

**MINUTES
FEBRUARY 11, 2014
1:00PM**

**CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
WATER BACKFLOW CROSS-CONNECTION DEVICES**

CALL TO ORDER: 1:01PM
ROLL CALL : Keller, Benson, Aiello, Robustellini and Hammond
OTHERS: Staff C. Tyhurst, D. Kincade, and J. Sprague

PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

WORKSHOP AGENDA:

1. Discussion pertaining to enforcement of the Montague Municipal Code 13.08 relative to water backflow cross-connection devices.

Tyhurst stated that the State of California has made some changes regarding safe drinking water and the enforcement of backflow cross-connection regulations. The State Dept. of Public Health used to oversee but did not enforce the regulation for the backflow cross-connections because there were so few. Since the new changes went into effect, the State Water Resources Division has taken over and is more restrictive about how they enforce regulations. The State is going to enforce the regulations and inspect annually to make sure compliance is being maintained. The State has noticed the city to comply by June 30, 2014, or fines may be imposed.

Tyhurst went on to explain that the city's Municipal Code has required water backflow and cross-connection devices. Now that we are required to comply with the state regulations, we must send out a letter to the public.

Phil asks, "How do they (the State) know if you need one?"

Tyhurst responded, we have a list of those with wells and if you have a well and are on city water you need to do it. The state regulations say you have to have it.

Tyhurst said the approximate cost to purchase the valve is about \$133, plus the cost for the plumber to install it. The valve needs to be installed between the house and the meter. The approximate cost to test an existing valve is about \$55 and if it is faulty the valve will need to be repaired or replaced. All costs will be the responsibility of the property owner/renter. The annual inspection cost of \$55 can be paid by the city and passed onto the property owner/renter either on their water bill or invoiced separately. The city will need to monitor and track the annual inspections, therefore it will be easier for the city to pay the inspector and recoup the expense from the property owner/renter. The municipal code states that if they fail to pay the annual inspection test cost the city can shut off their water.

Tyhurst's thought was to send out two separate letters; one to those who have a well and city water with a backflow device in place. Another to those who have a well and city water, but do not have a backflow device. He added, that way everyone will be aware of the requirement and that the backflow device needs to be installed even if both the well and city service plumbing systems are separate, but they service the same parcel.

Keller agreed with Tyhurst's thought to send out two letters. Benson wants to send only the letter to the ones with wells at this time and get the valves installed where needed and inspected so we can be valid with the state by the deadline.

Also discussed were: How to bill the annual inspection fee, how to provide a three month deadline to get the devices installed, how to inspect and test the existing one, how to monitor annually going forward, and to make available copies of the municipal code ordinance 13.08 at the counter.

ADJOURN: 2:00PM

ATTEST:

CITY OF MONTAGUE:

Janie Sprague, City Clerk

Jayne Keller, Mayor