

**August 10, 2020**  
**St. James Municipal Center**  
**Utility Board/City Council Workshop**  
**6:00 pm**

**AGENDA ITEM: Call to Order**

Mayor Krawiecki called the joint council/utility board workshop to order. Present for the meeting were:

Utility Board Members: Rodney Edwards, Charles Armistead, and Stephanie Hays

City Council Members: Tracy Edwards, Shane Anselm, Joe Boulware, Tyler Wagon, Stephanie Swanson (via Zoom), Mark Gray (6:35 pm), Bob Smith (6:40 pm).

Others in attendance: Jim Fleming, City Administrator; Sarah Wheeler, City Clerk; Billy Bowers, Alliance; Ron Smith, Alliance; John Cutsinger, Park Director; Michael Lewis, Library Director; Lyle Thomas, Public Works Director; and Justin Head, City Attorney.

---

**AGENDA ITEM: Sewer Rates**

Administrator Fleming discussed the repairs still needed on the sewer lines to bring our system up to EPA standards. He stated that DNR had given the City an extension to complete the project no later than May 2022. No further extensions will be given and if the projects are not completed the utilities could be looking at a daily fine until the standards are met. St. James Utilities has contracted with Archer Elgin to do a study to find out where most of our I&I issues are coming from.

With the required projects needed to bring our system up to EPA standards we would need to increase our debt payment from \$360,000 per year to \$500,000 per year. The utility board has put together a ten (10) year rate increase plan in order to meet these additional costs. This plan will add on a "service availability fee" to the bills beginning at fifteen dollars (\$15.00) and will increase in five (5) years by three dollars (\$3.00). At the August 4, 2020 utility board meeting a motion was made by Rodney Edwards and seconded by Stephanie Hayes, "To implement the proposed Service Availability Fee schedule October 1<sup>st</sup> of 2020 and the Rate Schedule May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

---

**AGENDA ITEM: Natural Gas Rates**

Administrator Fleming let the council know that the pipeline reservation fee had jumped to \$40,700 per month. Currently the natural gas does not make enough money during the summer months to cover these expenses. If the department had not received a big credit each month from the previous lawsuit that was settled, they would have closed the fiscal year with a balance of negative \$140,000.

Due to the needed increase, the utility board has come up with a service availability charge that would put most of the cost on the people that are high users of natural gas, so that it covers our costs year-round. A motion was made by Rodney Edwards and seconded by Stephanie Hayes, "To implement the proposed Service Availability Fee schedule October 1<sup>st</sup> of 2020 and the Rate Schedule May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

The new structure would be as follows:

Residential - \$5.00 per month per meter  
Commercial - \$18.00 per month per meter  
Walmart DC - \$1740.00 per meter  
Veteran's Home - \$175 per meter  
School - \$45 per meter  
Industrial - \$120 per meter

With these new fees this would bring in an additional \$17,000 per month to cover the short fall.

---

**AGENDA ITEM: Adjourn**

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Krawiecki closed the workshop and called for a short recess before the regular City Council meeting was to begin at 7:00 pm.

---

Rick Krawiecki, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Sarah Wheeler, City Clerk

---

Date