



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER UTILITIES COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: **Monday, September 19, 2016**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Members Present: Chairman Otis Perry, Vice Chair Jay Stephens, Norman Allie, Dennis Munson

Members Absent: Bret Carmichael, Mark Moeller

Staff Present: Doug Steele, Deputy City Manager Community Services, Jennifer Bretz, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. User's Forum

No residents present

3. Approval of Minutes of August 15, 2016

Perry requested that the board wait for Moeller to arrive before discussing the minutes.

Moeller and Carmichael were not present. Board would like to wait until Moeller and Carmichael are both present due to a few questions that were brought up. Perry stated that the 69 Grove Street vote was very confusing and would like to have Mark Moeller and Bret Carmichael clarify their votes before voting on the minutes. The recorder did not work at the September meeting so they will be able to clear up any confusion.

4. Abatement Requests

A. 69 Grove Street - Chris Otash

Motion: Munson made the motion to remove the item from the table, Stephens seconded.

Vote: U/a

Motion: Alie made the motion to deny the abatement, Stephens seconded.

Discussion: Alie stated that it amounts to a subsidy. The property owner is in business. He is taking a risk in business and didn't get a great tenant. The board can't be in the business to subsidize that problem.

Vote: U/a

5. Reports

A. Abatement Review Team Report

The report was reviewed and discussed by Staff.

B. Utilities Report

The report was reviewed and discussed by Staff.

C. Finance Report

The report was reviewed and discussed by Staff.

Motion: Munson made the motion to approve the minutes, Stephens seconded.

Vote: U/a

6. New Business

A. Election of Chair/Vice Chair

Perry requested that the elections be referred to the next meeting for more attendance.



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7. Old Business

A. Drought Update

Steele stated that Fire Chief Hagman and Steele participated in a statewide conference call that included the Governor, Head of Homeland Security, Perry Plummer, DES and others regarding the severity of the drought. Dover is in the worst area. The state has recommended that all of the water suppliers in this area go to a full water ban restriction as opposed to the voluntary water ban currently in place. An ordinance would have to be drafted and presented to City Council. The next meeting is September 28, 2016. The draft will have to be completed no later than Wednesday, September 21st.

Steele stated he was hoping to receive a recommendation from the board stating that staff and the city attorney draft an ordinance for city council to approve which would ban lawn watering and outdoor use with a clear definition.

Perry stated to there should be a clear definition by saying there would be no recognition of memo meters. Memo meters are for irrigation and other outdoor use. The city should not be acknowledging them.

Alie stated that it seems unfair.

Perry stated that memo meters are only used for water use outdoors and the city is going to ban all outdoor water use.

Alie stated that as soon as you do that, the rain is going to pick up.

Perry stated hopefully but the rain is not the problem. It's the groundwater. It will take months of a serious downpour to make a difference.

Steele stated that the concern is if we don't have substantial rain before the ground freezes, we're going to still be pulling off of the aquifer all winter long. It will not be able to recharge while the ground is frozen so when spring arrives, we're going to have less water than we currently do.

Alie stated that an ordinance is a pretty drastic measure.

Steele stated that an ordinance is the only way you can enforce the water ban since the city would impose fines if caught using water unnecessarily.

Alie stated that we're approaching the end of September and lawn watering is not going to last much longer. He's failing to see why it would be done now.

Perry stated that it will put it in place for next year.

Steele stated that if we're still in a drought, in spring, the ban will still be in place unless it's lifted.

Alie stated that that it seems like an awful lot of work.



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Perry stated that it is an extremely important issue. If we run low enough on water, there won't be potable water use.

Steele stated that this was strongly recommended by the state. Portsmouth already has the water ban in place. He spoke with them today and they stated that their usage dropped 25% once the ban was in place which is significant. The city is also shutting down the Smith and Cummings Well due to the work being done at the Lowell Avenue Treatment Plant. We're down the Griffin Well and the Smith and Cummings Well. The City wouldn't go as far as to put in an ordinance if they didn't feel that it was warranted.

Motion: Stephens made the motion to recommend to City Council that the City of Dover implement a non-voluntary water ban, Munson seconded.

Discussion: Munson stated that the fee system should be as follows:

- First offense - verbal warning
- Second offense - \$100.00 fine
- Third offense - \$250.00 fine

Steele stated that in his research, he's come across a few where if there is a fourth offense, you're able to shut the resident's water off.

Alie stated that he is not in support of that. He doesn't understand why the businesses that use a lot of water are able to stay open i.e. Home Depot and car washes. He feels that the city is targeting the homeowners. He believes the city should step up with an awareness campaign.

Steele stated that car washes recycle their water. It is also their livelihood. The businesses that sell plants are able to water their plants by hand. If the drought wasn't so severe, they could have used an odd even house number system. The severity of the drought is real and significant. This ordinance will wake people up and make them aware of the severity. The city is not going to do their annual fall flushing due to the severity of the drought.

Discussion ensued on the drought.

Vote: Munson, Stephens, and Perry were in favor, Alie disagreed. Vote passes 3-1.

8. Areas of Concern

9. Next Meeting Date

October 17, 2016

Perry stated that he will not be present.

10. Adjourn

Motion: Munson made the motion to adjourn at 6:57 p.m., Alie seconded.

Vote: U/a