



MINUTES
Springville Water Advisory Board Meeting - NOVEMBER 9, 2021

MINUTES OF THE SPRINGVILLE WATER ADVISORY BOARD MEETING WAS HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021 AT 6:30 A.M. AT THE SPRINGVILLE CIVIC CENTER, 110 SOUTH MAIN, MULTI PURPOSE ROOM, SPRINGVILLE, UTAH.

Committee Members in Attendance: Rollin Hotchkiss, Nile Hatch, Rod Andrew, Bryan Boshell, Kellen Hyer, Calvin Crandall, Cl. Jensen

City Staff: Brad Stapley, Marcie Clark, Shawn Barker

BYU Capstone Students: Isaac Kelley, David Rice, Gavin Hanratty, Logan Sowards

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Cl. Jensen made a motion to approve the September 14, 2021 minutes. Mr. Andrew seconded. All were in favor.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Old Business:

New Business:

- 1 The schedule for the 2022 Water Board meetings was presented to the members. We will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of every other month, starting in January. Mr. Hatch made a motion to approve. Mr. Hyer seconded. All were in favor.
- 2 Update on Lower Spring Creek Tank #3 - Mr. Barker reported that the design is complete for a 3-million gallon tank. We have been back and forth with the State on some design issues, which set us back a little bit. We are scheduled to put it out to bid next week with the bid closing December 7th. It will go before City Council on December 21, 2021. Mr. Stapley reviewed the presentation that was given to City Council and at a public meeting on October 12, 2021 to remind everyone of the location and size of the tank, along with the proposed bike park on the same parcel.
- 3 Tiered Water Rates - Mr. Hotchkiss explained that the BYU students are here to listen in. They are just beginning a two-semester sequence in capstone, hosted by Springville City and two faculty mentors - Nile Hatch from the Marriott School and Rollin Hotchkiss from the Department of Civil Engineering. There are three civil engineering students and two from the computer science department (one here today). They will be taking a big data approach, using the latest analytical tools, which are all a-political. They are here to learn about the human side of tiered water rates. Mr. Stapley explained the history of tiered water rates, which started in Springville in 2005. We looked at changing our structure to encourage conservation. As you use more water, you pay more money with the higher tiers. There has been some discussion with the City Council on whether or not that is "fair". The analogy was given of small cars that get good gas mileage vs. bigger trucks with big engines. The price of gas is the same per gallon, no matter what kind of vehicle you have. There was discussion on the cost of water and infrastructure. Mr. Hatch mentioned that infrastructure always drives rates. The more demand, the bigger the pipes. We also have to pay our employees. Mr. Crandall made the argument that those with big trucks/engines pay the same price for gas, but they use more - is it fair to charge them more for gas because they use more? Residents with smaller lots are obviously going to use less water than those with large lots. Should those with larger lots be "penalized" for using more? Mr. Andrew mentioned that the Power Department has a similar issue with residents using solar. We also need to look at demand. Mr. Stapley brought up the fact that the Water Department has experienced a revenue shortage this year because residents are conserving.

We want them to conserve, but then the City doesn't get the revenue, which is a problem. Mr. Hotchkiss asked another big question - "is the revenue stream inappropriate?" When I pay my water bill, not all my money goes to pay for water. Some goes to the general fund of Springville. Should that paradigm be changed? Mr. Stapley stated that all communities do that. He explained enterprise funds vs. general funds within cities. Our City has set up a 5% transfer from enterprise funds, such as Water, Sewer, Power, Garbage to general funds, such as Police, Library, Finance, etc. We can change that through council decision, if we want to. Mr. Hotchkiss mentioned that it seems like there is a vocal minority raising this water rate question (those with large lots). Mr. Andrew suggested we look at businesses too, such as Nestle. The capstone group can access lot sizes of parcels through our GIS interactive map.

Mr. Hatch mentioned that tier rate pricing has been in place in western states for years. Utah was late to the game, even though Springville started it before other communities. We are fortunate to have enough water for build-out with reasonable use and we are not as concerned about conservation as other communities. The real question should be about who bears the cost for maintenance and development. Then it flips the issue of usage to infrastructure.

Mr. Hotchkiss spoke about the paradox between water rights and water use. Historically, if a city had a water right and they decided to conserve water, the city would lose that portion of that water right they were not using. The state has since passed legislation so that cities are not held accountable for beneficial use, in a sense. We put together a 40-year plan, showing our water resources and what we will need in the future. Private users have to prove beneficial use every 7 years. Cities get to bank water. Mr. Hotchkiss asked if the students need to look at the revenue side - the cost of water from springs and wells versus Strawberry Water. Mr. Stapley thinks it would be a good idea. We have ground water that we pump, spring water, and surface water. We do not have a water treatment plant, even though we chlorinate the water (for culinary). We also have the west part of town on secondary water. Some of the older part of town is on surface irrigation water, which typically comes out of Hobble Creek, but can be supplemented by Strawberry Water (Central Utah Water Conservancy District and SUVWMA).

The state of Utah requires 25% reduction for water conservation, which Springville has met. However, they will come out with another conservation plan eventually. Mr. Hotchkiss brought up the fact that Springville is a Tree City. We have a lot of trees and grass. Current standards say that a new home must have 70% of live material in the yard. We may need to look at changing that. Mr. Crandall talked about the "flip the strip" campaign to get rid of grass in the park strips. Springville's current policy does not follow the State's policy. Mr. Stapley stated that Springville is the only city that has sufficient water for build out because of our geography.

Mr. Hotchkiss suggested the students correlate mean annual precipitation with water availability in Springville and then do "what if's". Look at how climate change will affect us. Mr. Barker already has some data on our springs, which might be helpful. The students would like a list of priorities of what the City wants to see.

4. Update on Bartholomew Springs Repair - Mr. Stapley displayed a map of the area on the screen. Mr. Barker explained there are six springs up there. We have a breach in some of them - water coming out of the pipes in high water years. It was beyond carrying capacity and has been offline while we looked at solutions. We are going to have Strawberry Water Company slip line a section of Spring #2 and connect it to Spring #3. Our hope is to have Spring #2 back on line in early spring/summer and have that additional water. It is the largest producing spring of the two that are currently off. Beyond that it will take additional engineering to get the boxes and turn outs and make a plan to get from spring box #2 to spring box #1, which is another 1400 feet. They will slip a 10" lining into a 12" pipe. The spring flows are about 125 gpm this time of year.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Crandall moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Boshell seconded. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 a.m.