

Approved 9/11/18

**CITY OF BROCKTON
WATER COMMISSION
Minutes
June 11, 2018**

Present: Ossie Jordan, Chairman/Commissioner
Bernie Hassan, Commissioner
Jim Bragg, Commissioner
Larry Rowley, DPW Commissioner
Brian Creedon, Water Systems Manager
Heather Ferron, Head Administrative Clerk

Absent: Harland Osgood, Commissioner
Dan Murphy, Commissioner

Attending: Robert Burk; Boston City LLC
John Olsen, Liberty Laundry
Joanne Zygmunt, PCWWA
Anne Beauregard, Councilor Ward 5

Chairman, Jordan called the meeting to order at 10:0 A.M. Mr. Creedon noted that a quorum is present but Commissioner Murphy and Commissioner Osgood will not be attending. Chairman Jordan asked for the approval of the May 12, 2018 minutes. **Mr. Bragg moved to approve the minutes, this was seconded by Mr. Hassan and it passed unanimously.** Mr. Jordan asked for the approval of the rate hearing on April 26, 2018. Mr. Creedon noted that the report discussed that night by Mr. Andrew Nocon is attached to these minutes. **After discussion Mr. Hassan moved for the approval, this was seconded by Mr. Bragg and passed unanimously.**

Mr. Jordan asked Mr. Rowley for his report. He stated that the department is working on the North Fire Station area on May Ave and Stafford place and has laid 1,300 feet of pipe looping the Oak St main thru the Raymond school to May Ave and is has improved the pressure in that area. Manpower is an issue and the budget is underfunded and band-aid measures are not working. This has resulted in 2 positions have been cut leaving one crew per week in the summer with vacations considered with that crew being only a 4 man crew a lot of the time where 5 men are preferred. Leak detection is occurring but there are a high number of mark-outs especially from the gas company.

Mr. Jordan asked to move to the 10:15AM agenda. With this he invited Robert Burk to present the application for 261 Belmont St. Mr. Creedon noted that this is the former site of Chayet TV repair. Building which has 2 residential units and a general business the request is for 500 gpd. Mr. Burk noted that it had a new sprinkler system and at present he is looking at a general business in the commercial space. **Mr. Hassan moved to approve at 500 gpd this was seconded by Mr. Bragg and passed unanimously.** He was notified that he will be fined \$1,000 for turning on illegally with a spacer put in place of the meter.

Mr. Jordan asked Mr. Creedon for his report on the flows. He stated that the average day's usage in May and June is from 9 to 9.5 mgd with this last Saturday at just 10 mgd with the heat coming. Whitman's flow which is listed in the bottom right corner of the flow report is above 10% of our flow and this may be due to their flushing their system. I will check with them on this they had in the past notified the water treatment plant, and will be billed later this week. We haven't used Aquaria since the first 4 days of May. The Furnace screening is near complete and will be in place come the fall diversion season.

The Commission agreed that we are in the Normal Phase of the Drought Management Plan with no water restriction.

Mr. Creedon brought to the commission that the Drought Management Plan which we follow is from our Comprehensive Water Management Plan, CWMP, from 2009 and that will it will be modified with a new CWMP that will be issued but it is still in negotiations. Mr. Rowley noted that at present there are no fines or procedure of who would issue fines. He would like to establish a policy for fines and enforcement. Usually there would be first a notice of a violation then 2nd violation with a fine issued thru the DPW Commissioner's office,

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Councilor Beauregard believes fine should be \$100 and should be on city webpage and wants proposal to move forward. Mr. Creedon stated he will get the ordinance on water ban violation and share it with the Commission. She asked if the hydrant in the woods on Hammond Street was working. Mr. Rowley stated that it is in use as are all others but due to lack of funds in the budget brush clearing has not been kept cleared at present. He stated that only DPW or Fire personnel are allowed to access hydrants and where tampering is a problem a few hydrants have locks but it cannot be done on all of them. Hydrant use is allowed by getting a hydrant permit thru the DPW Commissioner's office.

Mr. Rowley noted that the Budget is not approved yet is questionable on Desal costs, has no capitals for equipment or infrastructure and can't payback anything to reimburse the General Fund. The City has been approved for a SRF loan to pay for a \$4 million repair to the treatment plant. Additional revenues are needed to fund these items. We also need to discuss the replacing meters as they only have a 10 year expected life and are reaching their useful life.

Mr. Jordan began discussion of the Council Action on the change in the Water Commission Ordinance and he question whether they asked legal why the law was written as it was originally. Mr. Hassan stated that the Water Commission has been advisory outside of issuing permits. Mr. Rowley stated that issuing of permits is now done by the DPW Commissioner. Anything above 100,000 gallons per day must be approved by the Council. Mr. Jordan stated that with applications taken away the Water Commission is completely advisory. Mr. Hassan stated that the DPW Commissioner runs the day to day operation presently not interfered by the Commission. There is a concern that new business coming into the City will now be a longer process hindering growth. Mr. Rowley stated that they can deal with delay by the suspension of the rules. The City does not want to lose the Water Commission and needs its recommendations for out of town rates and rate recommendations.

Mr. Jordan brought forward the item on the agenda for discussion on the budget and rate change. Mr. Creedon distributed an analysis of the City of Taunton rate analysis done for them by Tighe and Bond. He also distributed a number of rate data from many other cities and Towns. Many of them had a base fee and this fee can be one amount or vary by meter size in the Taunton analysis. Mr. Creedon stated that our current Out of Town or Bulk Rate is done under our original legislation from 1899 and 1964 that states based on our costs we can negotiate the Bulk Rate with the towns or have supreme judicial court appoint 3 Commissioners to advise the court for the rate. He will send copies of the laws. Mr. Rowley stated that he would like an intra-municipal agreement with the towns that determine the bulk rate and other matters that may come up. With either case the Towns are billed for bulk usage and they deal with the customers which insure lean ability.

The Commissioners suggested that the Base Charge can be added to both the city accounts and the out of town accounts. The bulk rate charged to Whitman and others bulk accounts like Hanson, Halifax and East Bridgewater is \$2.85.per 100 per cubic feet. This cost is based on the city's cost to produce and deliver the water to the town. Those individual accounts from the towns are charged the same as Brockton accounts and could also be charge a base charge which could be adjusted for quarterly billing and bi-annual billing. Out rates will go up 2.5% in January of 2019. These base rates could be targeted to certain funds like for capital cost.

Mr. Jordan introduced Ms. Joanne Zygmunt the City's representative on the Central Plymouth County Water District. She will be attending her first meeting next week. Other water commissions are also looking for increases based on increases of the cost of living.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 9, 2018 at 10:00 a.m...

**Mr. Bragg moved to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Mr. Hassan and passed unanimously.
The meeting adjourned at 11:55 PM.**

Respectfully submitted and

Certified by:

Brian M. Creedon,
Water Systems Manager
Clerk of the Commission