

TOWN OF MCBEE
PUBLIC HEARING
OCTOBER 16, 2013-4:30 PM

Present: John Campolong Jr., Marilyn Fields, Shilon Green, A. C. McLeod Jr., Charlie Sutton, Martin Driggers Jr. (Town Attorney), & Terri King (Administrator),

Note to Minutes: Latondra Johnson, Interim Town Clerk, was present and typed minutes.

Mayor Campolong welcomed everyone and opened the Public Hearing.

Mayor Campolong set parameters for anyone who wanted to speak. He stated that there will be 15 minutes for those who oppose the rate increase and 15 minutes for those in favor. Councilman Green asked for everyone to be respectful of each other and no outburst.

Mayor Campolong opened the floor to the public for discussion of Ordinance 2013-3 "Water Rate Increase."

Mr. Bobby Blackwell, citizen, questioned how the 56% rate was determined from Alligator's water rate increase for the town. He stated that the town is still paying \$1.25 per 1000 gallons of water instead of the \$1.92.

Mr. Kenneth Segars, citizen, stated that he didn't mind a 10% increase but not a 25% increase at one time due to being on a fixed income.

Mrs. Willie Mae Roary, citizen, questioned Council what was the purpose of the water rate increase.

Mayor Campolong stated that the questions will be answered from Council in the Special Meeting.

Motion to close Public Hearing made by Councilman Green; seconded by Councilwoman Fields. All were in favor.

TOWN OF MCBEE
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PUBLIC HEARING

Present: John Campolong Jr., Martin Driggers Jr. (Town Attorney), Marilyn Fields, Shilon Green, Terri King (Administrator), A. C. McLeod Jr., & Charlie Sutton

Note to Minutes: Latondra Johnson, Interim Town Clerk, was present and typed minutes.

Mayor Campolong called meeting to order.

Invocation made by Councilman Green.

Councilman Green stated that he understood the economic difficulties. He stated that as a town has to make ends meet just like everyone else. He encouraged the citizens to come together. He stated that he and Council are trying to do what is best for the town.

Mayor Campolong stated that the town is paying \$1.25 per 1000 gallons of water from Alligator. He stated that the town nor administration has never reneged in any obligations. The town is obligated to Alligator to pay 1.92 per 1000 gallons of water, but in order to do this: the water rate has to be increased. A 25% increase would keep the town from going in the red. The average family in the town uses 2500 gallons a month; the rate will be increased to \$2.38 per month and a little over \$38 per year. Even with the 25% water rate increase McBee has the lowest rate, except Cheraw due the industries that fund the water department. Patrick pays the highest in the county. With a 56% water rate increase from Alligator that the town is only doing a minimum 25% increase. The citizens need clean potable water and Council always opposed an increase to any taxes including property tax.

Councilman Sutton agreed. He stated that the town has to make monthly payments on a new water system until 2045.

Councilman McLeod agreed with not wanting a water rate increase but payments have to be made. He stated that Council has withheld an increase as long as they possibly could.

Councilwoman Fields also agreed and wants the town to progress with the water. She also welcomed everyone that came out and invited them to come to the regular meetings. She formally thanked everyone for their input.

Motion to accept the water rate increase to become effective November 1 was made by Mayor Campolong; seconded by Councilman McLeod. All were in favor.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Green; seconded by Councilman Sutton. All were in favor.