

**Utility Appeals Board
April 13, 2017
Council Chambers
Draft Minutes**

In attendance:

Representing the Board:

Tom Arnold, Deputy City Manager Carlos Baía, Beth Campbell

Absent: Councilor Brent Todd

Representing the Staff:

Jeff Hoadley, Rob Young, Lucy Muhlfelder, Teresa Segalini

Meeting called to order at 5:15 p.m.

1. Case 2017-002: 292 Pleasant Street

Mr. Baía explained that this case had been carried over from April 3rd when the appellant failed to appear. The appellant, Babette Rittmeyer, was presently in attendance and was asked to provide testimony.

Ms. Rittmeyer apologized for having missed the last meeting.

Ms. Rittmeyer explained that she has had both the City and a private company confirm that she has a leak in the water service from her home to her horse barn. She stated that she had a similar leak about 10 years ago. She noted, however, that she travels extensively out of the country for her work, has had some financial challenges, and that her departed husband would typically have dealt with the property maintenance issues. She was concerned about losing the property and was hoping that the Board might consider these mitigating factors.

Mr. Baía asked Ms. Rittmeyer to confirm whether the leak is on-going. Ms. Rittmeyer confirmed that the pipe is, in fact, still leaking and that she has been aware of it for several months. She stated that the work appears to require a backhoe to dig up the pipe under the barn which was one of the reasons she has not yet had it done. In the meantime, she has a shut-off valve and has been shutting off the water service to the barn periodically in an effort to conserve some of the water.

Mr. Arnold suggested that the framework of the City's water billing system be explained to Ms. Rittmeyer. Mr. Baía explained that the water system is financially supported by those property owners that have water accounts. Therefore, if water is wasted and not paid for, it places the burden on the remaining water system users. The system is not subsidized by the general taxpayers.

Ms. Campbell moved to allow Ms. Rittmeyer to enter into a 12 month payment plan (based on current usage and remaining outstanding balance) and to waive the late fees. Mr. Arnold seconded that motion.

Mr. Baía suggested an amendment to the motion that added that if Ms. Rittmeyer misses any payment in the plan, all past late fees and any future late fees be added back to her outstanding balance. Ms. Campbell and Mr. Arnold agreed to this amendment to the original motion.

Motion passes 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.