

**UTILITIES COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 17, 2010**

Mayor Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Council members James R. Gatto, Gibson Anthony, Mabel Mumford-Pautz and Mauritz Stetson, W.S. Ingersoll, Town Manager and Zoning Administrator, Jennifer Mulligan, Stenographer, and guests.

Mayor Bailey asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Utilities Commission meeting of April 19, 2010. **Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to approve the minutes as presented, was seconded by Mr. Stetson and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Bailey stated that cash on hand and in banks was \$437,628.77.

Mr. Sipes stated that it was a quiet month in the Utilities Department where some small leaks were fixed on the streets as well as a collapsed line on Campus Avenue.

Mayor Bailey stated that she would like to introduce Ordinance 03-2010 Water and Sewers Ordinance Revision. Mayor Bailey stated that this Ordinance would adjust the utilities rates by about 10% beginning July 1, 2010. The rate would increase to \$27.00 for water and \$27.00 for sewer (up to 10,000 gallons).

Mayor Bailey stated the raise in rates was the cost of doing business and was recommended by the auditors last year.

Mayor Bailey stated that she would like to introduce Ordinance 04-2010 Amendment to Water and Sewer Ordinance. Mayor Bailey stated that this Ordinance would adjust the rates for the Tapping Fee schedule in Chestertown. Water and sewer hook-up fees for a single family unit in Town would cost \$7,000.00. Water and sewer hook-up fees for an out-of-town single family unit would cost \$14,000.00 and out of Town taps for the Kent County Sanitary District would cost \$7,000.00.

Mr. Gatto stated that these fees were equivalent to neighboring towns.

Mayor Bailey stated that Ordinance 03-2010 and Ordinance 04-2010 would be enacted at the June 7th meeting and become effective on July 1st.

Mr. Gatto stated that he would like the additional funds to be put into capital fund budget and keep the operational funds in a separate account. Mayor Bailey stated that she would relay the information to Ms. Diver, the Town Accountant, as she had to conform to the GATSB rules and regulations.

Mr. Gatto stated that he suggested a rebate program for high efficiency washers at the last meeting. Mr. Gatto asked Mr. Sipes if he could look into the impact of such a program. Mayor Bailey stated that different machines have different discharges and asked if there were any averages to compare.

Mr. Gatto stated that the State of Maryland had certain washers that qualified for a rebate. Mayor Bailey stated that the State of Maryland would also have to agree with the program.

Mr. Anthony asked if it was possible to review the long-term costs of not conserving water, using the example of having to drill new wells. Mr. Sipes stated that last year he noticed conservation measures taking place because there was overall reduced water consumption and water withdrawal from the wells at approximately 10%. He noted that 10% was a large drop in water production in the Town.

Mr. Sipes stated that he would gather numbers on high efficiency units, along with what they can save per year and over the life of the machine. Mr. Sipes stated that he would also gather information on how much they could reduce future needs based on different products and conservation.

Mr. Sipes stated that other things that the Town might want to review in addition to the washing machines are standard faucets as they can save a lot of water usage.

Mayor Bailey stated that the Green Committee was also going to be doing work on conservation of water issues as well.

Mr. Gatto stated that water conservation should also be addressed in the plumbing codes and the subdivision codes. He said that standard faucets could be addressed in new housing.

Mr. Sipes stated that there was an EPA program called "Water Sense" that certifies products for water conservation.

There being no further business, **Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to pay the bills as presented, was seconded by Mr. Anthony and carried unanimously.**

Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m., was seconded by Mr. Gatto and carried unanimously.

Submitted by: 
Jennifer Mulligan
Stenographer

Approved by:
Margo G. Bailey
Mayor