



Item: Set Public Hearing for Resolution 9765 to Levy and Assess Properties for Unpaid Utility Services

From: Martha Capps, Operations Supervisor

Initiated By: Fiscal Services/Delinquent Utility Accounts

Presented By: Coleen Balzarini, Fiscal Services Director

Action Requested: Set Public Hearing

*****REVISED*****

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission set the public hearing for Resolution 9765 for September 2, 2008”

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, inquiries from the public, and calls for the vote.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the City Commission set a public hearing date for Resolution 9765, to levy and assess charges of unpaid utility services against the properties listed in Exhibit A.

Background: Sections 7-12-4611 and 4612, Section 7-13-128, Section 7-13-4309, M.C.A., and City of Great Falls Municipal Codes 8.32.332 and 13.26.060 authorize the City Commission to assess lienable charges against a property to which utility services were furnished and for which payment is delinquent. Properties in the City of Great Falls which had utility services provided to them prior to June 30, 2008, but remain unpaid, are subject to the City’s right to tax the property for the amount owed. The Fiscal Services Department reviews the accounts annually and notifies property owners of the delinquent charges and the right to tax the property. The legal owners of the properties were last notified in a letter dated July 3, 2008 that unless these charges were paid within 30 days, they would be levied as a tax against the lot or parcel. These properties also receive the normal monthly billing statements. A final letter stating the date and time of the Public Hearing will be sent to the Owners of the property remaining unpaid on August 20, 2008. This tax will appear on the property tax bill received from Cascade County.

Concurrences: Public Works is responsible for the operation of the Utility System. Fiscal Services Staff are responsible for billing and collecting the revenues necessary to carry out the operations. Payments made prior to the public hearing date will be applied accordingly to avoid the assessment on the taxes.

Fiscal Impact: Adoption of Resolution 9765 will allow the City to collect delinquent utility service charges in the amount of ~~\$14,917.08~~ **\$13,225.69**.

Alternatives: The City Commission could choose to not set the public hearing and thereby deny adoption of Resolution 9765 to Levy and Assess Properties; however, the reduction in funds could effect the utility service operations and therefore, have an adverse affect on the public.

Attachments/Exhibits: Resolution 9765, To Levy and Assess Properties for Unpaid Utility Services, and Notice of Public Hearing for publication.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 2nd day of September, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., the City Commission will hold a public hearing in the Commission Chambers of the Civic Center for Resolution 9765, To Levy and Assess Properties For Unpaid Utility Services on various properties in the total amount of ~~\$14,946.76~~ \$13,225.69.

Any person interested or affected by the proposed charge may file a written protest or objections, containing the description of the property and the grounds for such protest or objections, with the Clerk's office, Civic Center, Room 202 prior to the time set for the hearing. Any questions may be directed to Martha Capps, Operations Supervisor, Fiscal Services, City of Great Falls at 406-455-8484 or at the Civic Center, Room 104.

BY ORDER OF THE CITY
COMMISSION
Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

OFFICE USE ONLY
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