

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
LAWTON WATER AUTHORITY
SEPTEMBER 1, 1998
WAYNE GILLEY CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER

The Lawton Water Authority meeting was called to order at approximately 7:35 p.m. by Chairman Cecil E. Powell. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board in compliance with State law.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: G. Wayne Smith, Richard Williams, Jeff Sadler, John Purcell, Robert Shanklin, Charles Beller, Stanley Haywood, Randy Warren.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Bill Baker, Acting City Manager; John Vincent, City Attorney; Brenda Smith, City Clerk

BUSINESS ITEM:

1. Consider amending the pro rata or minimum refuse fees charged to multi-family dwelling. Exhibits: Resolution No. 98-_____.

Baker said this is to correct a June 9 action where the Water Authority approved changing rates for multi use dumpster and the minimum charge went to \$14.95, which was not intentional. This item requests that the fee be returned to the previous rate of \$10.31. Commercial customers have asked why the increase was so high and it was not the intent to do that when all the rates were changed in June.

Purcell said this was brought up in meetings of the Council Committee on Vacancies, and the rate of \$10.31 will correct part of the problem. He said service to a house is \$9.67 per month, not \$10.31, so the charge is actually more for an apartment than for a house and most apartments have dumpsters. Purcell said he was told that there is an ordinance which states the apartment pays the number of units times what will now be \$10.31 or the cost of an appropriate dumpster, depending on the size and each size is a different cost, whichever is more. He said that does not seem to be fair and that it should be as easy to pick up one dumpster as it would to pick up sixteen individual apartments, and if it is not cheaper, it should at least be the same. Purcell suggested the rate go to \$9.67, the same as a house, and change the ordinance to say whichever is less, the dumpster rate or individual rate, instead of saying whichever is higher.

Steve Livingston, Finance Director, said he did not know the financial effect of that change. Shanklin asked if the increase was included in the budget and Livingston said not at this amount for the 45% increase. Livingston said he did not know the financial impact of changing from using the lesser amount versus the greater amount as Purcell explained earlier, but suggested that amount be considered prior to a decision. Purcell said it cannot be addressed tonight anyway but that it should be looked at.

Purcell asked how many units there were. Livingston said there are approximately 10,000 multi units and about 8,000 occupied per month. Purcell said it could be \$61,000 a year by going from \$10.31 to \$9.67. Livingston said for one month, the billing was \$14 so that could be subtracted. Purcell said he thought it should be \$9.67 per month, the same as a house. Shanklin agreed.

Baker said he and Purcell discussed why there was a difference between charges for a residence and a commercial unit; commercial collection in the past was a six to seven day a week operation requiring a great deal of overtime, and as a result, the minimum commercial rate was increased a little higher than residential to compensate for the additional overtime. Baker said Ihler has reduced the overtime considerably, although some is involved due to the number of weekly pickups and that is one reason the commercial is somewhat more than residential.

Shanklin asked if apartment complexes with dumpsters were considered commercial. Livingston said dumpster pick ups are considered commercial; everyone with eight or more units must use dumpsters, which are figured at a commercial rate. Shanklin said it was the same price at one time and Livingston agreed. Livingston said a study was done in 1988 or 1989 to do away with all commercial pickups; several workshops were held and there were objections from the City because the City was making money on commercial pickups, and some commercial accounts had to be picked up by the City because they could not be serviced with the one man over the top operation of the other commercial hauler. The City remained in the commercial pick up business but increased the rate by 10%. He said he did not recall a discussion at that time about increasing the availability rate.

Beller said using the greater of the two numbers was perceived as intimidation and that should be examined, as well as the availability charge. Consensus was to return ordinance in this regard. Purcell said the revenue impact should be considered also.

MOVED by Purcell, SECOND by Beller, to recommend changing the fee for multi family dwellings to \$9.67 a month. AYE: Smith, Williams, Sadler, Purcell, Shanklin, Beller, Haywood, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

There was no further business and the Lawton Water Authority meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

CECIL E. POWELL, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

BRENDA SMITH, CITY CLERK

