

SULTAN CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

ITEM NO: Consent C 4

DATE: August 23, 2007

SUBJECT: Council Minutes

CONTACT PERSON: Laura Koenig, City Clerk

SUMMARY: Attached are the minutes of the August 9, 2007 Public Hearing on the Sewer Rate and General Facility Charge Increases as on file in the office of the City Clerk.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve as submitted.

MOTION: Move to accept the consent agenda as presented.

COUNCIL ACTION:

DATE:

CITY OF SULTAN PUBLIC HEARING – August 9, 2007

The Public Hearing on the Sewer Rates and General Facility Charge Increase was called to order in the Sultan Community Center by Mayor Pro Tem Seehuus. Councilmembers present: Wiediger, Slawson, Flower, Blair, and Champeaux

Staff Report: Connie Dunn introduced Angie Sanchez Virnoche from FCS who gave a presentation on the work done to develop the sewer rates and general facility charges.

Several workshops, presentations and public information formats have been used to advise the rate payers and users of the proposed increases to the monthly rates and general facility charges. The calculations are based on the costs to operate the system, short term capital improvements and long term capital improvements. The proposal is to make the monthly rate increase effective in January 2008 and to increase the general facility charge in September 2007 and again in January 2008.

The City will need to look at funding options for the wastewater treatment plant expansion which may include bonding, loans and developer contributions.

Public Input

Rusty Drisvisten: Has worked with the City for many years and he is excited to see things moving forward with the UGA expansion and Comprehensive Plan. People don't realize all the achievements the City has made because they only hear about and see the negative things. The City needs to partner with the developers to move forward with annexations and the sewer plant expansion funding and bringing the Comp Plan into compliance. The Councilmembers are the policy makers and they need to look at the code requirements. The code requires commercial development before residential and that is not the way the business world works – they need rooftops. Development from the inter area outward is not logical. The transit issue needs to be resolved for developments. There are several developers that would like to hire a land use consultant to assist the City develop short and long term scopes of work to fix the Comp Plan problems.

Jeff Mackley: He works for PACE Consultants and they have projects in the area that are on hold because of the need for sewers. The City needs money to expand the sewer plant and he would like to see the City use developer agreements so they can move forward with their project. The City would save money on interest payments and the developer could move forward.

Josie Fallgatter: In regards to the sewer general facility charge, she encouraged them to charge whatever it costs to develop the sewers. The project is better for the environment and as a property owner she knows that she will be required to pay and connect to the sewer system in the future.

Council:

Blair: The Comp Plan update process has been slow and there are still issues to address. Developer Agreements are a way to assist the City and a public/private partnership is a way to provide service. The City needs available sewer connections in order to annex property. The City has approached the State for assistance with funding for the sewer plant. There is a need for rooftops to promote commercial growth, however, the sewer expansion is the first need.

On a motion by Councilmember Slawson, seconded by Councilmember Flower, the public hearing was closed. All ayes.

John Seehuus, Mayor Pro-tem

Laura J. Koenig, City Clerk