

MAYER CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

Call Work Session to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Dodge.

PRESENT: Mayor Dodge, Council Members Butterfield, McNeilly, and Stieve-McPadden

ABSENT: Boder

STAFF: City Administrator McCallum, Public Works Kuntz

ALSO PRESENT: Ivan Raconteur, Melissa Hunstiger and Karen Hunstiger.

1. Deerwood Court – Water Issue

Mayor Dodge explained that residents at 2482 Deerwood Court installed an irrigation meter in 2011 and while the meter was reading the usage, it wasn't downloading into the software utility system. He said that in May/June of 2017, it was discovered that the irrigation reading wasn't registering into the software and thus the homeowners weren't getting charged for their irrigation usage. Dodge said that when staff did finally register, the homeowners were then hit with a bill for \$4,300.00. Dodge informed that the residents have been working with the City to determine what happened and if there is any way to work through the high bill.

The resident, Melissa Hunstiger informed that in 2011 they decided to get an irrigation meter to decrease their water bill. She said that after the irrigation meter was installed, their water bill went down and that they got the results they wanted. She said that they were shocked to hear that their irrigation meter wasn't reading into the software; resulting in a bill for \$4,300.00.

Dodge said that he met with the residents and that the residents did acknowledge that the water was used over the six years.

Hunstiger said that they live on a budget and that they are concerned that this could happen and happen again. She informed that other neighbors have had similar issues.

Dodge presented a diagram of typical and average irrigation usage between the years of 2011 and 2017, based on rates during those years. Based on his algorithm, Dodge informed that it would bring the bill down to \$997.05.

Butterfield said that she was comfortable with that number. Nonetheless, she asked how this could be prevented in the future.

Kuntz responded that staff now audits the meter reports each month to look for any abnormalities. He said that he has been replacing old meters that have started to have malfunctions.

Dodge asked that Hunstiger work with staff to determine a payment plan possibly or an approach on how to pay off the bill. He said it would go to the council at the next meeting for approval.

2. Council Chambers

Dodge told the Council that he would like to see some upgrades to the Council Chambers in 2017 and 2018. He suggested improvements such as new carpeting, desks, chairs, painting and such. He wants it to look more professional.

Stieve-McPadden said that she would like to see the sound system upgraded.

Butterfield said that she would be open to improvements, but that she doesn't want it to get too costly. She said she would like to see some security improvements.

Dodge said that it was something to start thinking about.

3. City Attorney (added)

Butterfield expressed concerns about the City Attorney's office and their billing for the last two years. She asked that the City possibly look for a new attorney.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the work session was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Mike Dodge, Mayer

Attest: _____
Janell Gildemeister, Deputy City Clerk