

Subject: Re: Water Overage

Date: Friday, June 8, 2018 at 4:39:35 PM Alaska Daylight Time

From: PJ Olson

To: Brado, Gina Cavaretta

Hi Keith,

The next council meeting is on Thursday, June 21st beginning at 6:30 PM.

I've asked the city clerk to add you to the agenda under new business.

Anything that you would like to have the council consider needs to be provided, in writing, to the city clerk at least a week in advance for inclusion in the council packets.

The City has a policy covering resident issues such as this to be brought before the council to ensure that everyone on the council is fully informed prior to the meeting.

Thanks and Gina can provide you with the call in number.

PJ Olson.

Mayor, Coffman Cove.

On Jun 8, 2018, at 12:37 PM, Brado <ilonab76@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you for your response. It would be easier to talk in person rather than email, but, with that said, I'll do my best with email.

I can think of two utilities who have not necessarily waived all of an overage bill, but one cut it in half and the other waived it completely (the overage). Craig was one who waived when they realized it was not neglect and an unfortunate plumbing failure due to people not being home and able to show they were gone. This would be a very unreasonable hardship to bestow on one of their fellow community members. I do not believe all situations are the same, even in courts they say there is unreasonable punishment for an offense. As you stated you are a governing body and my understanding is that a governing body is for the people by the people, so I assume this is our fellow residents or our peers. It's hard to believe our neighbors or our community would put such a financial hardship on someone who, to no fault of their own, had to be absent because of health or medical. So yes, I would like to petition the council. As our permanent address is Coffman Cove, we like to think we are part of the governing body you speak of.

Also, after consideration, the council still feels we are responsible for this exorbitant fee, maybe we need to put forth a recommendation of sorts to have some sort of leeway in this type of circumstance. That way, in the future, this sort of financial hardship on a fellow neighbor can be avoided or mitigated. Please let us know when the next city council meeting. If we cannot attend personally, perhaps it would be possible to do it via teleconference. Thank you.

Thank You
Keith Brady

On Thu, Jun 7, 2018 at 9:09 AM, PJ Olson <coffmanseatf@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Keith,

Thanks for the email and I understand the situation. Unfortunately I cannot waive utility fees.

Since I've been on the council there have been a few instances like this that have come before the council but I don't remember any that have resulted in waived fees.

As a governmental body we're required to treat everyone the same and to abide by our ordinances. I don't believe that our local utility ordinance allows us to make exceptions.

I understand your unhappiness over the excessive water use and associated bill but City responsibility ends at the private property line and the home owner is ultimately responsible for what happens on their own property.

The only option that I can offer is the opportunity for you to appeal to the city council at a regular council meeting but the council is bound to enforce our local laws equally and without exception.

My apologies for not being able to help you with this. Please let Gina, our City clerk/treasurer, know how you'd like to proceed.

PJ Olson,
Mayor, Coffman Cove.

> On Jun 6, 2018, at 6:18 PM, Brado <ilonab76@gmail.com> wrote:
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> Dear Mr. Olson,

> My name is Keith Brady. My wife, Carla, and I own the manufactured home on the beach side-111 NE Loggers Lane. A couple of days ago I got a call from the lady at city hall telling us that we had a substantial water overage this month. I asked how much, and she said 68,000 gallons! After I picked myself up off the floor, I asked what that was going to cost and she said around \$850.00! We haven't been in Coffman for over a year as we are in WA for medical. In fact, the water has been turned off for all winter. We recently had it turned back on so the caretaker could clean. Apparently a toilet was running. We pay for sewer and water every month, even though the place has been vacant. We are asking you, as mayor, if there is anyway we can waive this fee. I know of places that allow that as a one time deal, saying that the water does go into the ground and comes back down as rain. We sincerely hope that you can help us out on this ordeal. Thank you in advance.

> Keith and Carla Brady

To the city council of Coffman Cove: We are writing you about our water overage for May. We have written 2 emails to the mayor, which we will attach, and he suggested we take it up with you. These 2 emails go into greater detail, but basically our water was over 68,816 gallons! We are requesting this fee to be waived, or partially waived. The water was turned off all winter. We had it turned back on in May so the caretaker could clean. It seems one of the toilets was running. We pay \$85.00 a month for sewer and water even though there is no one there most of the time due to being out of state for medical. You can imagine our shock when we were told our bill this month for water is \$848.00! When we lived in Craig there was a malfunction similar to this, and they waived the overage. Same thing in another community that we know of. It does come down as rain (lots of rain) go back up into the atmosphere, and come down again. If you can't see a way to do this, we are suggesting that there is some type of clause added so that this hardship doesn't happen to some other resident. We could understand if it was habitual, or being abused, but this was simply unforeseen, unintentional, and accidental.

Thank you,



Keith & Carla Brady

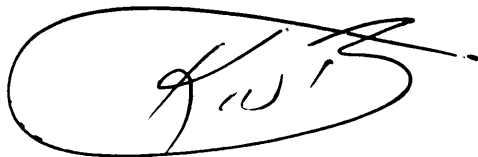
Keith Brady here

I would like to add that in the Mayors own words that there were a few instances that were similar to ours, And similar is not meaning the exact same set of circumstances, and So that does not even sound like a rampant problem. I am a person who had to give up his livelihood because of health, and so one finances change. I say this not just to whine about myself but Im sure others end up with this kind of situation especially elders. And it is a heavy financial hardship put on them. So even if you dont see merit in assisting us please think about the future how about the scenario a person catches cancer goes down below no ins, fighting for there health trying to pay for meds Doctors planes travel food etc. Only to come home to his little community with a broken water line and a years worth of water bill, And his fellow neighbors say sorry thats the law. And with that financial hardship, burden, do they say they cant pay. so what then put lean on there property turn water off. I guess that person could go down to the dock and get water out of some of the hoses that dont get turned off. I really think there has to be some considerations for the community who might have a mechanical failure beyond there control that is gonna cause them financial hardship beyond reason, and really does not put the city in trouble for water. For and example I name one community that water is much more precious than in Coffman there and if you have a failure and can show the failure ,or prove you were gone they will give you a one time exemption for that year. And not nessimarily wiping the whole bill out, but looking at it and making it more reasonable than if nothing failed. Anyway I will try and be on the phone and remember we are a small community who knows who could be the next unfortunate one

Thank You

Keith

PS Im not much on computer so hope you can make sense of this

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Brady', enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.