

PUBLIC HEARING #1
JULY 22, 2002

PRESENT

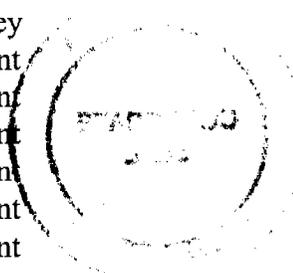
Gayle Bunker	Mayor
Wesley Bloomfield	Council Member
Bruce Curtis	Council Member
Robert Droubay	Council Member
Margaret Dutson	Council Member
Glen Swalberg	Council Member

ABSENT

Neil Forster	Public Works Director
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OTHERS PRESENT

Richard Waddingham	City Attorney
Debbie Talbert	City Resident
Patrick Talbert	City Resident
Pat Teeples	City Resident
Erma Maxfield	City Resident
Paul Stephenson	City Resident
Vance Lovell	City Resident
Norma Fullmer	City Resident
Carrie Stephenson	City Resident
Max Wood	City Resident
Stan Robison	City Resident
Alan Riding	Asst. Public Works Director
Judy Baker	City Treasurer
Gregory Jay Schafer	City Recorder
Rita Byrd	Public Works Secretary



Mayor Bunker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He stated that notice of the time, place and agenda of the meeting was posted at the City Building and had been provided to the Millard County Chronicle/Progress, to KNAK Radio, and to each member of the City Council at least two days prior to the meeting. City Recorder Gregory Jay Schafer acted as secretary.

Mayor Bunker stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to receive public comment regarding a proposed water conservation rate schedule. He explained that the Governor has requested that all municipalities, and other agencies involved in providing water service, implement programs which would encourage water conservation.

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Mayor Bunker noted that, as Delta City attempts to obtain funding for arsenic removal from the water supply, we will be required to have a water conservation plan in place. Mayor Bunker explained the program which Delta City is considering to encourage water conservation.

Mayor Bunker opened the public hearing to comment from the floor. Pat Teeples asked if the water service billing could include the number of gallons of water for which overage is being charged. Public Works Secretary Rita Byrd explained that the utility billing software does not allow for printing of overage gallons, however, every water user is allowed eight thousand gallons per month before any overage charges are added and the billing does list the total usage so, if the eight thousand gallons was subtracted from the total usage, the result would be the number of overage gallons. Mayor Bunker stated that we would see if a change could be made in the software to include overage gallons. Ms. Byrd stated that she had asked the software vendor several times if overage gallons could be added to the program and has been advised that it is not in their current plans to separate out overage gallons on the billing.

Mr. Paul Stephenson asked how rapidly the water system supply is declining. Asst. Public Works Director Alan Riding stated that the measurement taken in March, 2002 was approximately twelve feet lower than in the previous year. Mr. Riding also stated that the Delta City water supply is not dangerously low this year, but that could change by next year, depending upon how long the drought conditions continue. Mr. Stephenson also questioned whether water conservation would create a need to raise water rates due to declining revenues from water use, which has recently happened in Farmington, Utah, according to recent news reports. Mayor Bunker agreed that the same situation could happen in Delta, but felt that the proposal being suggested is very conservative compared to other communities in the state.

Mr. Stephenson also questioned how the rate increase would affect Delta City in watering their parks and the school district in watering their ball fields, etc. Mayor Bunker noted that the school district is one of the largest water users in the schools, playgrounds and ball fields. Mayor Bunker advised Mr. Stephenson that the school district paid \$21,000 for water last year; if the proposed water conservation rate schedule were adopted, the amount would increase by approximately 30%. Mr. Stephenson asked how the rate increase would affect the Delta City budget. Council Member Bloomfield answered that the monies for watering the parks comes from the General Fund, which would cause a shortage of funds in other areas of the budget or would require a tax increase. Mayor Bunker also noted that the Regional Park paid approximately \$7,600 for water last year and the proposed water conservation rate schedule would increase that amount by approximately \$2000 per year. Mayor Bunker also stated that the purpose of the water conservation rate schedule is to encourage less water usage so that, if less water were used, the expenditure of local residents could stay approximately the same.

Mr. Max Wood, representing Millard County and the Regional Park, expressed concern over Millard County, Delta City and the school district being the entities which will be impacted most by the water conservation rate schedule, inasmuch as they are the largest water users. Mr. Wood noted that

they could reduce water consumption at the Regional Park, resulting in grass which would not be as green as normal, but felt that they would receive negative comment from the public because they want green parks and ball fields. Mr. Wood requested that Millard County go on record as being opposed to the water conservation rate schedule because it would greatly impact Millard County and require either an increase of fees for use of the Regional Park or an increase in taxes to cover the added cost of water.

Mayor Bunker asked for input on other ways to conserve water. Mrs. Teeples asked if it was necessary to water the parks every day. Asst. Public Works Director Alan Riding explained that the soil at the Neighborhood Park is very poor and requires frequent watering because the water drains away so quickly. At present, the parks department is attempting to adjust the sprinkling system at the Neighborhood Park.

Mr. Stephenson asked if there were a program locally to assist homeowners and others in learning about more drought resistant grasses which could be used to replace existing lawn grasses. Council Member Bloomfield noted that some larger cities in northern Utah have ordinances in place which direct use of drought resistant plantings. Those ordinances are enforced in new homes and yards but they do not require homeowners to replace existing grass and plants. Council Member Bloomfield felt that this type of ordinance would not be useful in a community the size of Delta. Mr. Stephenson also questioned the impact of the water conservation rate schedule on the elderly and those on fixed incomes. Council Member Wesley Bloomfield noted that the rate schedule would not affect most homeowners because they do not use the large number of gallons which the rate schedule would affect.

Council Member Glen Swalberg noted that the water conservation rate schedule is an attempt to encourage water conservation. Some individuals are doing a good job of conserving and will not be impacted, but others need to make some changes in their water use in order to avoid additional costs.

Mr. Vance Lovell stated that he felt that most individuals are aware that we are in a drought situation and most individuals are doing what they can to conserve water. He did not feel that a price increase would change what individuals are currently doing. He expressed concern about individuals on fixed incomes and what a price increase would mean to them. Council Member Wesley Bloomfield advised Mr. Lovell that Delta City has studied this proposal and found that 75% of water users will see no increase in their cost of water as a result of the proposed water conservation rate schedule, if it were adopted. Assistant Public Works Director Alan Riding stated that, out of approximately 1,100 water connections, only eighty would be affected by the rate structure change.

Council Member Robert Droubay expressed his feeling that perhaps there are better ways to educate the public regarding water conservation such as programs, incentives, etc. which would encourage those eighty customers who are using more than 50,000 gallons of water per month to use water more wisely. He felt that this program is an attempt to encourage water conservation rather than an

attempt to raise additional funds from those water users who use large amounts of water.

Mayor Bunker stated that the Council is not ready to adopt any policy at this time and felt that no change will be made during this watering year but noted that the Council needs to have a program in effect by the next watering season.

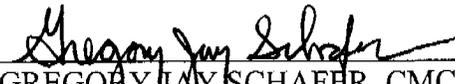
Council Member Bloomfield explained that Delta City is in the process of determining what action needs to be taken in order to meet new federal arsenic standards. Whatever decision is made is going to be costly and, in order to obtain bonding or federal aid or assistance in covering the cost, Delta City will be required to have a water conservation rate schedule in place.

Mayor Bunker invited those in attendance to contact him if they should think of any additional suggestions.

Mayor Bunker asked if there were any additional comments or questions. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed at 6:34 p.m.



GAYLE BUNKER, Mayor



GREGORY JAY SCHAFFER, CMC, City Recorder

MINUTES APPROVED: RCCM 08-12-02

