

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

MAY 27, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chairman Jonathan Smith. Committee members present in Council Chambers were Jan Materni and Jonathan Smith. Committee member Barry VanHoozen was present via tele-conferencing. Also present were Laura Alkire, Law Director, and Alice Godsey, Director of Public Utilities.

DISCUSSION ABOUT LATE FEES FOR UTILITIES

Mr. Smith stated that in Rule 24 of Section 1060.06 of the Code, it states that bills not paid by the 15th of the month shall be subject to a 15% penalty. Ms. Alkire added that the Codified Ordinances are silent about whether the Director of Public Utilities and City Council can waive late fees. There was discussion regarding issues with mail delivery and what recourse residents have if their payment is delayed. Mr. Smith suggested that customers be given a one-time forgiveness in a rolling 12 month period. Ms. Godsey was asked the amount of penalties charged each month. Ms. Godsey said that she did not have that information with her, but she believes it is in the range of \$26,000 a month. Mr. VanHoozen stated that penalties are usually used to change behavior, but if the penalties are that high, it's not changing behavior. The Committee agreed that more data is needed before they address this topic, and since penalties have already been waived for May and June due to Covid-19, they can take a closer look at it at the June committee meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Smith also asked that Ms. Godsey look into the returned check fee referenced to in Rule 65. He asked her to find out what the actual fee the City pays is and why the rate is higher for customers outside the City.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Smith, Chairman
Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.