

Madison City Council Public Hearing Meeting regarding American Water
September 16, 2024

Mayor Hamm called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Present were Alderperson Browley, Dixon, Crawford, Crochrell, Johnson Miller, Garrett and Morris
Absent: none

Joe Juneau talked about the proposal Purchase Plan. He went over the history of the proposal with American Water. American Water was to give 3 Appraisals. American Water provided Purchase Agreement.

He talked about the programs they have to help customer pay for billing if they need assistance depending on income.

He went over sample billing for Waste Water Management.

Someone from the Public ask about if you have renters will the water company put a lien on the property or if it is the renters that have to pay the bill. Juneau advise to wait until the end for the question and answer section.

Juneau went over the average daily cost for maintaining the Sewer system.

Juneau advise American Water is offering the City of Madison 3 million to purchase the sewer system.

Representative of American Water is here to answer questions.

1st Question...The Member of the Public asked if the Sewer bill can be in the tenant name and the bill goes with them. The representative stated it will go with the name.

2nd Question....The Member of the Public asked if the city will only get 3 million max only. They advised yes but if it is evaluated higher, the City of Madison is able to cancel the deal.

3rd Question... Did the City of Madison complete the appraisals or American Water? They advise that American Water had independent appraisals completed.

4th Question... Member of Public asked why was things done in closed session.

5th Questions..What was the success rate for the homeowners?

6th Questions...Was the bills provided an actual bill or estimated?

The Citizens has concerns that they will purchase the sewer system and raise the bills.

Metro East Sanitary is selling the system to American Water. The Citizens will receive the bill from American Water. If the City of Madison does not sell, it will fall back on the citizens with the taxes being raised on their property.

City of Madison citizens are concern that their water bills will go up double or higher. A lot of citizens was addressing they frustration and concerns regarding the water bill and sewer bill going up.

Another questions--Asked if there are other options than selling to a third party. like private entities, bonds, etc. Other than selling to American Water.Juneau advise when they went for proposal that American Water was the only respondent.

The question is if the person bill based off the water bill and sewer combined. It was answer it is based off the water usage.

Member of Public asked if there was a deadline to reach an agreement, or if it can be placed on a ballot so the people can have a voice.

Mayor is saying that this is a vote for the Aldermen and not Mayor. The Mayor asked the Aldermen if they can make the decision.

Aldersperson Crochrell spoke and said it was some and good things and bad things about American Water taking over.

Mayor Hamm adjourned the meeting at 5:57pm

City Clerk: Culere Bradley
Mayor: John Hamm
Date: 10-7-2024