

District IV Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2011
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The **District IV Advisory Board Meeting** was held at the 6:30 p.m. at the Lionel Alford Branch Library, 3447 S Meridian. Nine (9) DAB members, four (4) staff and approximately nine (9) citizens were present.

Members Present

Ben Saucedo
Matt Goolsby
Craig Gabel
Tabitha Lehman
Nancy Wilhite
June Bailey
Michael Ackerman, Jr.
Jerry Warren
Josh Blick

Staff Present

Kelli Geier, City Manager's Office
Officer Tejeda, Police
Ben Nelson, Finance
Derrick Slocum, Planning

Order of Business

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

The October 3, 2011 agenda was approved as submitted (Goolsby/Bailey: 9-0)

The September 12, 2011 meeting minutes were approved as submitted (Saucedo/Lehman: 9-0)

PUBLIC AGENDA

The public agenda allows members of the public to present issues not on the agenda to the District Advisory Board. Each presentation is limited to five minutes unless extended by the Board.

1. Scheduled Items

No items were submitted.

2. Off-Agenda Items

No items were submitted.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

Public Safety Reports

3. Community Police Report

Staff present reported the following:

- Honda thefts are increasing
- There is a parking problem at Payne Elementary and police are working with the principal to address it
- There are still speeding issues on Carr Street and 10 different officers have written 31 speeding tickets in this area.

Action Taken: Received and filed.

4. Fire Report

No report was given

NEW BUSINESS

5. ZON2011-00026

Derrick Slocum, Planning, presented this request for a zone change from SF-5 Single-family Residential (“SF-5”) to B Multi-family Residential (“B”) northeast of the intersection of west Maple Street and south Anna Street (230 and 234 S. Anna St.)

Mr. Slocum clarified that the applicant wants to expand its operations and the State will allow 12 to occupy the facility, but City Code only allows for 8, so they are presenting this zone change request to comply with City Code. In response to Board questions, he further stated that the gas tanks from the old gas station on the property used for the expansion have been removed and it is now a parking lot. Also, the current home environment of the care facility will remain the same. One of the Board members who lives in this area commented that the facility fits into the area very nicely and their services are appreciated.

Action Taken: (Sauceda/Ackerman, Jr.) motioned to approve the zone change request. The Board voted 9-0 to recommend approval of the request.

6. Water & Sewer Cost of Service Analysis

Ben Nelson, Finance, presented the results of the Cost of Service Analysis completed for the Water Department. The analysis looked at usage trends, customer classes, and infrastructure maintenance needs to develop a long-term financial plan and necessary revenue increases.

Mr. Blick stated that it is great that we are looking at other avenues to address water rate and customer needs, but we should focus on what is being done in Wichita and not other cities. **Mr. Nelson** stated that the analysis looked at service needs and that the customer service board asked City staff to look at water rate trends in other cities as comparisons. **Mr. Blick** also asked why some citizens’ water bills continued to go up not only in the summer, but winter as well last year. **Mr. Nelson** admitted that the City’s billing system is not perfect

and needs to be improved and unfortunately some citizens are charged incorrectly, but staff is working diligently to correct these mistakes.

Mr. Goolsby stated that when looking at other cities, we are discounting higher volume use which is odd when the City is trying to preach to citizens to conserve resources. **Mr. Nelson** remarked that there is a difference in how residential and commercial rates are calculated. Residential users have much more discretion in usage than commercial customers and that the rate structure is based on usage amount, so the results can be skewed. **Mr. Goolsby** also stated that he would be more in favor of this third rate increase in three years if it was based on a uniform price structure and did not discount based on higher usage. He also suggested advertising water rate discounts for people who chose to pay their water bill through automatic account withdrawal.

Mr. Gabel stated that if we use more efficient meters we can accurately measure 98%, where the current ones measure 65-70% of use. **Mr. Gabel** asked how much revenue the rate increase will generate? **Mr. Nelson** said that it is expected to generate 6.5 million in 2012 and 13 or 13.5 million in 2013. **Mr. Gabel** then asked how much of that revenue will go to replacing old meters and infrastructure. **Mr. Nelson** responded that about 80% will go toward new and maintaining existing infrastructure. **Mr. Gabel** also asked if staff was looking at using gray water to irrigate corn or use biomass solids to burn energy because it could be a less expensive alternative compared to upgrading nutrients for water treatments since the EPA continues to change standards. It was further suggested that TIF's (tax incremental financing) could possibly be used to restructure the water rate system.

Ray Tracy, 3415 S Wood, asked how many gallons of water does the city produce a month? **Mr. Nelson** stated that we produce 21 billion gallons per year. When asked how many of the City's customers use over 10 million gallons a year, **Mr. Nelson** replied not many and he also clarified that wholesale customers have a 60% increase in rates due to the cost of transferring the water. **Mr. Tracy** further commented that the City needs to look at other variables such as loss of customers and look at the actual cost instead of projected costs because most senior citizens cannot afford the increase. **Mr. Nelson** stated that the projected cost are based more on infrastructure that needs to be maintained and fixed, not water usage.

Mr. Nelson agreed to send the Board a more detailed analysis and **Ms. Bailey** pointed out that such reports like these and other budget documents could be found online at www.wichita.gov.

OLD BUSINESS

7. No items were submitted

BOARD AGENDA

8. **Board Updates and Issues**
No items were submitted.

9. **Adjournment**
With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.