



Ginger Terpstra <gterpstra@charlottemi.org>

Fwd: Council Issues

1 message

Gregg Guetschow <gguetschow@charlottemi.org>
To: Ginger Terpstra <GTerpstra@charlottemi.org>

Fri, Jun 8, 2018 at 1:24 PM

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From: **gary beebabee** <gbeebe48@att.net>

Date: Fri, Jun 8, 2018 at 1:18 PM

Subject: Council Issues

To: Gregg Guetschow <gguetschow@charlottemi.org>, Gregg Johnson <gkjohanson@mchsi.com>

Cc: Yvonne Ridge <yridge@charlottemi.org>, Bill Mitchell <bmitchell@charlottemi.org>

City Mgr. & Council members:

As a concerned citizen, I make an effort to keep myself informed. As a business person, I watch factors that affect my business decisions.

I certainly follow Consumers Energy and City water/sewer policies as they are the major cost factors in my business. I have no control over the pricing policies of these units, however, I do expect favorable treatment in the implementation of pricing decisions.

Approximately two years ago, I wrote a LETTER TO THE EDITOR explaining my concerns over the implementation of water/sewer rates. A number of people later asked me if the rational made any difference. The answer is NO! I wish to make the point again. Those of us who live in or have businesses in the Southeast portion of the City have a second quarter billing that runs from April 5 to July 7. As such, we consume 83 days of water/sewer services in the present fiscal year. Any rate increase that goes into effect in a new fiscal year begins July 1. Therefore, 7 days of utility services are used in the new fiscal period. Past practice has been to bill everyone the new higher rates for the entire 90 day period. In my case, I have priced my washers using the present rates. I have no way to recoup the new higher costs from those who washed during the present fiscal year.

My suggestion pro-rate the consumption at 83 days of the old rate and 7 days of the new rate. That would be fair to everyone. Another option is to delay the implementation until the next billing period.

Another issue is the application of a 10% late fee on utility bills. I consider this to be excessive and punitive. This has been a past practice instituted years ago for a reason to evidently spur people to pay on time. Those of us who live above the poverty level do not have a problem paying our utility bill. My payment is direct pay from my bank account. I see people coming to my laundry with empty water bottles and two liter pop bottles. They ask for water! A lady and teen-age son who has been laid off and used up her unemployment and unable to pay a water bill. I give them my water. It is these people who are on the lower end of the economic ladder who pay the brunt of these late fees. I note the BWL in Lansing charges 5% and Consumers Energy charges 2%. Any study performed by the City Mgr. & DPW should include such fees charged by nearby communities.

Another issue transparency! It is one thing to say I believe in it and another to practice it. I have complained about the lack of info available to me via the website concerning the DDA. Either no agenda or an agenda with no minutes. Now I wish to find out about the \$155,000 for the Airport consultant. I check the Airport Advisory minutes. There are 00 minutes posted on the website for 2018. OK I will check 2017 and I again find 0000. Is this transparency?

Please give these matters some serious attention.

Sincerely,
Gary Beebe