

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

Agenda #6 Proposed revised Water Ordinance providing In City Council April 3 197 8
for a change in the present water rate.

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT
Mr. Crane				
Mr. Duehay				
Mr. Frisoli				
Ms. Graham				
Ms. Preusser				
Mr. Sullivan				
Mr. Vellucci				
Mr. Wylie				
Mayor Danehy				



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 876-6800

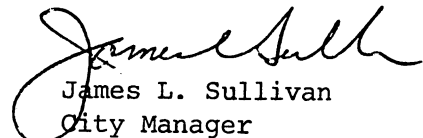
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

May 23, 1977

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I transmit herewith self-explanatory communication from Conrad C. Fagone, Commissioner of Public Works, with a proposed revised Water Ordinance providing for a change in the present water rate. Mr. Fagone also recommends an increase in the Water Budget of \$700,000.00 which will be offset by the increase in the Water Rate, to provide for capital improvements in the Water Department.

Very truly yours,


James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/b



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To James L. Sullivan
City Manager

Date May 20, 1977

From Conrad C. Fagone
Commissioner, Public Works

CCF

Reference

Subject Revised Water Ordinance

I transmit herewith a revised Water Ordinance to change the present water rate to one that is set at the time of budget passing. The present Water Budget approved by the Finance Committee allows for a Capital Improvement program of \$255,000.00. This budget is deficient by \$400,000.00 in the Capital Improvement program for construction of new facilities. It is also deficient in the sum of \$300,000.00 for ongoing maintenance type projects such as replacement of existing equipment, repairs to the filter plant, and maintenance of the existing facilities which are not capital improvements.

It is my recommendation and that of the Water Board that this budget be increased by \$700,000.00 to render the Water Department operation as best can be maintained. This \$700,000.00 is approximately \$.10 water rate increase above the present rate.



City of Cambridge

In the Year One Thousand, Nine Hundred Seventy-Seven

Revised DRAFT

AN ORDINANCE

In amendment to an ordinance formerly entitled: "The General Ordinances of the City of Cambridge" as revised in 1972 and now designated as "The Code of the City of Cambridge".

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Cambridge as follows:

Chapter 19, entitled: "Water" is hereby amended by striking out that portion of Section 21 entitled: "Rates" and substituting in place thereof a new portion entitled: "Rates" which will read as follows:-

Section 19-21. Rates.

There be and hereby is established an annual charge for the use of water furnished by the City of Cambridge Water Department to estates within the City.

(a) The rate for metered water shall be Forty-Six (\$.46) cents per hundred cubic feet. In no case, however, shall the minimum charge for metered water be less than Ten (\$10.00) Dollars, payable semi-annually (at six month intervals.) All water passing through a meter, whether used or wasted, will be subject to charge.

(b) For the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 1977, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the City Manager shall recommend as a part of the annual budget submitted to the City Council, a just and equitable water use charge based on metered water consumption and/or other applicable standards for computation of water consumption as set forth herein. Said charge shall take into account all appropriate water related estimated revenues and available revenue surpluses, and shall produce sufficient revenue to equal or exceed the annual appropriations proposed for water department operation, maintenance and debt service. The City Council shall adopt the annual water use charge in conjunction with its adoption of the annual budget. In so doing, the City Council may increase or decrease the City Manager's recommended water use charge in proportion to any increase or decrease it may adopt in the City Manager's recommended appropriations for water department operation, maintenance and debt service.

(c) The quantity of water supplied by the City through a water meter in good working order shall be determined by the reading of such meter. If a meter malfunctions and fails to register, the consumer shall be charged at the average daily consumption as shown by the meter when in order.

City of Cambridge

(d) The charges established by this ordinance shall be due and payable by the owner of record at such time or times and in such installments if any, as the Chief Superintendent from time to time determines, and if the same be not paid within thirty days after billing, the Chief Superintendent may shut off the supply, after sending a special notice that the water will be shut off for non-payment, and shall not again be let on for the same occupant or owner, except upon the payment of the whole amount due, together with costs as determined by the Board. Said Superintendent shall, in his order of assessment, designate as the owner of a parcel assessed, the person who was liable to assessment therefore on the preceding January first.

(e) A monthly interest charge of one and one-half (1.5%) percent shall be assessed on the balance of any water bill remaining unpaid after thirty days from the date of billing.

(f) When water is required for purposes which are not specified in the foregoing tariff, the rates shall be fixed by the Chief Superintendent.

(g) The Board shall have the power to prevent the erection of yard hydrants, and water shall not be supplied to any water closets unless such water closets are constructed to conform to the plumbing ordinance.

(h) This ordinance is effective upon date of passage.

City of Cambridge

In City Council June 20, 1977

The Ordinance Committee

comprised of the entire membership of the City Council to which was referred a communication from James L. Sullivan, City Manager, transmitting one from Conrad C. Fagone, Commissioner of Public Works, with a request for a revised ordinance providing for an increase in the present water rate from \$.36 per hundred cubic feet to \$.46 per hundred cubic feet in order to provide additional funds in the Water Department budget in the amount of \$700,000.00.

The City Council heard from Conrad Fagone, Commissioner of Public Works, who stated that the Capital Improvement Program budget was deficient \$400,000.00 for the construction of new facilities and an additional sum of \$300,000.00 was required for on going maintenance type projects such as replacement of existing equipment, replacement of filters and maintenance of the existing facilities.

The Committee heard from Richard Rossi who stated that a period of six months was required to get going on the repairs and that the revenue to furnish the project will not be available until the spring.

City Manager, James L. Sullivan, stated that the rates were not adequate to provide for the relinching of pipes and replacement of old equipment in the Water Department facilities. The City Manager further stated that the City of Cambridge has the lowest water rates around the area at the present charge of \$.36 per hundred cubic feet as contrasted with \$.48 per hundred cubic feet of Somerville, \$.65 per hundred cubic feet of Arlington, \$.48 per hundred cubic feet of Belmont and Boston at \$.76 per hundred cubic feet.

Mr. Rossi of the Water Department stated that replacement of valves and equipment in the Water Department Distribution System had reached a critical stage and required replacement as soon as possible.

Councillor Clem stressed the necessity of documentation and communication to the citizens of Cambridge relative to the replacement of water meters for accurate readings, relinching of the pipes in order to ensure a pure flow of water and the replacement of faulty valves and controls which are not functioning correctly. Councillor Clem further stated that the City Manager should educate the public by press releases in order that they may better understand the need for the rate increase.

After the hearing held on Thursday, June 9, 1977 the Committee reported that the proposed rate increase be referred to the City Council for their meeting of June 13, 1977.

For the Committee,

David Clem

Councillor David Clem,
Chairman.



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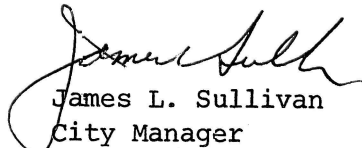
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

April 3, 1978

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I am transmitting herewith communication submitted to your Honorable Body previously in regard to a proposed revised Water Ordinance which would provide for a change in the present water rate. This material is being resubmitted to you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,


James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/b

0-15

Resubmission of the proposed revised Water Ordinance providing for a change in the present water rate.

*4/10/78 for Hearing
on Water Rate File
April 24 at 109*

In City Council,
April 3, 1978

*4/3/78
Passed to 2nd
Reading -
Resubmitted 4/17/78
Chronicle -
Ready for ordination
4/24/78*