

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. Councilors Gutierrez, Kirwan and Hardin were in attendance, as well as Mike Jewett, President of Sanitary Disposal, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong.

Review Sanitary Disposal Rates

Mark and Mike reviewed the rate adjustment requested by Sanitary Disposal that was supplied to the Committee prior to the meeting.

Mike stated the requested adjustment would increase services by 8.3% with a recommended effective date of March 1, 2020. However, this increase is not enough to sustain services through 2021, an increase of 11% would be needed to sustain services through 2021. Sanitary Disposal would then reevaluate the cost of services at the end of 2020 and be able to determine if and what additional increase is needed to cover and fund operating costs to include maintenance and purchasing a new truck for the Hermiston route.

Mark stated although Sanitary Disposal is requesting an 8.3% increase, it is important to note that their last increase was in 2016, so the 8.3% requested increase is basically to catch up from all the years that no increase was had. Also, if the increase is approved, Hermiston will continue to have some of the lowest sanitary disposal fees when compared to similar sized cities.

Mike stated Sanitary Disposal held off on an increase to the City of Hermiston because of the water and recycled waster rate increase last year. Other area customers, such as the City of Umatilla, have had smaller more frequent increases.

Councilor Kirwan stated that the 8.3% increase is the equivalent of \$1.55. He understands and supports the need for an increase to keep up with rising costs, however, he believes the City should pushout the proposed increase information with the dollar amount and not percentage. Customer bills are combined to include the water, sewer and garbage; if customers see that sanitary disposal fees will increase by 8.3% they may believe their entire bill (water, sewer, garbage), as a whole, will increase, which is not factual.

Councilors Hardin and Gutierrez agreed and suggested that the increase become effective February 1st, 2020 instead of March 1st, 2020 as customers will already be seeing a usage increase in their water and sewer bills in March.

Mark stated the proposed increase and effective date will be presented to Council at the January 13th, 2020 meeting.

Adjourn

There were no other items of discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 4:15pm.