

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Municipal Building.

The following members of the Governing Body were present:

Mayor: Richard Propst
Alderman: Terry Yount
Alderman: Carroll Franklin
Alderman: Danny Ritchie

The following members of the Governing Body were absent:

Alderman: Benny Orders

Others present:

Manager: Matt Settlemyer
Town Clerk: Sherry Dula
Attorney: Jonathan Jones

Alderman Ritchie opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes - The Council approved the previous minutes for the month of March by a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Ritchie and the vote was unanimous.

Water/Sewer Rate Increase – Last month the Manager brought several water sewer increase proposals to the Board for review and Manager Settlemyer stated the need to increase those rates to a minimum fee of \$15.00 per month to cover operational expenses. The Manager recommended that this increase be implemented in two phases. The first increase would be effective on the May 1, 2012 and the second would be effective on September 1, 2012. Each phase would increase the minimum fee by \$2.00 for water and \$2.00 for sewer for the inside customers and \$4.00 for water and \$4.00 for sewer for the outside customers. Manager Settlemyer addressed the issue with the Electric reserve monies and explained that we have a policy that allows for the transfer of monies from the electric fund to the general fund but the policy does not allow for transfers between electric and water/sewer funds. He stated the enterprise funds are supposed to pay for themselves. The utility funds are audited collectively but if they are reviewed as individual funds, the electric sustains itself and the water/sewer fund is a drag on the system. The Council voted unanimously by a motion from Alderman Yount seconded by Alderman Franklin to increase water/sewer rates by \$2.00 on the minimum for inside customers and \$4.00 on the minimum for outside customers. Dick McCall, Garrison Drive resident spoke up and stated that he believes the Council is doing wrong and he thinks there is a better way of handling this problem.

Drexel Heritage Plant - Manager Settlemyer explained to the Council that the Drexel Plant may be under contract by a demolition company. The demolition company has offered to sell this property after they complete the process of leveling the plant. Manager Settlemyer asked the Council if they would have any interest in purchasing this property. The Council voted unanimously by a motion from Alderman Yount, seconded by Alderman Ritchie to have Manager go back to the demolition company and express our interest in the property.

Miscellaneous –

- The digital sign for the front of the townhall is supposed to be built by April 4th.
- Manager Settlemyer stated that we are very close to having an amount for connecting to the Valdese system. The amount will have maintenance built into the cost and will be a flat amount. The town will actually end up buying capacity in the pump station.
- Rick Ramsey and Phil Branch has expressed interested in purchasing the Old Town Hall but it needs \$40,000 in repairs. The Council is not interested in putting any money into repairs but they are not opposed to selling it or trading it for the alley property behind the building owned by Rick Ramsey.
- Attorney Jonathan Jones has reviewed the R.O. Huffman Lease and has provided the Board with advice on how to proceed in the current disputes between Drexel Booster Club, R.O. Huffman Center and the Town.

Departmental Reports – The Council reviewed the Financial and Police reports for the month of March, 2012. A copy of each report is attached as part of the minutes.

Adjournment - With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m. upon a motion from Alderman Ritchie, seconded by Alderman Franklin.

TOWN CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

ALDERMAN _____

