



WATERFORD UTILITY COMMISSION

DATE: March 12, 2024

PLACE: 1000 Hartford Turnpike

PRESIDING: Chairman Ken Kirkman

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Dembek, Steve Negri, Rodney Pinkham and Ray Valentini

ALSO PRESENT: J. Robert Tuneski, Finance Liaison
Attorney Nicholas Kepple, Town Legal Counsel

Staff: James A. Bartelli, Director of Utilities
Jill Stevens, Assistant Director of Utilities

Chairman Ken Kirkman called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

CITIZEN SESSION-

The owner from account #060000703 was present to appeal back billing charges applied to the most recent invoice. The Commission listened to their concerns but was not able to accommodate their request to waive the charges due to CT State Statute 12-130.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

MOTION Made by Mr. Negri to approve the Minutes of the February 13th meeting and the Special minutes from March 6th, Mr. Pinkham seconded.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously.

BILLING ADJUSTMENTS

The Commission reviewed the January adjustments. The adjustment report will be kept in the office for review.

EXPENDITURES

MOTION Made by Mr. Dembek approve the February 2024 bill list, Mr. Valentini seconded.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION Made by Mr. Dembek to move the Connecticut College item up before Old Business due to having guests waiting for this item on the agenda, seconded by Mr. Valentini.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously.

- **Connecticut College Municipal Sewer Connection**

Mr. Justin Wolfradt from Connecticut College was present to make a request that the Commission allow a portion of college to connect to Waterford's wastewater collection system through the Old Norwich Pump Station sewer shed. He gave a history of what has transpired with the College including a denial of their request to the State of CT for repairs to the sewer mains under Route 32. Mr. Bartelli explained that he had a conversation with the Director of New London whom did not see an issue with this proposal. Mr. Bartelli explained that a Sewer Connection fee would be levied to the college and a flow meter would be required to be installed at the college's expense.

MOTION Made by Mr. Negri to approve the process of Connecticut College being able to connect to Waterford's Wastewater system and to move forward with the process pending final plans, seconded by Mr. Pinkham.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Director's Report**

Mr. Bartelli reviewed his report that provides updated information on all Utility Commission Capital projects that are currently funded and the status of each project. A copy of the Director's Report will be attached to the minutes when posted.

- **Collection's Report**

Attorney Kepple gave a short report that collections were going well.

- **Ad-Hoc Water Committee**

Mr. Bartelli reported the names of the people that would be on this committee:

Ray Valentini, Chairman

Ken Kirkman

James Bartelli and Jill Stevens-Staff Members

Mr. Michael Elbaum-Appointed Member by the First Selectman

A kickoff meeting will be scheduled soon.

New Business

- **Sewer User Change**

Ms. Stevens explained that there have been some legislative changes made surrounding Public Act 21-29 regarding Accessory Dwelling Units; more specifically, the term "in law

apartments” can no longer be used and instead must be replaced with the term “accessory dwelling unit”. This change will affect our current sewer user charge policy descriptions. Staff is also awaiting a legal opinion regarding the ability to charge Tier 1 fees for these units. Ms. Stevens will work on putting together a new proposed policy to bring to the Commission to review in the coming months.

Water

City of New London/Veolia Report.
The monthly report was provided to the Commission to review.

Mr. Bartelli provided an agenda from the last Waterworks meeting and gave update on what transpired during the meeting.

PLANS REVIEW

None

PERSONNEL

- Compliance Officer Technician Job Update
Please see the Director’s Report for an update.
- Accumulated Call-Period compensatory time
The Town added a MOU to the union contract regarding the compensatory time earned when on call for a week. There are currently two employees that have over 40 hours of compensatory time and they will get paid the hourly wage for every hour over 40. The rest of the employees will have sixty days to use this time or will lose the time.

OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

MOTION Made by Mr. Valentini to adjourn, Mr. Negri seconded.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy L. Windle
Recording Secretary