



**City of Nampa
Board of Appraisers
Thursday, March 2, 2023
MEETING MINUTES**

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Board Attendees: Citizens at Large, Sharon Harris, Dave Peterson, Tom Points, Sr. Public Works Director; Doug Racine, Finance Director; Daniel Badger, City Engineer

Additional Attendees: Jeff Barnes, Director of Water Resources; Ashlee Teeter, Executive Assistant; Heather Tafoya, Business Manager, Leslie Howard, Utility Billing Services Manager, Mireya Pena, Utility Billing Customer Service Supervisor, Debbie Kling, Mayor, Caleb LaClair, Assistant City Engineer, Alpha Rodriguez, Todd Lakey, City Attorney, Hubert Osborne, Glen Rimbey

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

- No requests received to amend Agenda

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

1) Underlying Irrigation Districts Summary of Landowner Requests for Exclusion of Water Rights – *Daniel Badger, P.E., City Engineer*

- Nothing to report at this time of this meeting

2) Discuss Nampa Shares and Cares Uses – Doug Racine, Chief Financial Officer

- Utility Billing manages the Nampa Shares and Cares Fund
- Staff presented that this fund does not have a dedicated continuous funding source, it's on an as we can fund basis
- Could support 1176 customers at the current rate
- Qualifications (managed by Salvation Army for applying)
 - Have not received this particular service in the previous 24 months (Citizens only allowed to receive it every 2 years)
 - Less than half the applicants submit the required paperwork
- Question was asked if staff has seen and observed the paper work the citizens are required to submit and staff provided requirements of citizens
- The senior base of shares and cares is not regularly used
 - i. \$20 credit a billing is offered
- Staff provided knowledge of how senior citizens are allowed to use it
- Question was asked about difference in qualifications between the two categories
- Question and discussion was held on who establishes the poverty level and the requirements based on the size of the family
 - i. Updated every February or March
- Staff provided oversight of other assistance programs available and that they are based on covid monies but they are running out

- The claims to the city will increase when these programs are set to run out later this year
- Staff brought concern that not enough is being done for the senior population
- Discussion was held on what could be done to assist seniors more with this program
- Discussion was held on including a shrinkage factor into our rate increases
- Question and discussion was held that when the next cost of service study is done to look at a senior rate set up with income stipulations that could be included and be sustainable
- Discussion was held on people being able to apply online
- Mayor would like to apply for an AARP grant that allows to upgrade resources at the Senior Center for online access
- Discussion was held on adding irrigation to this service and if the amounts for each fund need to be adjusted
- Discussion was held about holding a drive on a certain day at the senior center so they can get help with all the resources at one time
- Next Board of Appraisers meeting bring changes that were discussed and place on the new business section of the agenda

NEW BUSINESS

1) Irrigation Rate Discussion Questions with City's Response – Tom Points, Public Works Director

- Staff presented background that the City would like to do a new cost of service study for irrigation and would like comments from the board on how it is calculated
- Citizen Hubert Osborne submitted questions to help facilitate discussion
- Staff created responses to each of Hubert's questions
- Staff presented response to Question 1: *You brought up the subject of irrigation water rates being different for different zone classification this morning. This subject was discussed, and nothing done about it back when I was on the Board of Appraisers I would doubt if it is legal to set rates in this way and think it is time for this inequity to be corrected. At the same time, I think irrigation rates in general need a close look with an eye on revision for more fairness.*
- Currently the city has residential and non-residential distinction for irrigation. The numbers are about the same
- Suggestion was made before completing another cost of service study if the Drought Task Force could come up with other options
- Citizen Hubert Osborne provided comment on impervious surface areas and water rights if it is not put to beneficial purposes over the course of 5 years and staff said the water gets shifted to sources that need it and the IDWR said its not an issue because they are still paying the underlying irrigation district fee
- Staff presented that there is no issues with city code and water rights with the impervious surfaces
- Staff provided background on a required flow the Boise River must have at all times and how the irrigation districts decide the amount that is allowed during each irrigation season for each acre
- Staff explained there is a tiered rate structure for irrigation based on size of land and discussion was held on creating more tiers
- Discussion was held on what could be changed with the cost of service study
- Hubert presented idea on a water bank for the water not being used within certain water rights
- Discussion was held on water rights and what happens if we do not use all of them every year
- Discussion was held on putting meters on irrigation water and staff responded with a cost that would not be attainable

- Discussion was held on the downtown irrigation system and the role the NDC has in making decisions
- Staff presented an idea for an in house construction crew to take on irrigation construction. Currently a white paper is being created and looking at the costs and variables that could be used
- Pocatello currently has a in house construction crew that has helped complete more work for less cost
- Discussion was held on finding a different approach to solving the irrigation funding problem the City has
- This item was tabled and will be brought back to the next meeting

2) 15339 N. Shiko Way Trash Services Dispute – Mireya Pena, Customer Services Supervisor

- UB staff presented back ground on citizen who has been in several times with not being able to afford trash services and only uses her trash services once a month
- They have offered her the Nampa Shares and Cares Services
- They suggested a smaller cart size that would save her \$10.00 per bill and the citizen disagrees that she should go down in cart size and still be forced to pay for the service
- Discussion was held on her being able to go down in cart size and taking advantage of the Shares and Cares fund which would decrease her payment by \$20.00
- Staff held discussion that citizens should pay for the service in the best interest of the city in the cleanliness and the look of the city
- Staff discussed importance of having those funds for citizens to use when they need assistance
- Staff asked about possibilities of raising senior discount for Republic Services

MOTION MADE Accept as we endorse the offer we've given to and that she is entitled to the senior discount with Nampa Shares and Cares and she has been counseled that a smaller cart is also a cost savings and that is the extent to how the City can help her, Seconded, 5 YES votes, 0 NO votes. MOTION PASSED

Meeting adjourned.

See Attachment A for March 2, 2023, Board of Appraisers meeting agenda and packet.