

**WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD APRIL 6, 2015
PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES CONFERENCE ROOM
155 WEST 14TH STEET
YUMA, AZ 85364**

Vice Chairman Ewing called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brian Ewing
Alan Pruitt
Luis Acle
Lorna Brooks
Michael Wicks
Kathleen Carroll

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vinod Mohindra

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Luis Acle made a motion to approve the March 2, 2015 minutes, seconded by **Michael Wicks**. Motion carried unanimously.

Update on results of new billing process and delinquency fee implementation

Jay Simonton handed out an informational sheet of the delinquent fees that the City Council adopted. The various fees were noted, with this change taking effect on February 1, 2015. The fees are currently going into the water fund as income. There has been some discussion of possibly offering assistance to low income qualified customers via different organizations such as WACOG. As there are more discussions, the information will be reported back to the Commission. **Alan Pruitt** questioned the customer complaints about receiving the late bills. **Jay Simonton** stated the new process has extended days so this is no longer an issue. The reconnect fees were a major difference in September 2014, but have come down quite a bit as of March 2015. **Brian Ewing** asked how much money was collected for the delinquency fee paid from commercial customers. **Jay Simonton** asked Bea Dorries if they were tracking those fees. As of yet, they are not, but will compile information for the future meetings. It was stated that they are mainly residential customers. **Jay Simonton** stated that a years' worth of data was needed in order to offer the equalizer billing program that will soon be in place to customers.

2015 Drinking Water Week discussion and artwork judging

Jay Simonton stated that we will be very active in this year's National Drinking Water week. The AWWA has an art contest, and it was announced to our local 4th grade classes. The Commissioners were asked to vote for their three favorite pieces of artwork that were submitted by the students. The winners will receive a pizza party. The winning artwork will be submitted

to the AWWA for the national contest. Jeremy McCall informed the Commission that six schools participated in this event. The Commissioners voted on the artwork, and winners were selected and will be submitted to the AWWA.

Director's Report

Jay Simonton stated they are still going through the budget process. The budget will be presented to council next week. The rate increase will help considerably. There will be a focus to replace equipment in next year's budget; it has been many years since equipment has been replaced. **Alan Pruitt** asked about new construction around town. **Jay Simonton** stated that any time there are new customers it helps. The industrial plants had more of the consumption, but companies such as Dole moved their business to other areas. With the California water constraints, those types of companies may be looking to move back to Arizona. **Luis Acle** asked if there is a way to be proactive by possibly talking to the industrial companies in reference to relocating to Yuma. **Jay Simonton** agreed that avenue would be worth exploring.

CALL TO PUBLIC

No one from the public was in attendance.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Budget Summary

Summary of the condition of the river and water issues

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.