

..Number

1116

..Version

Substitute 1

..Reference

..Sponsor

MEMBER SYNOWICZ

..Title

Substitute resolution urging the Common Council to oppose any rate increase by Water Works that is not used for water production or distribution as well as the transfer of rate-based revenue from Water Works to the City's general fund.

..Analysis

This resolution urges the Common Council to oppose any rate increase by Water Works that is not used for water production or distribution. This resolution also opposes the transfer of rate-based revenue from Water Works to the City's general fund.

..Body

Whereas, On March 21, 2013, the Common Council adopted File Number 121524, a resolution authorizing an application for a rate increase by the Milwaukee Water Works; and

Whereas, This resolution would permit the Water Works to seek state approval to raise water rates up to 3%; and

Whereas, A 3% increase to the water rate would cost the average Milwaukee family \$6.68 annually; and,

Whereas, The City will take generate more than \$12.1 million in water rate revenue this year which will be deposited into the City's general fund; and

Whereas, The Wisconsin Public Service commission has found that the cash transfers are taking up "a substantial portion" of the Water Works' rate-based revenue; and

Whereas, The Public Service commission found in 2011 that "a large portion of a customer's water bill is actually being paid to support local government operations rather than water production and distribution"; and,

Whereas, Since 2010, more than \$33 million has been transferred from the Water Works ' revenues to the City's general fund; and

Whereas, Since 2010, the Water Works has repaired just 5.2 miles of water mains of the 10 miles-per-year goal set by the City; and

Whereas, The Youth Council believes that the increase in the water rate is essentially a tax increase to cover the costs of increased government spending in the City; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Youth Council of the City of Milwaukee urges the Common Council to oppose any rate increase by Water Works that is not used for water production or distribution; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the Youth Council further urges the Common Council to oppose the transfer of rate-based revenue from Water Works to the City's general fund; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the City Clerk shall send a copy of this resolution to each member of the Common Council.

..Requestor

..Drafter

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RTW

4/5/13