



WATONGA PUBLIC WORKS AUTHORITY MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

In accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Law, this Agenda was posted September 17, 2021 Prior to 5:00 PM. at the Watonga City Hall, on the door of the City Clerk's Office, located at 117 North Weigle, Watonga, Oklahoma.

The Watonga Public Works Authority (PWA) of Watonga did meet immediately following Watonga City Council Meeting at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 in the Council Chamber of Watonga City Hall, located at 117 North Weigle, Watonga, Oklahoma, for a scheduled meeting.

Council Present: Travis Bradt, Allen Cowan, Lindsey Doyel, Ladina Willis and Mayor Bill Seitter. Also present, City Manger Karrie Beth Little, City Attorney Jared Harrison and City Clerk Verlen Bills.

Declaration of a Quorum: at 7:52 PM

AGENDA

1. **Approve the minutes** of the previous PWA Meeting held August 17, 2021.

Lindsey Doyel made the motion to approve the minutes of the previous PWA Meeting held August 17, 2021. Motion was seconded by Ladina Willis.

Mayor Seitter, hearing not further comment, called for a vote;

T. Bradt aye A. Cowan aye L. Doyel aye L. Willis aye B. Seitter aye

Motion carried.

2. **Review and Accept** the list of claims against PWA for the month of August 2021.

There was some discussion about the division of General Government and Public Works. Mr. Jacks and Mrs. Ohman noted several different accounts and how they are classified.

Motion to accept the list of claims against PWA for the month of August 2021 was made by Allen Cowan and seconded by Lindsey Doyel.

Mayor Seitter, hearing not further comment, called for a vote;

T. Bradt aye A. Cowan aye L. Doyel aye L. Willis aye B. Seitter aye

Motion carried.

3. **Comments:**

Mr. Cowan: Our recent Water Rate Analyst Report meeting by Randy Clark with the Oklahoma Rural Water Association made me consider, we seem to always raise our utility rates at the start of the fiscal year. This raises the electric rate to our customers during the peak of the summer. Next time we have to do a rate increase, would it be possible to wait until September to put the increase into effect? This would make it much easier on the customer and the City would only lose the increased amount for two months.

Ms. Phillips allowed that this is possible. The budget calculations would be simple enough. There are some communities that do this in January.

Ms. Little mentioned that there is another meeting planned for October with the Oklahoma Rural Water Association. Light and Water Superintendent Warren Rice has arranged this.

Mr. Cowan suggested that we need to re-access our billing procedures. I recently reviewed my gas bill and calculated that it cost me almost \$17.00 a month just for the privilege of having a gas meter in my yard, this is before I get any product through the meter. The City's base rate is much less.

Ms. Little: Mr. Rice and I have been talking about this. There are some concerns of our base rate that need to be figured out and explained to the customer. Currently we have no consistent description of the rate structure and how the base rate works. When we pulled some random billing samples we noticed several discrepancies.

There were several comments about the base rates and how we charge.

Ms. Little: Mr. Rice and I are working in this and hope to bring this back for Council to consider.

Mr. Cowan asked how is the moving to the new City Hall going?

Ms. Little: It is going well, there are of course a few hiccups here and there, but we are working through those.

We opted to move ourselves and not hire a moving company. The Light & Water people, the Street & Alley Dept. and the Parks Dept. have all been a big help.

The Light and Water Office was back and forth and not always easy to locate. We are being very lenient with cut offs and late fees. Overall I think things went well and services were provided for the most part.

Ms. Little and Mr. Jacks complimented the City Employees for all the extra work they did helping to get City Hall moved.

Mayor Seitter commented that we seem to be fine with only one Council Meeting a month. Several agreed.

Motion to adjourn was made by Lindsey Doyel and seconded by Allen Cowan.

Mayor Seitter, hearing no further comment, called for a vote;

T. Bradt aye A. Cowan aye L. Doyel aye L. Willis aye B. Seitter aye

Motion carried at 8:03 PM

Mayor Bill Seitter

City Clerk, Verlen Bills