

# Mayer Domestic Water Improvement District

## Minutes of Working Session Meeting

### May 28, 2020

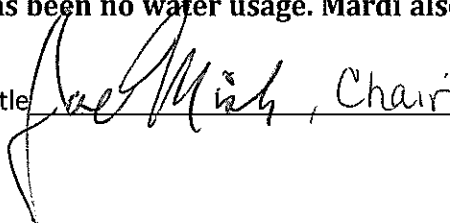
- I. Call to Order 3:00 P.M.
- II. Roll Call of Members **Chair Joe Mish – Present, Clerk Kathy King – Present, Member Kevin Jones – Present, Member Dennis Chamber – Present, Member Jacque Burruss – Absent**
- III. Work Session discussion only items
  - a. Discussion of policy changes **Clerk King motions to discuss of policy changes, Member Chambers 2nds.**
    - Rewrite Article IX - Section 3.E.

Bills, including all applicable fees and state sales tax are due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Bills will be considered delinquent one (1) calendar day after due date. After the delinquent date, the Water District may, upon **fifty-five (55) calendar days after the billing date**, discontinue service to the Water District Customer whose bill is delinquent.

**To read:**

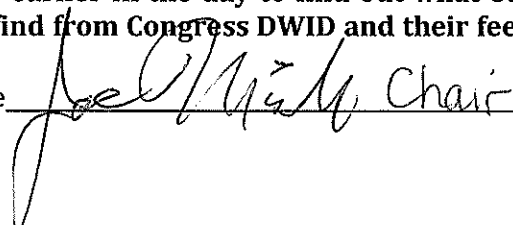
Bills, including all applicable fees and state sales tax are due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Bills will be considered delinquent one (1) calendar day after due date. After the delinquent date, the Water District may, upon **twenty-eight (28) calendar days after the billing date**, shut off service to the Water District Customer whose bill is delinquent. Water will be restored when the **balance is paid in full, plus the turn on fee.**

- b. Policy for status on disenfranchised/inactive meters
  - **Manager Frank Soto informed the board we have a meter waiting list of over 100 meters, we have a list of 69 meters that are not charged a monthly fee. There are people who know this and Frank is asked constantly; Why can't I have a meter from a property that is vacant and not being used? All Frank can tell them is you need to talk to the Board. Frank thought maybe if we looked at these meters maybe some of these people may be willing to give up their meter and give it to someone who needs a meter.**
  - **Chair Mish makes a recommendation to send each one a registered letter letting them know they have 2 months/60 days to decide if they want that meter or not. If they do decide they want the meter they will know they need to pay a monthly fee for the meter.**
  - **Member Chambers asked if this was Disenfranchised meters and Inactive meters. Office Manager, Mardi Befort clarified for the board. In our system (RVS billing software) a disenfranchised meter is off and locked and the customer is not billed monthly. An inactive meter is billed monthly but there has been no water usage. Mardi also explained that in our**

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policy manual we do not have any written policy regarding a disenfranchised meter. Looking back through minutes Mardi could not find any policy voted on by the board for disenfranchised meters. It appears that in 2009 when the board voted to start charging customers for inactive metes, several accounts were, what we call, disenfranchised. Chair Mish said that disenfranchised took place when Pat Champion was Chair. Lana Coder stated we can't find the verbiage disenfranchised in our records, but we can find where accounts were disenfranchised in the system. We found in 2004 minutes where if they "wanted to Re-hook up a meter after the meter was taken out because the customer declined Mayer water", the customer would be charged a \$300 fee to be re-hooked up to the system.

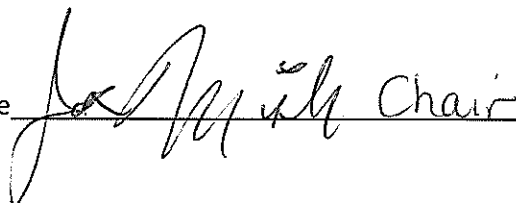
- Manager Soto explained disenfranchised was a term used by the ACC uses.
- Member Chambers asked what the total length of time some of the meters have been disenfranchised. Mardi explained that some of them go back to 2004 where they have never used any water.
- Clerk King said that there should be separate policies for this, new meters are new meters, and she does not understand why accounts are being disenfranchised when we do not have a policy for it. That would be an easy thing to start working on a policy for. She also feels if we have secure water sources that we should start releasing meters to people on the new meter waiting list. Frank replied that he didn't feel that was really part of this discussion but is hoping by the end of the summer to have Oakhills, Roberts Well and possibly the Race Track well online and also we need to remember that because of the blending plan we can now use Cliff and Gate wells, BUT we also have an issue with the Lucas well and depending on how that works out we might be able to use the Roberts well instead. Right now, there are a bunch of "ifs". Mardi and Lana have spent a lot of time researching in order to find the correct way to move forward. But we can not find some of the policies.
- Clerk King says she is more concerned that we can't find where it was voted on that a new meter was \$6000. She surely doesn't want to charge \$2000. Mardi explained that there are missing minutes that might have the information we are looking for. Mardi also explained that on the website from before she came here in 2017 it stated, "minutes we not available". We have been looking everywhere for minutes. We even listened to some old cassette tapes. Lana said that Mardi and I are currently putting all of the minutes into binders. We don't know what exactly is missing because some months the Board had 4 meetings and sometimes, they may have skipped a month. Chair Mish said he hates putting the work on the staff but he has boxes of minutes we can go through. Mardi and Lana both said thank you that would be so awesome. Mardi stated that at one point they were putting most, not all, of the minutes in a binder and halfway through 2011 they stopped putting them in binders. If they were putting them somewhere else, she has not been able to find where they put them. Chair Mish stated that during periods of time when he was gone the people in here were doing things that were not kosher so he may not have all of the minutes we are looking for. There were a lot of things hid back then. Lana stated that we are working on a system and we are going to get it done and done right. We are going to make Mayer Water great again.
- Chair Mish, remembers where the board voted to raise the price of a new meter to \$6000 Gordon Nelson was Chair at the time. Frank Soto wanted the board to consider something; He uses a well and he is on his second well. He would like someone to please show him where you can get a well drilled with guaranteed water for \$6000. Chair Mish would like to see new meter price at \$30,000 a meter and anybody who gets new meter gets a new rate. Attorney Doug Font suggested we create a policy that we will charge all inactive meters a certain rate, send out a certified letter and say you have the convenience of this connection either you pay this amount or turn in your meter. Attorney Font also said, to look at all of the potential growth with developers.
- Lana stated Clerk King had asked her earlier in the day to find out what other districts do. Lana explained what she was able to find from Congress DWID and their fees. They charge a

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\$750 reconnect fee for what we call a disenfranchised fee if it is over a year. She went on to explain the other fees they charge for various hookups and new connections.

- Member Jones asked would we charge the same amount for someone to be hooked up to the system who is close to the main line vs someone who is half a mile away from the main line. Frank stated that what we used to do was charge them extra for line extensions at different rates depending on if the customer participated in the work or not. It was negotiable.
- Chair Mish said these would not be new meters they would be relocated meters not being used. Clerk King said she did not see it that way. APS doesn't go take a pole off someone property and give it to someone else. Meter should be off, but not out. Frank stated that water is unique, in that it is limited to what can be taken out of the ground, where there is unlimited electricity.
- Frank would like to recommend that we send a letter that you are going to start paying or we will give the meter to someone else. Chair Mish and Clerk King said you can't say that. They discussed the best way to let users know. Chair Mish stated we have been hashing this out for a while and we should move on.

IV. Adjournment – 3:55 P.M.

 Chair