

**THE WATER BUREAU
PUBLIC HEARING**
555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Present: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Daniel A. Camilliere, Timothy J. Fitzgerald, Peter Gardow, Kathleen Kowalyshyn, Domenic Pane, Alvin Taylor and District Chairman DiBella (8)

Also

Present: Commissioner Denise Hall
Commissioner Alphonse Marotta
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer
John M. Zinzarella, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Business Services
R. Bartley Halloran, District Counsel
Christopher Stone, Assistant District Counsel
Robert Constable, Director of Finance
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Technology
Kelly Shane, Director of Procurement
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities
Robert Zaik, Director of Human Resources
Lisa Remsen, Financial Analyst
Nick Salemi, Special Services Administrator
Kerry E. Martin, Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer
Cynthia A. Nadolny, Executive Assistant

Commissioner Domenic Pane, acting as chairman, called the public hearing to order at 4:05 P.M.

Commissioner Pane read the hearing procedures and guidelines:

“This is a public hearing to consider the proposed revisions to The Metropolitan District Water Supply Ordinances: **§ W1a and § W1d.**”

This Public Hearing is part of the legal procedure that The Metropolitan District is required to follow regarding the revision of any of its ordinances, as mandated by Special Act 01-3 of the Connecticut General Assembly of 2001.”

“A final decision on this proposed ordinance revision has yet to be made. That decision will ultimately be made by the District Board of The Metropolitan District, and will take into account what is said at this hearing.

“The District Clerk will now read, for the record, the notice of this public hearing and the statement of purpose explaining why these revisions have been proposed.”

Attorney Christopher Stone, read the following into the record:

The following hearing notice was published in the Hartford Courant on November 5, 2017 and again on November 10, 2017; and the notice and the complete text of the proposed ordinance addition and revisions was filed, for public inspection, in the office of the town clerk in each municipality that is a member town of The Metropolitan District.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED REVISIONS TO ORDINANCES

Pursuant to Special Act 01-3, as adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, and Section 2-14 of the Charter of The Metropolitan District, the Water Bureau of The Metropolitan District will hold a public hearing on proposed revisions to The District's Water Supply Ordinances as they relate to the water rates for the fiscal year 2018. The hearing will be held in the Board Room at Metropolitan District Headquarters, 555 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut, on Wednesday, **November 15, 2017 at 4:00p.m.**

Proposed changes to the rates stipulated under the following sections of the Water Supply Ordinances will be considered:

Section W1a Water Used Charge (Treated Water) Section W1d Charges for Untreated Water

The proposed ordinance revisions are available for inspection at the Office of the District Clerk of The Metropolitan District, 555 Main Street, Hartford and www.themdc.org/district-board. All interested parties from The Metropolitan District's member municipalities may appear to be heard.

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judy Allen, West Hartford Resident, read the following comments:

Comments for Public Hearing 11/15/17
Revisions to Water Ordinances

I support the new water rate. The MDC's water rate has always been one of, if not the, lowest in the state. When so many around our state, country, and even the world have poor quality or limited access to clean water, we should be grateful for the water provided by the MDC and not take it for granted.

I hope the MDC spends this money wisely for its best possible use.

I would also support in the future a system that would set a rate based on the amount of water reasonably needed to provide the needs for drinking, cooking, and public health for a family in the district. Then set higher rates based on additional volumes of water used for non-essential things like watering lawns, filling swimming pools, car washing, etc. The higher the volume of water used, the higher the rates. To me, this seems a more equitable way to charge for water, ensuring conservation and appropriate revenue for the MDC.

I am also in favor of the approximately \$4.00 per year charge for all MDC customers to support the work the Department of Public Health (DPH) must do in overseeing the hundreds of small water systems throughout the state, many of whom are struggling to provide water during droughts or are contaminated by polluted groundwater. No matter how the cost is passed on to customers, an explanation must be given which will raise questions. The way in which such a charge is explained has much to do with a customer's feelings about it.

The DPH has encouraged the Water Utility Coordinating Committees (WUCC), at least in the Central WUCC, to consider the costs to the department when it approves more of these smaller water systems. Yet these systems are still being approved by the WUCC. There are many factors that go into this, not the least of which is the cost of hooking up to an established water utility. The MDC has proposed a new ordinance that would relieve itself from incurring any costs associated with having to take over a failing system within its Exclusive Service Area (ESA) or as required by the DPH for public health reasons. Until the WUCC and holders of ESAs, in conjunction with water utilities and the DPH, can come up with solutions, this additional charge seems appropriate to me.

While the MDC must run itself in the best interests of its customers, it is also a steward of a precious resource, needed by all for life itself. Water is no respecter of boundaries. That gives the MDC a responsibility to engage in constructive ways with others whether they be water utilities and systems, governmental agencies, or environmental groups, for the best possible use of our state's waters.

Judy Allen
West Hartford

South Windsor State Representative Tom Delnicki, spoke in opposition of the water ordinance revisions.

Newington State Representative Gary Byron, spoke in opposition of the water ordinance revisions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval