

SULTAN CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

ITEM #: Consent C 5
DATE: October 23, 2008
SUBJECT: Utility Relief/Adjustments

CONTACT PERSON: Laura Koenig, Clerk/Deputy Finance Director

SUMMARY:

The Council Sub-Committee met on October 9, 2008 to review four requests for relief from excess utility billing charges and adjustments to billed amounts. The recommendations are included on the attached report.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the recommendations of the Council Sub-Committee on request for relief of utility excess charges and for adjustments to billed amounts.

Attachment: A. Sub-Committee report and recommendations

UTILITY COMMITTEE MEETING
October 9, 2008
Members Present: CM Steve Slawson, CM Ron Wiediger,
Utility Clerk, Janice Leonardi

1) Account # 6007

RE: Requesting relief of excess water charges due to leak = \$944.60 - APPROVED
Requesting relief of late fees charged due to leak = \$55.98 - APPROVED

He had a major break in one of his water lines for nursery while he was away on his honeymoon. I left him message regarding the leak, but he wasn't in tow to get it. He repaired the leak immediately when he returned and is requesting relief of the excess water charges and late fees. Committee felt that owner repaired leak in a timely manner once he was aware of the break.

2) Account # 6693

RE: Requesting relief of excess water charges due to leak = \$1,916.73 - APPROVED
Requesting relief of excess sewer charges due to leak = \$3,519.81 - APPROVED

Notified owner on 9/12/08 that there was a leak. He repaired it 9/18/08. Leak has been active since June but hadn't been caught, partially due to the missed meter read in July. Owner repaired leak in timely manner once he was aware. Is requesting relief of excess water and sewer charges. Committee felt that owner repaired leak in a timely manner once he was aware of it.

3) Account # 6688

RE: Requesting 50% reduction in current amount owed on account = \$796.00

APPROVED

Previous owner was behind on account, and not able to stay in business. The person she had bought the business from took the business back to save it from being foreclosed on. The current owner is now responsible for the unpaid account balance. However, he feels that he should not have to pay the full amount owing as the City gave the previous owner leeway on paying the bill. It is the City's policy to try to work with business owners who are behind on their account. Committee felt the new owner was trying to work with the City and come to a compromise. To pay half of former owner's debt was deemed fair.

4) Account # 6520

Reviewing decision from 9/11/08 regarding relief of turn off fee = \$50.00 - APPROVED

Council asked that we review this decision to be sure we looked at all facts. Owner had requested that the \$50.00 turn off fee charged for non-payment on account be credited back as he was not aware that the tenant had moved out two months prior. Owner had not requested a copy of past due statements be sent to him. Committee agreed to give owner the benefit of the doubt and credit turn off fee so long as the owner is aware he cannot request relief of any kind in the next five years.