

El Paso City Council
Water and Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2020

The City of El Paso Water and Sewer Committee met at The El Paso City Hall on January 9th, 2020 at 4:30 PM.

Present were Committee members Ken Faulk, Mary Ellen Kilpatrick and Alex Bruker.


Others present were Jack Hickok, Casey Jones, Kevin Wheatly and Sandee Kessinger.

First items discussed were three requests for consideration of high water bills due to leaks on the homeowner's property.

The first request was from Peggy Haas Pohlheber at 490 Elmwood Court. Her bill was for \$1807.13. She was notified by the City of a continuous leak. The house is not currently being lived in. When we discovered the leak, we immediately shut off the water. It is still off. She asked the neighbor Steve Cleary to look in the house. He saw no signs of a leak. The water was off at the time. Steve called the owner and said there was no evidence of a leak. Therefore, her claim is that there is an error in the reading and is requesting a correction on the bill.

The Committee discussed at length and decided to wait until more information is available to make a recommendation. Jack Hickok is to call and see if the City employees can be allowed to turn the water on and enter the house with Steve Cleary to look for possible leaks.

The second request was from Carol Sue Layden at 99 East 4th Street. She has a water bill of \$116.25. She says her toilet handle started sticking on Oct 8th and she started using the other bathroom. She went out of town to a wedding in St Louis. Her friend used the toilet before they left. She did not tell him it was sticking. It ran from Friday AM until Sat PM. Also, she said that she has a slow drip on her bathtub. After discussions the Committee decided to deny the request for reduction to the bill based on the fact that she knew about the leaks and did not address them in a timely manner.



The third request is from Pam Bolduc at 115 E. Jefferson. She had a leak under the trailer. We contacted her to tell her about high usage. She immediately went and found the leak and shut the water off. She then contacted someone to come repair the leak. They found a cracked part that had been installed in the spring during another leak. Total Bill is \$479.53. The Committee recommends reducing the bill by the amount of the sewer portion. That amount is \$311.70. The Amount due would be \$167.83.

The Committee wanted to know if we could read the meters on a shorter time period than every month. Hickok Agreed to read the meters on a bi-weekly basis to try to increase the possibility of detecting leaks sooner. The possibility of an automatic reading system that would be based on a tower was discussed. Hickok will check with Neptune for cost and consider the system at budget time.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Notes respectfully submitted by Jack Hickok, Director of Public Service.

