

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Item 6

VOTE SHEET

May 5, 2020

FILED 5/5/2020
DOCUMENT NO. 02411-2020
FPSC - COMMISSION CLERK

Docket No. 20190080-WS – Application for limited proceeding rate increase in Brevard County, by Aquarina Utilities, Inc.

Issue 1: Should the Commission approve Aquarina’s request for a limited proceeding?

Recommendation: Yes. The Commission should approve the Utility’s request for a limited proceeding rate increase as modified by staff. Aquarina should be allowed an annual increase of \$2,560 or 1.54 percent, for potable water, resulting in an adjusted revenue requirement of \$168,365. Regarding non-potable water, the Utility should be allowed an annual increase of \$2,108, or 0.85 percent, resulting in an adjusted revenue requirement of \$248,891. For wastewater, the Utility should be allowed an annual increase of \$1,387, or 0.77 percent, resulting in an adjusted revenue requirement of \$182,016. The adjusted revenue requirements are reflected on Schedule Nos. 3-A, 3-B, and 3-C of staff’s memorandum dated April 23, 2020.

APPROVED

COMMISSIONERS ASSIGNED: All Commissioners

COMMISSIONERS’ SIGNATURES

MAJORITY

Julie P...

DISSENTING

[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
Donald J. Polmann

REMARKS/DISSENTING COMMENTS:

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Issue 2: What are the appropriate water and wastewater rates?

Recommendation: The appropriate rates for Aquarina are shown on Schedule Nos. 4-A and 4-B of staff's memorandum dated April 23, 2020. The Utility should file revised tariff sheets and a proposed customer notice to reflect the Commission-approved rates. The approved rates should be effective for service rendered on or after the stamped approval date on the tariff sheets pursuant to Rule 25-30.475(1), F.A.C. In addition, the approved rates should not be implemented until staff has approved the proposed customer notice and the notice has been received by the customers. The Utility should provide proof of the date notice was given within 10 days of the date of the notice.

APPROVED

Issue 3: What are the appropriate initial customer deposits for Aquarina's water and wastewater service?

Recommendation: The appropriate initial customer deposits for the residential 5/8 inch x 3/4 inch meter should be \$82 for water and \$87 for wastewater. The initial customer deposits for all other residential meter sizes and all general service meter sizes should be two times the average estimated bill for water and wastewater. The approved initial customer deposits should be effective for services rendered or connections made on or after the stamped approval date on the tariff sheets pursuant to Rule 25-30.475, F.A.C. The Utility should be required to collect the approved deposits until authorized to change them by the Commission in a subsequent proceeding.

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Issue 4: What is the appropriate amount by which rates should be reduced to reflect the removal of the amortized rate case expense?

Recommendation: The water rates should be reduced, as shown on Schedule Nos. 4-A and 4-B of staff’s memorandum dated April 23, 2020, to remove the annual amortization of rate case expense grossed-up for RAFs. The decrease in rates should become effective immediately following the expiration of the rate case expense recovery period. Aquarina should be required to file revised tariffs and a proposed customer notice setting forth the lower rates and the reason for the reduction no later than one month prior to the actual date of the required rate reduction. If the Utility files this reduction in conjunction with a price index or pass-through rate adjustment, separate data should be filed for the price index and/or pass-through increase or decrease and the reduction in the rates due to the amortized rate case expense. (Procedural Agency Action)

APPROVED

Issue 5: Should the recommended rates be approved for Aquarina on a temporary basis, subject to refund, in the event of a protest filed by a substantially affected person or party?

Recommendation: Yes. The recommended rates should be approved for the Utility on a temporary basis, subject to refund, in the event of a protest filed by a substantially affected person or party. Aquarina should file revised tariff sheets and a proposed customer notice to reflect the Commission-approved rates. The approved rates should be effective for service rendered on or after the stamped approval date on the tariff sheet, pursuant to Rule 25-30.475(1), F.A.C. In addition, the temporary rates should not be implemented until staff has approved the proposed notice, and the notice has been received by the customers. Prior to implementation of any temporary rates, the Utility should provide appropriate security. If the recommended rates are approved on a temporary basis, the rates collected by Aquarina should be subject to the refund provisions discussed in the staff analysis portion of staff’s memorandum dated April 23, 2020. In addition, after the increased rates are in effect, pursuant to Rule 25-30.360(6), F.A.C., the Utility should file reports with the Commission Clerk’s office no later than the 20th of every month indicating the monthly and total amount of money subject to refund at the end of the preceding month. The report filed should also indicate the status of the security being used to guarantee repayment of any potential refund. (Procedural Agency Action)

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Issue 6: Should this docket be closed?

Recommendation: If no person whose substantial interests are affected by the proposed agency action files a protest within 21 days of the issuance of the order, a consummating order should be issued. The docket should remain open for staff's verification that the revised tariff sheets and customer notice have been filed by the Utility and approved by staff. Once these actions are complete, this docket should be closed administratively.

APPROVED