

**SAFETY, HEALTH, AND SERVICE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 25, 2019**

The Safety, Health, and Service Committee met Monday, November 25, 2019 at 6:15pm in the Council Chambers at the Knisely Centre.

In attendance were Safety, Health, and Service Committee Members:  
Chair, Mr. Kelly Ricklic  
Mr. Dan Lanzer  
Mr. Rob Maurer  
Alternate, Dean Holland

Guests were:

President of Council Sam Hitchcock, Councilperson Aimee May, Service Director Ron McAbier, Law Director Marvin Fete, Mr. Dan Lanzer, Mrs. Cheryl Ramos, Water Supt. Scott DeVault, Council Clerk Julie Courtright

Committee Chair Mr. Ricklic reported that the Safety, Health, and Service Committee met Monday, November 25, 2019 at 7:00PM in Council Chambers at the Knisely Centre to discuss the following item:

**The Water and Sewer Rates for the City of New Philadelphia**

Council and Committee Members were given handouts of three proposals of water and Sewer rate increases.

Service Director McAbier explained the projects that Diversified has planned and have already completed. He said the City “dodged a bullet” concerning the recent water main break. McAbier said the water plant is 7 years past its life expectancy. McAbier explained the three proposed plans.

Mr. Lanzer asked Mr. McAbier which plan he preferred. Mr. McAbier said he would like to see Alternate 1 go into effect and they could look at it again next year.

Water Superintendent Scott DeVault explained that a large amount of the water pipes are clay pipes from 100 years ago.

Both the Service Director and Water Superintendent prefer Proposal 1 which is a 10 percent increase.

Mrs. Ramos asked if the City has looked into Federal Grants to help with the Water Construction.

Mr. McAbier said they are always looking for grants. Water Superintendent DeVault says the rate structure does influence grants. If the rates are too low they won't qualify for grants.

Mr. Zucal stated that the City needs to keep the water plant maintained.

Mr. DeVault said a 10 percent increase would average \$260,000 a year, which would just pay for maintaining current projects.

Mr. Zucal said the City's infrastructure needs upgraded or it could be catastrophic. We need to think more long term down the road.

Mr. Ricklic said they need to do a 5 year plan. One year isn't enough.

**Mrs. May suggested a monthly infrastructure charge on the water bills.**

**Mr. Zucal said Alternate 1 would be a \$6.00 monthly increase for residents which is affordable.**

**Mr. McAbier recommended Alternate 3. We would still have lower rates than the State average.**

**MR. MAURER MADE A MOTION FOR COUNCIL TO APPROVE ALTERNATE PLAN 3  
MR. LANZER SECONDED THE MOTION  
3 YEAS  
LEGISLATION WITH ALTERNATE 3 WILL BE ON THE DECEMBER 9 AGENDA**

**With no other matters to come before Committee Mr. Lanzer Motioned to Adjourn.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Kelly Ricklic, Committee Chairman, Safety, Health, and Service**