

**WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MARCH 2, 2015
PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES CONFERENCE ROOM
155 WEST 14TH STEET
YUMA, AZ 85364**

Chairman Mohindra called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vinod Mohindra
Luis Acle
Lorna Brooks
Michael Wicks

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kathleen Carroll
Brian Ewing
Alan Pruitt

STAFF PRESENT: Jay Simonton, Utilities Director
Jeremy McCall, Utilities Division Manager
Beatrice Dorries, Utilities Division Manager
Donna Lennon, Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC PRESENT: David Lara

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Luis Acle made a motion to approve the October 27, 2014 minutes, seconded by **Michael Wicks**. Motion carried unanimously.

Luis Acle made a motion to approve the November 5, 2014 minutes, seconded by **Lorna Brooks**. Motion carried unanimously.

WATER AND SEWER RATES PROCESS FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION

Jay Simonton informed the Commissioners that the new water and sewer rates were adopted by Council in January, and took effect on March 1, 2015. This will be a 5-year rate adjustment, starting with a 3% increase this year, 3% in January, 2016, 3% in January, 2017, 2% in January, 2018 and 2% in January, 2019. **Jay** gave a handout of the "Resolution" that amended the utility regulations and utility rate charges and fees.

Jay stated there were three public attendees at the City Council's Public Hearing and that it was recommended that a special committee be set up to oversee the utilities. However, **Jay** said that was already in effect with the Water and Sewer Commission, and this would not be his recommendation.

Luis Acle stated there should be incentives for new industrial clients who move to Yuma and generate income for the City. He asked if there was a committee set up for bringing new industries to Yuma. **Jay Simonton** will look into this for the Commissioners.

Jay thanked the Commissioners for their support, input, and help with the rate process.

AMR RETROFIT PROGRAM UPDATE (BEA DORRIES)

Bea Dorries gave a very informative presentation on the history of the installation of AMR's (Automated Meter Reading Program) at the City of Yuma. Automated Meter Reading is a method of reading meters in a drive-by mode where a transmitter connected to the meter sends the read in a signal to a receiver on a laptop.

Meter reading has been a long process that started with the handwriting of visual meter reads in books, went to hand-held units with visual reads, and then in September of 2006, the City started the actual process of the installation of the AMR's.

Automated Meter Reading is a very efficient system bringing safety to the meter readers by eliminating almost any physical contact with vendors. Furthermore, it does away with physical, visual reads! Monthly billing began in June 2014, made possible by this new system. Also a "usage profile" can be run to show hourly usage of water by dates and gallons, making it possible to find leaks, etc., and making this a great conservation tool for customers. An automated program that informs customers of problems like leaks is being looked into for the future.

The AMR installation process has taken eight and one-half years, but was actually completed this year in January!

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Agua Viva Lake – The consultant who completed the feasibility study for the Agua Viva Lake will be giving a presentation to City Council on Wednesday, March 4. This project is feasible, but has been put on hold for the future until funds are available, or it is put into the CIP Program.

Diamond Brooks – A civil suit was filed by the City against Diamond Brooks on December 23, 2014. It is still ongoing.

Solar Dedication at Agua Viva Plant – On March 20, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. there will be a solar dedication ceremony. The solar system should save about forty to fifty thousand dollars a year at both facilities, and the rates are locked in for 20 years with an annual 1% escalation cost.

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Lara commented on the Diamond Brooks civil suit and asked why Diamond Brooks was allowed to continue operating without their water being shut off? No comments were made to this statement due to its legality.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Diamond Brooks – Why Still Getting Water
Committee for New Industries and Incentives

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.