From:	Bryan von Lossberg
To:	Scott Billadeau
Cc:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject:	Re: Downtown Property Owner
Date:	Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:15:01 PM

Hello Mr. Billadeau,

Thank you for the message. One good resource for the wastewater rate structure change is here: https://www.engagemissoula.com/proposed-wastewater-rate-structure-2020

I'd like to take the opportunity to clear up any misinformation that is circulating about Missoula Water and its revenues. As with the City's other utilities (wastewater and stormwater for example), Missoula Water is an enterprise fund within the City's financial structure, and its operating revenues are linked to the commodity and associated services the utility supplies - not property taxes and the general fund. Missoula Water does not provide any sort of windfall to the City's general fund. It is structurally and legally unable to do so.

I appreciate your points about increasing rates and taxes - though it is worth mentioning that Missoula's sewer rates are among the lowest in the state, and water rates have not been raised during City ownership. Water rates are actually lower that when the condemnation proceedings began due to a rate decrease that the PSC imposed on Mountain Water associated with their non-PSC approved sale during the condemnation to a Canadian corporation. The City has maintained operations under that decreased rate structure.

Regards,
Bryan

Bryan von Lossberg
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City Council President
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> On Jul 13, 2020, at 3:45 PM, Scott Billadeau <scott@liquidplanet.com> wrote:
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> To whom it may concern -
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> While it appears that the gist of the adjustment to the sewer rate structure is to combine it with the water bill -- I hope that there will be discussion about the rate itself. The word around town is that the Missoula Water Company is a financial boon for the City of Missoula, and essentially a huge annual windfall; adding many millions to the coffers each year now going forward. Yet we building owners are only seeing fees increase, property taxes increase, water bills increase, and sewer bills increase. We just received a $2,111.97 sewer bill for our Liquid Planet Grounds building at 223 N. Higgins, and that's after paying $5,600 to the city to have a larger water line during our remodel phase. **At some point enough is enough.**

Sincerely and respectfully,

Scott Billadeau