



City of Stevenson

Leana Kinley, City Administrator

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To: Stevenson City Council
From: Leana Kinley, City Administrator
RE: Water Meter Size Billing Discrepancy – Waiving Back-billing
Meeting Date: July 16, 2020

Executive Summary:

The City of Stevenson replaced customer water meters as part of its energy conservation grant. In the process there were thirteen meters identified as having a different meter installed than what was being billed. According to RCW 4.16.040, the city can back bill, collect on accounts receivable, for up to six years. This would compound the economic struggles of businesses trying to survive during COVID. The accounts have been corrected and steps have been taken to prevent the issue from happening in the future.

Overview of Items:

The list of customers impacted and the total difference if they were back billed from January 2018 to present is below. The Attorney General’s opinion in the attached document allows the forgiveness in this instance as it will help “...prevent the region’s economic collapse from the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis...” The majority of the customers impacted are businesses or government agencies which have been closed or have seen a dramatic reduction in revenues since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Additional costs such as these may be detrimental in their ability to continue doing business.

<u>Customer</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>	Water Diff	WW Diff	Total
Eagles Lodge	2"	Billed at 1"	4,908.47	4,273.84	9,182.31
Joel Battistoni	1"	Billed at 3/4"	524.18	-	524.18
Skamania County Transfer Site	2"	Billed at 3/4"	7,824.09	-	7,824.09
Bill Wilkins	1"	Billed at 3/4"	524.18	-	524.18
Port of Skamania	3/4"	Billed 2"	(5,432.65)	-	(5,432.65)
Port of Skamania	2"	Billed 1"	4,908.47	4,273.84	9,182.31
Port of Skamania	2"	Billed 3/4"	5,432.65	-	5,432.65
Rock Cove Irrigation	2"	Billed at 3/4"	5,432.65	-	5,432.65
Port of Skamania	1"	Billed at 3/4"	524.18	1,768.56	2,292.74
El Rio	1"	Billed at 3/4"	524.18	1,768.56	2,292.74
Pioneer	1"	Billing at 3/4"	524.18	1,768.56	2,292.74
A&J	1"	Billed at 3/4"	524.18	1,768.56	2,292.74
DCYF	1.5"	Billing 1"	2,177.22	1,670.21	3,847.43
					45,688.11

The timeline for the initial discrepancy is unknown and none of the meters were recently installed. When staff would manually read the meter, the only information they had was the customer name, address and meter location. There was no indication of the size meter being billed for the field crew to verify. Going forward the meter size being billed will be verified after installation and be listed when a manual meter read is necessary.

Action Needed:

Approve waiving the back-billing in relation to incorrect meter sizes for the customers listed above.