

Public Works Committee Meeting
April 2, 2024
Council Chambers
Minutes

Members Present:

Mrs. Ellen Richardson, Chairperson
Mr. Arthur Leonard, Mayor
Mr. Chris Bott, Vice Mayor

Absent:

Staff Present:

Mr. Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager
Mr. Wes Parks, Public Works Director

Call to Order

Chairperson Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Participation

There was none.

Agenda Adoption

Mayor Leonard motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Bott, to adopt the agenda as presented. Unanimously approved.

Request for Water Bill Adjustment

Town Manager Tolbert advised that Ms. Smoots has a home on Twilley Drive. On January 2nd the billing clerk noticed a high usage at this address. She dispatched a Waterworks Technician to turn the meter off. The billing clerk attempted to contact Ms. Smoots and left a message. Town Manager Tolbert had her email address and he emailed her notification of the leak. Ms. Smoots then gave another phone number, and this was added to her account. The leak was repaired and the water meter was turned back on. The high usage started on the gateway on December 12th and proceeded to the day it was turned off, January 2nd. The total gallons used was 82,000 gallons, which makes it 76,000 gallons over the minimum use that we charge at \$5.16 per thousand gallons. The total bill with trash fees was \$469.05. Ms. Smoots called asking for a 1 time leak adjustment. A water leak adjustment is allowed in the code unless the home is unoccupied for 72 hours or longer. She was advised she didn't qualify for the adjustment. She then asked for an appeal and was advised of the appeal process which is to come before the Public Works Committee.

Ms. Smoots stated that one of the things that struck her when Town Manager Tolbert was good enough to give her the data was that it went on so long. The leak was underground, and you couldn't see it. She added that it wasn't a pipe rupture as it states in the Town Code. She was told by the fellow who repaired it that it was a failure or defective in the shut-off mechanism. She added that there was a pipe he replaced also but it wasn't because the pipe had ruptured. She stated that the Town has their own shut-off mechanism but this was in between the Town's mechanism and the home.

Councilwoman Richardson interjected that this is on her side of the meter.

There was lengthy discussion regarding the leak, notification, liability, and the qualification of leak adjustment.

Vice Mayor Bott motioned, seconded by Mayor Leonard they adhere to the rules and regulations and deny Ms. Smoots' water leak adjustment request. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Smoots advised she requested all of the brown signs in Richardson's Landing be replaced with green signs 3 years ago as the judge ordered that those roads belong to the Town.

There was discussion and Town Manager Tolbert advised her sign was replaced, but he would look into this as it isn't a priority at this time.

Review of Ongoing Projects

Councilwoman Richardson asked about the paving contract.

Public Works Director Parks advised they will receive bids this Friday at 2:00 p.m. He put all the items in the contract that was discussed in the last meeting. He put a paragraph in the specifications that the Town can withdraw any of the bid items they choose. He used \$200 per ton as the budget.

There was discussion about the storm drain issues and the plan for repair prior to paving.

Mayor Leonard asked for grass seed for Donald Leonard Park.

There was further discussion.

Adjournment

Mayor Leonard motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Bott to adjourn. Unanimously approved.