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Stevenson City Council Meeting 1-18-2024 Proposal for Improved Water Rate Administration in Stevenson Washington for 2024 and the future

1 message

Mitch Patton <nwtsrinc@gmail.com>

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Dear council members and city staff,

I'd like to express the concerns I have regarding the functioning of the city government over the past few years, particularly concerning the water bill on your agenda. I will send a separate email for the sewer bills and hook-up.

First and foremost, I would like to address the matter of city water bills and hookups. It's crucial to prioritize keeping water bills as low as possible for single-family dwellings. As discussed in the recent meeting, the city needs to be cautious about how it charges water rates for everyone. I strongly believe that the public should be informed about the source of the city's water and the cost of purifying it for public use, especially for drinking water. Presenting this information in gallons, rather than cubic feet, would help the public better understand water usage per household and for commercial businesses.

I am wanting to propose a measure aimed at enhancing the administration of water rates for the municipal water system in the city of Stevenson Washington, particularly concerning businesses within the Stevenson water district. There should be a flat rate for meter hookup and a flat rate for usages over certain usages for single-family residences and a flat rate for commercial hook up and usages and then a flat rate for usages over a certain amount of usages for commercial use. see below my idea.

I suggest the introduction of a dedicated tax for businesses situated within the city limits of the Stevenson water district. The primary objective of this approach is to ensure the maintenance of lower water rates for individual homeowners or single-family residences. The rationale behind this proposal lies in the concept of equity. When a property is utilized for profit through commercial activities, it seems reasonable to impose a tax, reflecting the privilege of conducting business within the city of Stevenson and using the Stevenson Water District for profit.

Commercial activities inherently impose an additional strain on the water filtration system. Hence, the proposed tax is intended to offset the increased costs associated with filtering a larger volume of water compared to a property solely designated for use as a single-family residence.

I believe that this targeted tax would contribute to a more equitable distribution of costs and resources, aligning with the principle of fairness in resource allocation. Your consideration of this proposal is highly appreciated, and I am open to further discussions to address any concerns or questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please add this to the public comment for the water bill issues. My number is below. Feel free to call at any time. Oh and one more thing "I propose that public comments be accommodated at both the beginning and the end of our meetings. If comments at the end specifically address the meeting agenda, it provides an opportunity for the public to express their views on agenda-related matters promptly, instead of waiting until the next meeting a month later."

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**"Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will
turn."**

- Harriet Beecher Stowe, from "Oldtown Folks"