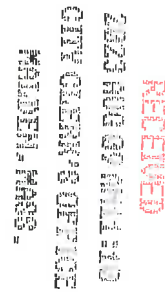


Meeting of the Public Works Commission – June 13th, 2023

Present: William Coleman, Chairman

Diego Barricelli, Commissioner

Erica Lotz, Absent from this meeting



CONFERENCES:

Mary Sparks on behalf of Evelyn M. Adams (her sister) 26 Ellis St. Seeking abatement on her February, March and April 2023 water and sewer bills. Her sister ended up with several high bills then noticed water leaking behind Shower stall, she had a broken pipe that was confirmed and then repaired by a Plumber. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$2,165.55 All in favor

SEE VOTE

Robin and Paul DeSantis, 55 Bartlett Street. Seeking abatement on several of their water sewer bills that have been Estimated for quite some time (26 months). There were apparently notices sent to him to make an appointment and was told that because he didn't respond right away to them, the Water Meter Foreman, Ronnie Tom, told Treasurers office to put him on Estimated billing. The Meter apparently needed to be changed so when they were able to get in there to change it, they put in a new meter and did a manual reading. Bills are now down to normal for a two-family. Commissioners vote to abate his March, April and May 2023 water and sewer bills. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$649.95. All in favor

SEE VOTE

Arthur & Andrea Poulos, 228 East Border Road. Seeking abatement on several of their 2022 & 2023 water and sewer bills. For the past few years, they were granted an abatement every 6 months for water and sewer bills because they were at the end of the MWRA water line at their address and would come into the meetings twice a year with yellow/rusty colored water. Andrea would claim that they could only shower with their water and would not cook with or drink this water and had to purchase bottled water which became expensive. Commissioners were always sympathetic to this and gave them abatements twice a year. This street was put on a Contract with the City Engineers office to replace the Water Main in the Street in November of 2022. The water main was replaced, and her water was tested immediately after project was completed and it was found to be clear. Mrs. Poulos requested to

be put on another abatement hearing through an email to Karen and asked if she could come to this hearing and ask for one last abatement as she said her water is now okay to cook and drink with. Chairman Coleman asked Karen to schedule an appointment with her to have the Water Meter technician obtain samples of her water before she is put on the hearing so we could look at it. Keith Michenzie, Water Meter Technician of the Meter Department was sent to her home the Monday before the hearing and obtained 2 samples, Keith took one sample and lists the temperature and chlorine of the water and then retests it 10 minutes later. The Samples looked good, very clear & clean so as per the request of the Chairman and Commissioners they were brought to the hearing she was attending. Before the hearing, Chairman Coleman also asked Karen to have the City Engineer, Yem Lip, to draft a letter stating that the Water Main Pipe was replaced on East Border Road in November of 2022. Mr. Lip did and it was read into the minutes. As stated above, her water was also tested at the completion of the Project in November as is customary after the Water Main Pipe Replacement contracts are completed. Mrs. Poulos attended the hearing at 4:15 and came in with 7 samples of her water one for each month since the pipe was replaced. She claims that the November and December water samples she had; although better, were still a bit yellowish. Commissioners said they can no longer allow her to receive 6 months of water abatements (free water) because there is no longer a reason for that because her water has been tested twice and found to be crystal clear. Commissioners do vote to abate three of the months for her; November, December 2022, and January 2023, but she is not happy with that decision and now her reason for being unhappy is that now she cannot understand that since she was away for the month of February and used no water, that she received a water bill of \$70.00 and the following month when she was home, and her bill was lower at \$64.26, the Commissioners explain that perhaps a toilet flapper was that issue, she disagrees. She leaves the room and is clearly angry and frustrated and ends up going up to the Mayor to complain. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$144.55 All in favor

SEE VOTE

Hasmukhbai Patel, Trs. 226-234 Ferry St. Seeking abatement on his April, 2023 water and sewer bill. This abatement was originally requested at the May 2023 hearing by his tenants who run the laundromat in this small plaza that he owns. The Commissioners had asked that they get the Landlord to attend this June hearing so that he, being the name on the bill as owner, could request this abatement. He showed up at this hearing with the tenants and he was granted an abatement. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$882.94 All in favor

SEE VOTE

Paula Sirignano, 689 Broadway. Seeking abatement on her March, April and May 2023 water and sewer bills. She called and Karen suggested she do the food coloring test in the toilets and she did it and it did turn the water blue in the toilet bowl, so she had the toilet flush valve/flapper replaced and bills are now back down to normal usage. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$918.33. All in favor

SEE VOTE

NO SHOWS (4):

- 1) Victor Oyeyemi – 203 Summer Street
- 2) Anne & Robert Boyd – 19 Bishop Road
- 3) CRG Graphics – 1236 Eastern Avenue
- 4) Cuong Phung – 42 Gibson St. (Cancelled)

VOTES:

To grant abatement of \$2165.55 to 26 Ellis St.

To grant abatement of \$649.95 to 55 Bartlett St.

To grant abatement of \$144.55 to 228 East Border Road

To grant abatement of \$882.94 to 226-234 Ferry St.

To grant abatement of \$918.33 to 689 Broadway


Meeting Adjourned at: 4:45 pm

Next Meeting: July 11th, 2023


Karen M. Bourque, Clerk


William Coleman, Chairman


Diego Barricelli, Commissioner


Erica Lotz, Commissioner