

**UTILITIES COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2010**

Mayor Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Council members James Gatto, Gibson Anthony, Mabel Mumford-Pautz and Mauritz Stetson, Robert Sipes, Utilities Manager, Jennifer Mulligan, Stenographer, and guests.

Mayor Bailey asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Utilities Commission meeting of July 12, 2010. **Mr. Stetson moved to approve the minutes as presented, was seconded by Mr. Gatto and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Bailey stated that cash on hand and in banks was \$504,436.00.

Mr. Sipes stated that the roofs at the water treatment plant were finished and were in excellent shape. He said that they used a red paint which looked very nice.

Mr. Sipes stated that curb and gutter work was performed at the water plant because when there was a heavy rain water would come through the door.

Mr. Sipes stated that he gave an additional two (2) tours of the wastewater plant for Washington College. He said that if anyone was interested in having a tour they could call him to schedule at 410-708-4603.

Mr. Sipes stated that he talked with a representative at State Highway Administration and they were going to work together to resolve the issue at Maple Avenue and Queen Street. He said that the Utilities Department would get the manholes and frames ordered and when they came in he would schedule SHA traffic control to have the work done. Mr. Sipes stated that the manholes would be brought up to the existing road surface.

Mr. Stetson asked if the same problem would arise if the SHA paved over the street. Mr. Sipes stated that this would be something that would be discussed when the manholes were fixed. He said that that it was difficult to lay down an exact amount of paving but when they were working around a manhole the paving should be brought to the elevation of the existing utility, or specific arrangements should be made to lower and raise the elevation prior to paving.

Mayor Bailey stated that there was water sitting in the road on Maple Avenue by Bennett's II at the handicapped crossing. Mr. Jeff Wentz of State Highway Administration said that the intersection was on their books to be reinstalled.

Mr. Sipes stated that he said that he would like to work more closely with the SHA when they were paving in Town so the Utilities Department could make sure that items having to do with water and sewer were installed appropriately.

Mr. Gatto stated that he thought that the rebates for washers would be discussed at this meeting.

Mr. Sipes stated that a rebate program for efficient washers was a great idea and an area to target. He said that the only issue was what would be a reasonable amount of money. Mr. Sipes stated that the Town of Chestertown has very low water and sewer rates.

Mr. Sipes stated that rebate programs in other municipalities work based on the efficiency of the new model. He said that generally there was a 3-tier system and the closer you get to optimum efficiency or Tier 1, the higher the rebate. Mr. Sipes stated that rebates were usually \$25.00, \$50.00 and \$75.00.

Mr. Sipes stated that in order to qualify for the program at least a Tier 3 washing machine must be purchased. He said that there were guidelines setting out the tiers.

Mr. Stetson stated that Sears was the only place in Town to buy a washing machine so it should be easy to work with them on a system. Mr. Sipes stated that the Council should keep in mind that Tier 1 washing machines were typically quite expensive.

Mr. Gatto suggested meeting with Mr. Sipes to come up with options for a program for Town residents. Mayor Bailey stated that it was important to make sure that a rebate program was worth the time and energy it would take the Town to implement it.

Mr. Sipes stated that the cost of the water bills and savings over a year may not make the program seem worthwhile. He said that washing machines are typically rated over an 8-year period.

Mr. Sipes stated that washing machines that were typically being phased out were using 42-gallons of water a load. He said that 32-gallons was the maximum usage machine on the market now.

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

Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m., was seconded by Mr. Stetson and carried unanimously.

Submitted by: 
Jennifer Mulligan
Stenographer

Approved by:
Margo G. Bailey
Mayor