

VALLEY CITY COUNCIL
November 29, 2016

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Present were Mayor Smith; Council members Bevington, Lewis, Stanzel, Ueckert; city attorney Farnham. Also present were: Doug & Michelle Shonka, Jeremy Broz, Dan Johnson, Jason Wiese, PeopleService representatives Duane Grashorn, Nate Taylor & Travis Schafer; Utility billing clerk Penny Brown, Council member elect Cindy Grove.

Mayor Smith stated the location of the open meetings act & that one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at this meeting is available for examination or copying.

Council member Lewis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proof of publication was on the council table.

Lewis moved to approve the agenda. Stanzel seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Smith shared action taken by the city at this point. Two meters removed from Shonka & Broz residences were sent for testing to Meters, Inc., an independent testing firm in Minnesota. Both meters met or exceeded AWWA standards. He feels the problem may lie with the readers; possibly low batteries. A letter has been sent to all residents in Mallard Subdivision asking them to call PeopleService representatives who will test all the meters and replace the reader units. The City has contacted our IT people to program our billing system to tag abnormalities. He suggested we get a one year history with the new readers, compare to the prior 2 years and credit accounts showing a 5% difference.

Dan Johnson, Doug & Michelle Shonka & Jeremy Broz shared results of research they have done, graphs & their experiences & concerns. The discussion included input from PeopleService representatives, the city attorney, mayor, council members & the homeowners.

Council member Stanzel – I believe there are devices we can put ahead of the meters to verify readings.

Following more discussion it was agreed that for a ninety day period, independent readers will be put ahead of the existing meters in the Shonka, Broz & Johnson homes. Nate Taylor will read the meters outside the homes every Monday, the homeowners will read the meters inside the house & the numbers will be compared & shared with homeowners & council members.

The replaced readers will be returned to the factory. In addition, a percentage of the readers will be sent to an independent testing firm.

A follow up meeting will be held in 90 days

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Mayor Carroll L. Smith

Clerk Joan Suhr