

Denton Utility Commission
Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2019
4:00PM

- I. Mr. Getchell called the meeting to order at 4:08 PM and thanked all that were in attendance.
- II. Those in attendance were Scott Getchell, Adam Jones, Leroy Woomer, Donald Mulrine, Phil Clark and Guest Karen Monteith.
- III. On motion by Mr. Woomer and Second by Mr. Getchell the minutes for the meeting from October 23, 2019 were unanimously approved.
- IV. Open Issues
 - a. **Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade** – Mr. Getchell provided a progress update for the commission. The project is now substantially complete with a punch list that needs to be completed. The contractor is working on it and hopefully in the next 30 days the punch list will be mostly complete.
 - b. **Wastewater Treatment Plant Mixer Replacements** – Mr. Getchell reported that all of the parts are in and Mr. Chandler is working on the construction with the help of an electrician. No timeline on the completion but it will be under construction.
 - c. **Water Main Replacement Project** – Mr. Mulrine reported that the Survey is complete and under design. At some point we will have some notes on the drawings especially where the fiber goes across the street. It was noted that the drawings are about 25% complete.
 - d. **Well Use Ordinance** – Further discussion if appropriate related to modifications to the Town’s water and sewer code. No additional discussion was had.
 - e. **Water & Sewer Budgets** – Mr. Mulrine reported that there was no additional discussion on the budgets other than that the planning has already begun. Mr. Getchell also requested a 6 month budget report.
 - f. **Fiber Network** – Mr. Mulrine reported that Council would like to get lease agreement on our dark fiber. Mr. Mulrine is looking into getting a sample of lease agreements for the commission to review. There was also an email in circulation that Councilman Lister had forwarded to the Commission with respect to the meeting had with Easton Utilities.

- g. **Other Open Issues** – Mr. Getchell reviewed the document that Mr. Lister presented about the Utility being its own entity. We are requesting that we be a part of a working session with the town council as a joint meeting.

V. New Business

- a. **Water Abatement Requests** – The Town Council has requested the UC review two (2) abatement requests and make recommendations to the Town Council. The requests were submitted via email by Ms. Karen Monteith, Clerk/Treasurer. The UC reviewed and discussed the requests individually. Parties mentioned in emails are here to dispute sewer portion of bills. Karen explained how the town charter is written and how it would affect the dispute of the bills. Mr. Getchell explained to Mr. McCready and Mr. Reedy that the code states the only case where abatement would be allowable would be for outside leaks that have been confirmed by a registered plumber or DPW staff. Mr. Jones asked the town representatives if there had been other cases where abatements of this nature had been brought to the Town and approved. The answer was no. Mr. Getchell stated that, in his opinion, the system in place is fair and reasonable and doesn't see where we could abate any of the requests. Mr. Getchell also mentioned that there are provisions in place for property owners to install outside water use only meters. Mr. Getchell and the DUC have heard the concerns of the 2 abatement requests and have stated that we do not find any inconsistencies with the code in place and how they were billed.
- b. **Other New Business** – No new business

VI. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 5:23 PM and the next meeting is TBD and Mr. Getchell will reach out to the commission and find a time and date that works for us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Jones, Secretary