

**DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD (DAB) I
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, October 3, 2011

6:30 p.m.

Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19th, Wichita, Kansas 67214

Members Present

Janice Rich
James Roseboro
Bill Wynne
Vicki Churchman
KC Ohaebosim
Twila Chaloupek
Janet Wilson
Steve Roberts
Beverly Domitrovic
Brandon James

Members Absent

Jesyka Ware (Youth Member)

Guests

Annie Works
Gerry Domitrovic
John Stevens
Maxine Bostic
Loran Scott

City of Wichita Staff Present

Council Member Lavonta Williams
Officer Feuerborn Beat 43, Wichita Police Department
Officer Slaughter Beat 45, Wichita Police Department
Officer Neal Beat 32, Wichita Police Department
Officer Carlson Beat 21, Wichita Police Department
Fire Chief Newby, Wichita Fire Department
Alan King, Director of Public Works
LaShonda Garnes, District 1 Neighborhood Assistant

Order of Business

Call to Order

Vice Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m.and welcomed staff and guest. **Vice Mayor Williams** welcomed guest and advised that anyone speaking should provide their name and address for their record. She thanked everyone for coming and proceeded with the first order of business.

Approval of Agenda

Roseboro (Wilson) made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. **Motion carried. 9:0**

Approval of Minutes

Roberts (Roseboro) made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. **Motions carried. 9:0**

Public Agenda

1. **Agenda Items**
No items submitted.
2. **Off Agenda Items**
No items submitted.

Staff Report

3. Police Report

Officer Feuerborn, Beat 43, Wichita Police Department gave an update on the gang activity that has occurred other past few months. He noted that the homicide that just occurred was gang related and has spurred other incidents in city owned parks.

Feuerborn advised that they have noticed several new gangs in Wichita, which included “Spruce Park gang,” and “Madison Park gang”. He indicated these gangs were operating between the 1100 -1200 blocks of Spruce and 2000 block of Madison.

Feuerborn also advised that gang foot traffic had increased between Murdock and 13th and Grove to Hydraulic. He noted that there was an incident at Fairmount Park where 2 guns were recovered. He noted that the community has been very helpful in reporting incidents. He advised that they also had to clear out Spruce Park last week and that the community should be mindful of call 911 when they see groups congregating and or activity that is not normal for their neighborhood.

Roseboro wanted to know the age of the youth. **Feuerborn** advised that the youth are under 18, and generally range from 14 – 16, but they have seen some 11 year olds.

Vice Mayor Williams asked if it was okay for Neighborhood Associations to send out information regarding this activity. **Feuerborn** advised yes.

Brandon Johnson arrived at approximately 6:38 p.m.

Officer Slaughter, Beat 45, Wichita Police Department gave an update on the burglary trends. He noted that there has been a major reduction since the July 5th juveniles were caught. He noted that this group was the biggest group in Wichita being led by two adults.

Slaughter advised that the Adult, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) division conducted an investigation for two weeks and it led to at least 50 people being apprehended.

Officer Neal, Beat 32, Wichita Police Department gave an update on the Quik Trip at Hillside and Orme, noting that construction was coming along. She advised that Sunnyside Neighborhood Association would be having their clean up on October 22nd.

Neal advised that Halloween in Park would be held October 21st from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Edgemoor Park.

Neal also advised that she was working LaShonda Garnes on a hoarding case and that an IMPACT meeting was scheduled for the neighborhood on Tuesday, October 4th at 6:00 p.m.

Officer Carlson, Beat 21, Wichita Police Department gave an update on bike training that was provided to 12 WPD Officers and two Officers from Andover.

Carlson advised that 5 Guys Burgers and Fries have moved in on Douglas and Washington. He also noted that they are having some issues with individuals riding motorcycles in the same area. **Carlson** also advised that gang activity in the clubs are down, they have not seen any issues.

Rich wanted to know if there was an update on the burglaries that occurred on Beat 25. **Carlson** advised that they have arrested a couple of the burglars.

Wilson suggested they allow the bikers to park on Douglas from Washington to the tracks.

Vice Mayor Williams requested that they fix the problem before things got out of control.

Vice Mayor Williams thanked Officers for their updates.

Action Taken: Received and filed.

4. Fire Report

Fire Chief Newby, Wichita Fire Department gave an update Fire Prevention Week. He noted that smoke alarms should be checked once a month and batteries changed annually.

Newby provided the following statistics for District 1 for August 2011:

	Incidents	Resources
All Fire	29	132
Structure Fires	9	89
EMS and Rescue Alarms	646	820
Service Alarms	265	419
Total	940	1,371

Newby advised that there was an increase in activity, and attributes the increase to a very hot summer and the overload on the electrical from the air conditioner all day.

Newby advised that WFD also saved the life of a two-year old from a fire that occurred in August.

Vice Mayor Williams thanked Fire Chief Newby for his updates.

Action Taken: Received and filed.

New Business

5. Water & Sewer Cost of Service Analysis

Alan King, Director of Public Works presented information on the cost of service analysis completed by the consultant regarding water and sewer services. The City Council approved a contract with Raftelis Financial Consultants on December 7, 2010 to conduct a cost of service analysis of the water and sewer systems. The study analyzed usage trends, customer classes, and infrastructure maintenance needs to develop a long-term financial plan and necessary revenue increases.

The cost of service analysis determined that rate increases are needed each year through 2021 to support infrastructure maintenance, system replacement, needed expansion of the supply and treatment capacity, and compliance with regulatory requirements.

The study also identified the costs incurred to serve each customer class. Under the current structure, residential customers pay more than the costs they create, while commercial and wholesale customers pay less. An average residential customer pays \$2.05 more on each monthly bill than what is necessary to cover the costs of service. This extra revenue covers the lower charges assessed to commercial and residential customers. The consultant recommends a

gradual phase-in of rate equity designed to equalize the rates between customer classes, aligning the amounts that customers pay with the cost of service.

King advised that due to inadequate revenue over the last two years, maintenance has been deferred on the water and sewer systems. Utilities measure their infrastructure maintenance as a renewal and replacement rate, which shows the level of repairs compared to the overall value of the system. The renewal and replacement for the water system was 0.59% in 2010, far below the 4.80% average established by the American Water Works Association (AWWA). For the sewer system, the 0.44% rate also trailed the AWWA standard of 2.40% per year.

King advised that the system condition indicators showed the following:

SYSTEM CONDITION INDICATORS	
MEASURE	COMPARISON TO TARGET/BENCHMARK
Water Renewal & Replacement	87.7% Lower than Benchmark
Sewer Renewal & Replacement	81.7% Lower than Benchmark
Water Leaks & Pipeline Breaks	13.6% Higher than Normal
Sewer Stoppages	7.7% Higher than Normal

This has led to an increasing number of pipeline breaks and higher than normal instances of sewage backups. This increase was also fueled by hotter drier weather this summer, which created too much strain on aging pipes.

King advised that they have taken several steps to try and cut cost. He noted that fixed costs comprise 90% of expenses and that recent reductions have been realized by streamlining staff. The City has held vacant 19 unfilled positions, as well as 19 additional positions that were vacated through layoffs in 2009. **King** noted that merging the utility under Public Works Department in 2010 eliminated five other positions. Over the past two years, 43 positions have been held vacant or eliminated, resulting in annual savings of \$2.7 million, a 13% reduction.

King went on to discuss how conservation has penalized Wichita. He noted that conserving water has been penalized due to the City's inaccurate water consumption forecasts. The last cost of service analysis was completed at the height of historical water usage. However, consumption has decreased since, and because the City's estimates were so far off from actual usage, rate increases were needed to make up the revenue gap. He noted that the difference between actual and estimated usage were 2008 (-13.9%), 2009 (-18.8%), and 2010 (-14.4%).

King also advised that in survey of other communities a survey of 12 regional utilities serving similar customer bases found that Wichita's commercial customers pay 34% less than average, while Wichita's residential customers pay 22% lower than average.

King noted that an increase of about 3% - 4% would be required and that commercial businesses would see about an 8% increase. He advised that the public hearing on September 13th was scheduled to gather feedback on how to generate the necessary revenue. The feedback would help decide whether the differential that exists between residential and other customers should be continued or if the City should begin gradually phasing it out. He asked the Board which method they preferred, close gap over five years or raise rates uniformly.

Wilson advised that she had a neighbor who didn't understand why she had to pay for water she was not able to drink. She also commented that she felt that the business should share the burden of the increase as residents have seen increases every year for the past few years.

Wilson advised that she didn't understand why the winter average was used to calculate usage,

that it didn't make sense. She noted people should have to use water unnecessarily during the winter to offset the cost in the summer. She also questioned why there was a variance in the water bills.

Wynne commented that he was thankful that Wichita did not have water supply issues and that he understood both sides of the discussion. He also noted that for the last two to three months his water bill had the same reading and he knew something was wrong. He stated that he called and complained and the meter was right, but it was broke. He wanted to know what the proactive approach to identifying defective equipment was. **Wynne** also suggested that the City consider going to a even bill plan option like the electric companies offers.

Ohaebosim wanted to know if there was a classification for home businesses. He was wondering what rate those businesses were charged on. **King** advised that he would have to get back to him on that.

Ohaebosim also wanted to know if there was any way to identify all faulty meters and if so, will they be repaired. **King** advised that the meter problems were widespread and the City has been working for a year on this project and some short term things have been put in place. He also noted that someone was coming out to help look at the problem and provide input to develop a plan.

Chaloupek wanted to know if there would be a cap on the amount and number of increases. **King** advised that they were working on a plan.

Roseboro spoke against residents being responsible for picking up the customer and supporting the usage of commercial businesses. He stated that he feels that customers should pay for their usage. He also wanted to know if a base increase would also be included in the water rate increase.

Roberts wanted to know the status of the ASR project. **King** advised that they are fine tuning the last piece of the treatment process and they are getting close to construction for Phase III.

Wilson commented that education to the public is going to be needed. She also stated that the commercial side needs to pay for their usage.

Churchman advised that we should follow the advice of the consultant.

Annie Works, 2743 N Grove stated that it would be great if the residents could be informed when work is being done in their area. She said that it would be beneficial to know so they can understand why water pressures are low and why they are seeing so much in the streets. **Works** are requested that meter readers have on a uniform so they could be easily identified.

Vice Mayor Williams wanted to know who pays for the extra water in the street when projects are underway. **King** advised it is a part of the fixed cost for unaccounted water and the cost is distributed evenly among all customers.

Loran Scott, 2725 N. Fountain said lets look at annual averages and not monthly bills that paints a better picture. He also thought this would save in some administrative cost. **Scott** said let's look at the long term plan and move forward.

John Stevens, 3125 E. Boston noted that if there is this much confusion, clarification is needed. He noted that he was not in agreement with residents picking up the commercial cost as businesses normally pass their cost on to the customers anyway.

Maxine Bostic, 4601 Vesta Drive noted that she was worried about the inconsistencies and not having water when they need it. She noted that she didn't think residents should pay for the commercial businesses and that there is still a lot to be done.

Loran Scott added that he thought that the commercial needs to pay for its cost to do business.

Roseboro added that it's the people in the community that cannot afford the increases

Wynne advised that other utilities have a volunteer fund that will assist others in paying their bills. He suggested that the water department look into that option. He also noted that if there is a water quality issue it should be addressed.

King advised that they are required to test the water. He added that if there's a problem to call the Water Department and we can come out and check the water. He advised it could also be a plumbing issue.

Vice Mayor Williams asked that residents please pass forward information regarding water quality issues. She noted that she has also received several complaints regarding the customer service and professionalism of staff when calling the Water Department. She asked that this be addressed. **Vice Mayor Williams** asked that King provide her with a five year plan of what the water increases would look like.

Vice Mayor Williams thanked King for his presentation.

Action Taken: Received and filed.

Updates, Issues and Reports

Chaloupek advised that the Finance Department would be speaking at the neighborhood meeting regarding the water and sewer analysis.

Roseboro advised that Northeast Heights would be meeting on the 4th Thursday of the month.

Wynne informed Vice Mayor Williams that he is still having a problem with signs in the right-of-way.

Roberts advised that Crestview Heights would be meeting on October 20th. He noted that the Library was still moving ahead, despite what the paper is publishing. He also advised that e-books would not cancel out the hard copy circulation at the Library.

Wilson advised that at their meeting on October 20th they would also be meeting with St. Paul and Murdock Neighborhood Associations.

Churchman advised that South Central Neighborhood Association would be meeting on October 17th and their clean up was scheduled October 29th.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
LaShonda Garnes
Neighborhood Assistant

