Young, Bernie C

From: Greenleaf, Kim
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 11:46 AM
To: BCC Agenda Comments
Cc: Revie, Derelynn
Subject: FW: Utility rate increase comments

Please add this citizen's email to the record for the June 13th Public Hearing for the Multi-Year Utilities Rates Resolution and Public Hearing. I don't have the agenda yet, so I don't know the agenda item number. Thanks.

Kimberly H. Greenleaf
Executive Aide to Commissioner Dave Eggers
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, District 4
315 Court Street, Fifth Floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-464-3276 office
kgreenleaf@pinellas.gov

From: tomkrisa@gmail.com <tomkrisa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 11:29 AM
To: Greenleaf, Kim <kgreenleaf@pinellas.gov>
Subject: Utility rate increase comments

Kim -

I understand there is a hearing addressing rate increases for Pinellas County utilities scheduled for June 13. I will not be in attendance and wanted to ask if you could please pass on a few comments to the relevant decision-makers.

If my calculations are correct, it appears that the water utility rate changes over the four years covered by the proposal is approximately an effective 2¾ % annual increase. Though I'm not enthusiastic about the increase, the rate seems in line with the inflation that might be expected. However, included in the rate increase is an increase in the charge for reclaimed water. Considering the almost-continuous significant restrictions on use and associated low availability of reclaimed water year-after-year, which are generally more severe for north-county than south-county, it is difficult to understand and accept a rate increase for this service. We recognize the heightened restrictions this year are weather-related, but the typical restrictions are very imposing and often lead to inefficient use of water from the system by incentivizing landscape watering at permitted times rather than awaiting forecasted rain before determining if there is a need for watering. The time-period constraints of limited days and time during the day also preclude the ability to monitor and maintain the system to avoid wastage. In essence, for the fee, we are generally afforded the option to water for a few hours 8 times per month (4 times per month this year) including at times of the year when watering is not needed because of coincident rain or lower needs when it is the low-growth season. These issues make us question the value and practicality of the system as it is today, though we support the use of reclaimed water this way in

principle. Considering these factors, we would recommend that the overall system concept, design, operation, and fee approach be reviewed and reconsidered prior to proceeding with the rate increase for this system. From our perspective, the issue is not the total volume that is intended to be available to each residence, but the restrictions, particularly in north county, that make it ineffective.

Please let me know if I can clarify any of the comments or answer any questions.

Respectfully yours,

Tom Krisa
717 Soundview Drive
Palm Harbor, Fl 34683