

FINANCE & UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 5:00 PM

Mayor Nathan Brown convened the Commission meeting at 5:00 p.m. Those present included Commission Members Carroll Jones, Jerry Bonano, Syree Williams, and Brian Keller (via Zoom). Staff Members present included Julie Martorana, Jeremy Mose, Carrie Myers, Bruce Dell, CJ Crummitt, and Rikki Bruchey.

Water & Sewer Rate Presentation – Chris Simms, Smart Utility Management, LLC presented his findings. He stated overall the City has done a good job in updating water and sewer rates when necessary. He stated to keep up with current operating expenses, he would recommend a 7.5% increase to all usage tiers in FY25, with smaller increases in subsequent years.

Mayor Brown stated staff would analyze the data and bring back a recommendation to the next meeting.

ARPA Budget – Mr. Mose stated all ARPA funding needed to be obligated by 12/31/2024 and spent by 12/31/2026. He stated currently 70% of the City's ARPA budget has been expended. This budget is the final version for approval. The Commission recommended approval to the Council.

Sandy Hook Water Supply Agreement – Mr. Mose and Mr. Dell discussed this item. In 2022, the City requested \$20,000 from Washington County to help with maintaining the lines that supply Washington County residents. Washington County came back and asked if they could hook all of Sandy Hook to our infrastructure since their wells are failing and will eventually be unable to produce enough water for the town. Mr. Mose stated eventually the State will force this connection, therefore, if an agreement is reached at this time, it can be on more favorable terms for the City. He stated Sandy Hook currently uses about 10,000 gallons of water per day, and we'd be supplementing their system until it would be necessary to provide all water when their wells have completely failed. This process would take years. He also stated Washington County would pay the City \$20,000 when the agreement is executed and another \$30,000 towards future connection fees. Washington County would also pay for all of the engineering and construction of the project. Mr. Dell added that the agreement protects the City by including language about rates, increases, amount of water we're able to produce, etc. He stated 123 lots were included in the proposed service area and we'd provide one meter and vault, then Washington County would handle the maintenance of everything past the meter. The City would bill Washington County as one bulk customer. The Commission recommended approval to the Council.

Concrete Crushing – Hard Rock Excavating – Mr. Crummitt stated this would be to crush up leftover debris from sidewalk removal projects so the City could use it in the future. The cost was \$29,400. The Commission recommended approval to the Council.

F Street Septic Connection – PipeCraft – Mr. Crummitt stated this would be to connect a house on septic to the City's sewer system. The cost was \$26,970. The Commission recommended approval to the Council.

Water Service Line Separations – PipeCraft – Mr. Crummitt stated this was to separate three connections supplying multiple homes through the same connection, and moving water meters outside of the homes. The cost was \$37,870. The Commission recommended approval to the

Council.

Manhole Relining Update – Pleasants – Mr. Crummitt stated this would be to reline 24 manholes to fix I&I problems. He stated past relining projects have been very helpful. The cost was \$99,877.19. The Commission recommended approval to the Council.

FY25 Budget – Ms. Martorana discussed the FY25 budget. She stated the current version did not include updated rates for water, sewer, or trash, or costs for COLA, insurance rates, or Workers Compensation rates.

Grant Presentation – Ms. Martorana gave a presentation about past and current grant activity.

FY24 Finance Reports – No questions or comments.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

Report prepared by Carrie Myers