Bryant Water and Wastewater Committee Minutes

Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Time: 5:00 P.M.

Location: 210 SW 3rd Street, Bryant, AR 72022

Members Present: Linda Levart, Kathy Barber, David Hannah, Nancy Pruitt, Wade Boone

Members Absent: Leroy Tinkler, Al Wise, and Madison McEntire

Staff Present: Angela Shepard, Moriah Winkle, Bryce Rimmer, Tim Fournier

Call to Order: This meeting was called to order by: **David Hannah**

Public Comments: None

Old Business: None

New Business: **Rate Study Recommendation to Council**

Mr. Hannah acknowledged the water rate presentation, and all members confirmed they had reviewed the water rate study information. Tim Fournier, Public Works Director, announced that a representative from Willdan Financial Services was in attendance and available to answer specific questions.

Mrs. Pruitt initially expressed concerns about gradual rate increases but ultimately conveyed confidence in the public works department and the due diligence exercised in managing the project. Mrs. Barber echoed these sentiments, adding her concerns about potential revenue shortfalls and the risk of not being able to complete important projects due to insufficient funding. Mr. Hannah concluded by commending the initial presentation, noting it was complete and well-executed.

Mrs. Linda Levart inquired about reviewing the upcoming rate increase and its impact on the city's revenue. Moriah Winkle, Water and Waste Analyst, clarified that the City of Bryant is a wholesale customer of CAW, and the city will see an 8.8% increase in its total water bill from CAW, leading to a 9% increase in the City of Bryant's water rates. Moriah explained that the 8.8% increase is directly passed down from CAW. Mrs. Levart sought to confirm her understanding of the 8.8% CAW increase in the cost of water, suggesting that for every $10.00, $8.80 would go back to CAW. Moriah further detailed that CAW's cost of water increased by 5.9%, while their infrastructure fee, which is passed on to city customers, increased by 22.8%, resulting in an overall water cost increase of 8.8%. Mrs. Levart noted that these fees are paid out by the city rather than retained as revenue, a point Moriah confirmed.

Mr. Hannah commented on the Saline Regional Public Water Authority and the possibility of this additional water source becoming available. Moriah Winkle confirmed that the approximate water delivery date is 2030. This aligns with the city's timeline for the next rate study and master plan. This plan will identify potential projects and associated costs required to receive services from the Saline Regional Public Water Authority.

Moriah Winkle presented information on comparable utility costs, noting that Benton Utilities is exempt from ACT 605 requirements due to subsidies from its electric department.
She provided the following increases from other cities: Conway, 7% increase and an additional $3 on monthly bills, Springdale's revamped fee structure with a 13.7% increase, Texarkana, AR 16% overall increase, Texarkana, TX 5% increase, Rogers 3.5% increase, and Bentonville

12% overall increase, with a 100% increase in water rates.

Moriah concluded her presentation with the City of Bryant's proposed increases of 9% on water for five years, followed by 6% for three years, and then a 2% increase for the remaining two years for wastewater. This would result in a $3.20 savings for the City of Bryant's minimum-use customers. She also noted that she was unable to find any city in Arkansas that has proposed a rate reduction.

Motion to Approve Rate Increase As Presented and Recommendation to Council:	**Kathy Barber**
Motion Seconded:	**Linda Levart**

Motion carried with 5 votes, no opposed.

Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn:	**Wade Boone**
Motion Seconded:	**Nancy Pruitt**

Motion Carried with 5 votes