

**Town of Dublin
Council Meeting
September 15, 2022**

The Town of Dublin held its monthly meeting on Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., in Council Chambers. Present: Mayor Benny Skeens. Council members present: Dallas Cox, Edith Hampton, Debbie Lyons, Steve Crigger and Wayne Seagle. Absent: Debbie Hager. Others present: Town Manager and Clerk of Council Tyler Kirkner, Town Attorney Samuel Campbell, Chief of Police Dennis Lambert, Lieutenant David King, Superintendent of Utilities Darrin Cullip, Treasurer Rebecca Wright, Administrative Assistant Deanna Marshall and guest.

Call to Order

Mayor Skeens welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Dallas Cox led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Open Public Hearing Regarding “For Decrease of Certain Water, Sewer and Garbage Service Rate and Fees” Ordinance 2022-3

Mayor Skeens opened the Public Hearing for the water rates only. Mr. Kirkner explained how the rates are normally determined:

- The costs from the preceding year are analyzed and any additional anticipated costs for the upcoming year is added to provide the new anticipated costs for the new year.
- Anticipated replacement or maintenance costs and reserve costs should then be added to the anticipated costs.
- The usage rates from the preceding year are analyzed and any additional anticipated increased usages or deductions in usages are determined.
- The anticipated costs are divided by the usage by category to determine the new rates

1. Additional costs this year were \$250,000
2. Usages decreased significantly in the commercial categories and
3. No reserves or line replacement funds were added to this year’s rate structure.

The original rates effective on 7-1-2022 included \$150,000 to be set aside as grant matching funds but were removed in the new rates presented tonight for approval.

Mayor Skeens opened the floor for question and/or comments. Mary Giles stated her parents lived on Trinkle Avenue and she felt like the people in that area were carrying the brunt. They are outside the town limits and their rates are already high and the rates are still going up. It would have been nice to have a notice put in with the bill before the sticker shock came. Mr. Kirkner stated the out of town rate structure had a 50% reduction in the water increase however the sewer deductions will be less because the TOD is not currently covering cost in the rate structure. Ms. Giles asked why can't the town do \$5.00 extra on the infrastructure to cover the out of town people and the next year \$5.00 and not try to get it all at once.

Phillip Patel stated he was the manager of the Travel Inn and was concerned about the water/sewer rate increase for in-town commercial. He stated that he had done his best by installing and taking water saving measurers using shower heads and commodes that use less water per flush and other things to help manage water usage. However, it is very difficult to control what goes on in a room and how much water is used. Mr. Patel asked Council to reconsider the water/sewer rates or have a different class for motels. Mr. Kirkner stated both Pulaski and Pulaski County produce their own water and they have the opportunity to have less of a pay scale/increase because they produce it and can sell it for less. The Town of Dublin has to purchase water from Pulaski County.

The statement was made that Pulaski County only has one rate and not an In-town Rate and an Out of Town rate. Mr. Kirkner responded that Pulaski County does not have a rate for In-town/out-of-town because they have no out-of-town customers. Mr. Patel asked if there were other places to purchase water. Mr. Kirkner stated no.

John Irvin owner of John's Stuff located at the corner of Giles Avenue and Old Rt. 11. voiced concerns that the TOD does not try to bring in small businesses. His business uses around 100-200 gallons per month and he pays around \$90. Mr. Kirkner stated customers will now be billed for what they actually use and not a minimum bill.

Dana King stated she lives on Jewel Avenue, asked who makes the decisions and how are they made regarding rate increases and the amounts. Mayor Skeens replied "Council makes the decisions; the town holds public hearings with questions/comments from the public". After the public hearing Council will vote on the proposed rates, approve or disapprove.

Mike La Bar stated he lived in the county and asked "how they come up with the difference between the town rates and the county rates"? Mr. Kirkner stated the town serves 1,600 out-of-town customers and 840 to 850 in-town customers. Mr. Kirkner explained that the vast majority of the costs for our system are due to the volume of piping and maintenance requirement outside of our jurisdiction.

An unidentified customer (didn't give name) asked where Fairlawn got their water from. Mr. Kirkner stated Pulaski County and they have their own authority for sewer. Darrin Cullip explained how the water system works in the Fairlawn area.

There being no more questions or comments Mayor Skeens closed the public hearing and opened the regular Council meeting.

Minutes of August 18, 2022

Mayor Skeens asked if there were any additions, corrections or deletions to the August 18, 2022 minutes. Steve Crigger made a motion to approve the minutes. Debbie Lyons seconded.

Roll call:

Debbie Lyons Yes

Steve Crigger Yes

Dallas Cox Yes

Debbie Hager Absent

Edith Hampton Yes

Wayne Seagle Yes

Vote: 5-Yes; 1-Absent

Reports of Officials

Chief Lambert stated there will be a Drug-Take-Back, Saturday October 29th from 10 am to 2 pm at Martin Pharmacy. Chief Lambert thanked Mayor Skeens, Council and Town Manager for their support in the officers' training and equipment. With issues such as the recent "wanted" person taken into custody, training is essential for the officers.

Committee Reports/Authority Reports

NRV Airport Commission- Mr. Cox stated the event went well. They are ready to paint the roof.

Pepper's Ferry-Mr. Crigger stated there was nothing to add.

Virginia's First-Mrs. Lyons stated she, Edith and Tye attended the committee meeting on September 7th and there are several projects in the wings. The new sign has been installed.

Pulaski County Public Safety-Mrs. Lyons stated she attended the ribbon cutting at the new station on Bob White Blvd., near Tipton Ridge Animal Clinic.

NRRA-Mr. Kirkner stated there is a potential new client.

Mount Rodgers Cigarette Tax Board-Mr. Kirkner stated the committee is doing a good job and the town received the first payment this month.

New Business

Mayor Skeens stated the town received a call from Pulaski County High School and they want to have a Home Coming Parade. The parade is set for Monday, October 10, 2022 at 6:30 pm, starting at the old Dublin Middle School and ending at the Dublin Church of God on Old Rt. 11.

Vote on Ordinance 2022-3 “For Decrease of Certain Water, Sewer and Garbage Service Rates and Fees”

Sam Campbell stated council had in their packets a proposed ordinance for the decrease of rates. The proposed ordinance states the decreases will be retroactive to July 1, 2022. Mr. Campbell noted on the last page there was a correction on the line where it says the treasurer will be crediting the water and sewer service bills of such customers during the first cycles. It should read first two cycles. The proposed ordinance was advertised in accordance with VA Code Section 15.2- 1427 F in two issues of the Patriot on September 2nd and 9th, 2022.

Steve Crigger made a motion to accept the new rates. Debbie Lyons seconded.

Roll call:

Debbie Lyons Yes

Steve Crigger Yes

Dallas Cox Yes

Debbie Hager Absent

Edith Hampton Yes

Wayne Seagle Yes

Vote: 5-Yes; 1-Absent

Budget Report

Contracts in Progress (CIP)								
	Month Reporting		General Fund		Enterprise Fund		Total Ent Revenue	
	31-Aug-22		Revenue	Expenditures	Revenue	Expenditures	3,121,491	tot rev
	May	budget	2,033,029	2,033,029	4,720,339	4,720,339	1,340,471	4,461,962
			136,047.00	236,315	2,022,015	484,638		
			7%	12%	43%	10.27%		
			17%	17%	17%	17%		
			10%	5%	-26%	7%		
			Below Rev	Below Exp.	Above Rev.	Below Exp.		

Things “Well Done” by staff and departments

Mr. Kirkner stated this month the “Well Done” goes to Chief Lambert and Tina Myers.

Mayor Skeens asked everyone to keep previous Council member Doug Irvin in their thoughts and prayers. He’s been in the hospital.

Public Comments

One of our attendees who is with the Pulaski County Free Store stated the store has been in the town one year. On October 2nd from 12 pm to 3 pm the store will have pizza and soda for their customers. Council is invited to come by and see the store.

Adjournment

Mayor Skeens adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TK', is written over the printed name.

Tyler F. Kirkner
Clerk of Council