

**UTILITIES COMMISSION MEETING**  
**JULY 12, 2010**

Mayor Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Council members 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 June 21, 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 \$360,757.65.

Mr. Sipes stated that there were some building improvements at the water plant since the last meeting. He said that the roofs were replaced on some of the well houses and there was maintenance on the roof of the barn building, noting that the work was complete.

Mr. Sipes stated that he was trying to schedule paving for potholes and other repairs around Town but was having a difficult time finding a paver since it was their busy time of year. Mr. Sipes stated that Mr. R.J. Osborne used to do the work has stopped paving altogether. Mr. Sipes stated that he was trying to contact Mr. McNeil out of Queen Anne's County who paved for the Town one time before but he had not heard back from him yet.

Mr. Sipes stated that one of the larger bills to be paid was to Gillespie for an annual stockpiling that was done at the yard.

Mr. Sipes stated that he received emails regarding hydrant flushing and wanted to address the issue. Mr. Sipes stated that there were a number of ways to conduct hydrant flushes and many things that necessitated a hydrant flushing. Mr. Sipes said that sometimes a regular flushing was conducted for dead-end lines or a problem maintaining chlorine residual.

Mr. Sipes stated that scheduling a hydrant flushing would mean that it would be conducted whether it was necessary or not and, in many cases, that would waste water and not eliminate the problem that the Town had with an unscheduled flushing.

Mr. Sipes stated that an unscheduled flushing is conducted when something stirred up the main, such as a fire in town, sprinkler system being activated, a hydrant being used to fill a truck, or if a line broke. He said the starting or stopping of water flow in a main caused a jump in the system and dislodged any scale or deposits on the sides of the pipe.

Mr. Sipes stated that if a routine flushing was scheduled every quarter approximately 300,000 gallons of water would be used each time. This would not keep an unscheduled flushing from occurring.

~~06/21/10~~ 7/12/10 gm

Mr. Sipes stated that a scheduled hydrant flushing required a use permit. He said that the drinking water contained chlorine which was considered a pollutant and can not be discharged at whim unless the Town was responding to a health or dirty water complaint.

Mr. Sipes stated that if the Council wanted to schedule flushing they would have to give him notice so that it could be advertised in the paper and he could get the permits.

Mayor Bailey stated that she saw no reason to waste 1-million gallons of water for no reason.

Mr. Sipes stated that one of the unintended consequences of flushing was that the water moved fast enough to wash everything off the sides of the pipes, including the concrete lining that was specified for all the pipes in Chestertown.

Mr. Anthony stated that there was a comment made about Town hydrants not being in compliance with maintenance. Mr. Sipes stated that hydrants function 100% as they were made to do and if there was a hydrant in Town with a problem he was not aware of it. He said if he is aware of a problem with a hydrant it is fixed or replaced. Mr. Sipes stated that lack of maintenance on a fire hydrant does not rupture mains; it is the use of the fire hydrant that ruptures mains.

Mr. Sipes stated that if a fire hydrant was in a condition that it would stop the water suddenly the hydrant would not be operable. He said that it takes approximately fifteen (15) revolutions on a hydrant to open and close it and the only way to get it to move fast was to turn it fast.

Mr. Sipes stated that hydrant maintenance consists of flow testing and lubricating hydrants when necessary. Mr. Sipes stated whoever was saying that maintenance was the issue with the fire hydrant was looking to deflect responsibility for what occurred last month. Mr. Sipes stated that the problem was improper use of hydrant for purposes that were not justified.

Mrs. Mumford-Pautz stated that she noticed a problem with drainage at South Kent by Cannon Street. Mr. Sipes stated that work will be scheduled for that area. He said that a line was replaced under Cannon Street but they have not gone further (Cannon Street to the railroad tracks) to date. He said that he would coordinate with the roads department to complete the work but it would take a lot of hand digging because there was a trunk location for telephone lines at that intersection.

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

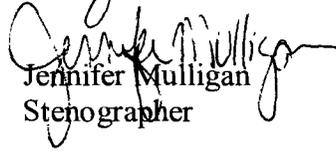
**Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m., was seconded by Mr. Anthony and carried unanimously.**

Submitted by:

~~06/21/10~~ 7/12/10 JM

Utilities Commission

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Jennifer Mulligan  
Stenographer

Approved by:

Margo G. Bailey  
Mayor