

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Gunnison City Hall
38 West Center Street
Wednesday, July 20, 2022
6 P.M.

Roll call: Mayor Nay, Dennis Marker, Shaun Crane, Rodney Taylor, Mike Wanner, Robert Anderson, JD Bunnell, Mandi Buege, Stella Hill via zoom, Norm Beagley

Invocation given by Shawn Crane

Discussion Regarding Pressurized Irrigation System Metering. Norm has 30 years of construction and Engineer management. He is currently the City Manager for Santaquin.

Norm stated that Mag meters are good for Irrigation water. They have a 5–20-year battery life with MXU to pick up meter reads. With the recent state mandates cities are required to have a real time system by 2030. J.D. Bunnell stated that they have a tower to be able to read the meters, they have about 20-30 in the ground. Currently with their culinary meters they are able to read about 650 from the vehicle but are still having to read 120 by hand. It has been a challenge to find meters. They have 2 different meter brands, Census and Ipearls.

Norm went over the ULCT presentation rate structure with the council and how to roll it out. He stated that the city needs to have standards in place with the Cities responsibility verses the customers responsibility (e.g., whether the City provides the meter and requires the customer to pay for the remainder of the costs). Currently without any standards in place it is costing the city \$2000-\$2500 for every home that goes in. Currently in the state of Utah agricultural is using about 80% of the water. Metering secondary water is meant to help conserve water. J.D. Bunnell stated that the 3" risers will also need to be metered. Norm stated that with the separate irrigation companies, they should use that standard that if they supply the water, it should be metered. The city will need to have a tier rate like they do for the culinary. Rod Taylor said that still needs to be figured with the amount of water shares that an individual turned in. Mike Wanner wondered if the rate structure would change from year to year. Dennis Marker stated that it could change depending on the drought year and the amount of water forecast. Norm stated that they should make a tiered structure per acre. Robert Andersen thinks that it would be very difficult to change those rates every year. Norm suggested that it not be changed every year because it would make doing the budget very difficult. Rod said that the city currently has a monthly maintenance fee that is charged on customer accounts. Norm suggested that they have a base rate for the secondary water. Rod and Robert both agreed that the base price should be based on operation costs. Dennis Marker gave a rough estimate for a small grant and a large loan to cover the cost of the meters. It would be 25% loan and 70% grant. They would need a base rate for 850 meters. The base tier could be zero to 4,000 gallons. They can get a rate study done through Zion's for \$10,000.

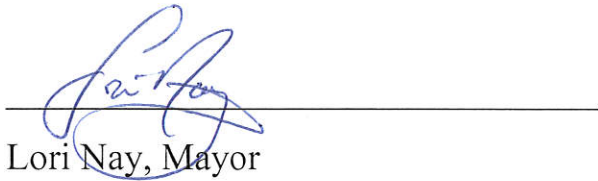
J.D. Bunnell stated that he spoke with Alan Dyreng, with the Gunnison Irrigation Company,

and he stated that the city is giving away water due to a lack of storage. It was brought up if there is an option for the city to do another pond to store water. J.D. stated that they don't have storage rights. Mike Wanner wondered if that meant that they are letting it go? Rod Taylor said that they are allocated the amount needed as is everyone else. He thinks that they really need to investigate how it is being used. Robert stated that if we can't store it during the winter, it goes to 9-mile reservoir, and the city loses the rights to that water. It was also noted that 9-mile will be empty by August 1st. Norm said that the city needs a plan for their water rights. The state of Utah allows you to protect your water rights if you have a 40-year plan in place. With a water master plan, you are allowed to hold a surplus of water. This is essential for the city, so that they do not lose their water rights. Mike stated that he thinks they have rights for storage that aren't being used.

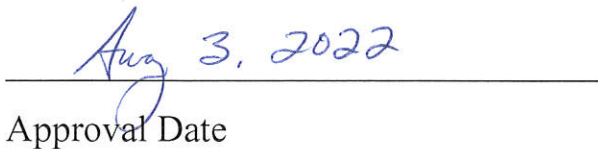
Attest:



Valerie Andersen, City Recorder



Lori Nay, Mayor



Approval Date