Ms. Grobe asked if this public hearing pertains to the renters also. Mayor Mihalik said everyone is welcome to voice their concerns but it will certainly impact the owners the most. Bruce Steinhaus, 10597 430<sup>th</sup> Avenue said that one of his renters has a bill paying outfit so he does not open the envelope and his other tenant because what the City has done messed up his rental agreement with her. They pay their own bills. Mayor Mihalik said if we would like to delay this to use the County records for a notice to go to the non-homesteaded properties in the City limits he would be fine with that. Ms. Steinhaus said she does not feel that she should know what their tenants' bill is and feels embarrassed to open it because they both come in the same envelope and she has to sort that out. Ms. Hill said that the billings go to the property owners. Motion by Mihalik, seconded by McIntyre to table the public hearing for Ordinance No. 116 until Thursday October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. and authorizing Teresa Hill to access the County Records to send a letter to non-homesteaded properties in the City of Waterville. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

**3. Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 51.125.1 Water and Sewer Fees, Charges and Rates.** Mayor Mihalik advised that the City has taken a loss in the budget on our wastewater treatment in 2011 we took over a \$40,000 loss, 2012 another \$40,000 and 2013 \$68,000 and 2014 was \$68,000 and 2015 is scheduled to be much more. We have taken an operating loss for some time. The PFA is requiring us to raise the rates to insure that we can in fact pay for the operating cost. The operating cost through these years has gone up. This is what it costs for the treatment chemicals and the treatment itself of the power plant. Jan Steinhaus, 10597 430<sup>th</sup> Avenue asked if this includes the fees after the system is upgraded. Ms. Hill said this is the first step of about a three tier fee increase. Mayor Mihalik said the PFA has asked us to do a staged

increase to show our intent of recouping our fees. Mr. Schmidtke said on the average 5,000 gallon user how much would that change. Mayor Mihalik said right now it is \$17.90 for the average 5,000 gallon usage that would go up to \$29.97. Mr. Schmidtke asked if the businesses fees would be higher. Ms. Hill said the rate structure that we have right now is strictly by the gallons used so we don't have a commercial rate or an industrial rate. It is a flat rate that everybody pays the same. Sue Cutts, 450 Cedar Circle, asked what the City is looking at the other steps to increase then. Mayor Mihalik said this would be annually. Ms. Cutts asked when these rates would take into effect. Ms. Hill said it would become effective November 2015 for October services. So the last quarter of the year usage.

**4. Adjourn.** Motion by Mihalik, seconded by Wollin to adjourn. Unanimous vote. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 6:17 p.m.

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Stephen Mihalik, Mayor

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Teresa Hill, Administrator/Clerk