From: Steve Earle
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Cc: Stacie Anderson; John P. Contos; John Engen; rchaney@missoulian.com
Subject: Public Comment on Water Rate Increase
Date: Thursday, November 25, 2021 10:00:12 AM

To be read and entered into the record as public comment on December 6, 2021

As retired City residents attempt to exist on fixed incomes your proposed utility increase is very alarming. The example you use to illustrate the cost of the increase is not realistic – it includes thousands of customers that do not even have a lawn and uses them as part of the "average" cost of the monthly increase. This is not a "transparent" approach to illustrating the way the city is increasing fees and allocating revenue. Please look at the table of our recent residential charges below. Your illustration of increases that total 24%, 27% and 13% over 3 years and saying our utility bill will only going up $3 to $4 a month is intentionally misleading. In the case of thousands of customers this illustration is "smoke and mirrors" and does not illustrate their real increase. Please consider the inability of your customers and voters to meet this demand and hold all increases to budget and fee increases to < 2% annually in hopes that no more Missoula seniors are forced to move out of the city.

Additionally – in regard to recent fund expenditures and ongoing council actions:
We feel that our choice of charities we contribute to has been taken away from us by the allocations of the current council and administration. So much of our tax contribution is collected and allocated to support non-profits, homeless foundations and free public services that we can no longer afford to make the substantial contributions we once made to the food bank, Missoula Aging, United Way and others.
We have worked in this city and contributed for over 45 years. When we voted you in to manage the city and the services in the 80's and 90's and early 2,000's there was a balance between necessary city services, tax revenue, and our ability to happily donate to charities after we payed our taxes. We very much prefer to choose where our charitable donations go – not have you do it for us. Please get a grip on tax increases aimed at supporting non-profit donations, real estate monopolies and adding new services for Missoula to provide – as current residents we are tapped out and hoping you don't force us to move away after 45 years of supporting you.

Sincerely,
Kathy and Stephen Earle
6204 Raelene Court
Missoula, MT 59803
406-544-4150

A written acknowledgement is requested

Due Date	Current Bill	Previous Balance	Balance Forward	Total Bill	eBill
value	value	value	value	value	value

2021/12/06Dec 06, 2021	$49.12	$106.59	$0.00	$49.12	
value 2021/11/09Nov 09, 2021	value $106.59	value $175.55	value $0.00	value $106.59	value
value 2021/10/09Oct 09, 2021	value $175.55	value $227.27	value $0.00	value $175.55	value
value 2021/09/06Sep 06, 2021	value $227.27	value $223.44	value $0.00	value $227.27	value
value 2021/08/07Aug 07, 2021	value $223.44	value $133.41	value $0.00	value $223.44	value
value 2021/07/06Jul 06, 2021	value $133.41	value $60.62	value $0.00	value $133.41	value
value 2021/06/09Jun 09, 2021	value $60.62	value $47.21	value $0.00	value $60.62	value
value 2021/05/11May 11, 2021	value $47.21	value $50.47	value $0.00	value $47.21	value
value 2021/04/11Apr 11, 2021	value $50.47	value $54.89	value $0.00	value $50.47	value
value 2021/03/15Mar 15, 2021	value $54.89	value $37.15	value $0.00	value $54.89	value

Table displaying billing history

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