



August 6, 2019 Water, Sewer, & Sanitation Committee Meeting – Minutes

The City of Adel’s Water, Sewer, & Sanitation Committee met in the council chambers at Adel City Hall, 301 South 10th Street, Adel, Iowa, on August 6, 2019 at 6:40 p.m.

Ockerman called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. Members present: Christensen, Miller, and Ockerman. Others in attendance: Council members McAdon and Selby, City Administrator Brown, Public Works Director Overton, and McClure rep. Brons.

Christensen motioned, seconded by Miller, to approve the May 7, 2019 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion began on the proposed additional water projects and the potential rate increases, which were reviewed at the July 16 council meeting. Brons stated that approximately \$1.3 million in USDA-RD grant funds would be forfeited if the City declines to proceed with the additional projects. The projects would address existing bottlenecks in the distribution system. Ockerman noted that McClure is already under contract for these projects. Brons reviewed the projects and the potential rates needed.

Christensen stated that he was concerned about the rates, not the projects. Christensen noted that the City is the only metro community with a tiered rate structure. Residents and businesses using more water under the current structure see a smaller percentage rate increase than low users.

Christensen provided details on an alternative approach that would simplify rates and make the “C” charges based on usage. Christensen noted that this approach would encourage water conservation.

Ockerman noted that, if the City were to lose a major water customer, the rates would need to increase. Christensen stated that this scenario would be simple to explain to residents. Selby noted that lower water users would pay less. Brons stated that a Cost of Service analysis should be performed and reviewed prior to any changes.

Ockerman stated that it would be advantageous for the City to apply for USDA-RD funding in October. Brons stated that the projects would also include a permanent location of the Xenia emergency connection.

Christensen motioned, seconded by Miller, to recommend to council that a rate study be conducted and that the City apply for USDA-RD funding for the additional water projects. Motion carried unanimously.

In other business, Overton stated that water usage was steady.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Brown
City Administrator