Memorandum

To: Councilmembers and Media
From: Mayor Emily S. Niehaus
Date: 10/6/2021
Re: Special City Council Meeting

The City of Moab will hold a Special Moab City Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 12:00 noon at City Hall Council Chambers, 217 E. Center St., Moab, Utah. The purpose of this meeting will be:

1. Sewer Rate Study Presentation

One or more Council members may be participating remotely.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations during this meeting should notify the Recorder’s Office at 217 East Center Street, Moab, Utah 84532; or phone (435) 259-5121 at least three (3) working days prior to the meeting.
Moab City Council Agenda Item  
Meeting Date: October 12, 2021

Title: Sanitary Sewer Rate Study Presentation and Workshop  
Disposition: Discussion Only  
Staff Presenter: Ben Billingsley, Finance Director  
Chuck Williams, City Engineer  
Obe Tejada, Wastewater Manager  
Attachment(s): N/A  
Recommended Motion: N/A  
Background/Summary:

The City Council adopted a first time ever Sanitary Sewer Master Plan on Jan. 8th, 2018. The Master Plan included identification of Capital and Maintenance needs for the City’s sanitary sewer system, projected revenue needs including City monthly sewer rates and impact fees for all users of the system. The revenues versus costs were designed to balance over 10-years based on population growth forecasts, zoning, and projected revenues. However, things have changed since the Plan was adopted, including:

1. the overnight accommodation moratorium in 2019 which reduced projected revenues;
2. growth has occurred at a lower rate than projected; and
3. inflation was higher than expected.

All of this has resulted in insufficient funds being generated in the Sanitary Sewer enterprise fund to meet system needs.

The City has contracted with Bowen Collins & Associates and Zions Public Finance to conduct a sewer rate study that will allow the City to meet its financial obligations in the future. At the workshop we will provide an overview of the sanitary sewer problems the City faces, details on how the 2018 financial forecast was not achieved and review of alternative sewer rate structures to allow the City to maintain our sanitary sewer financial obligations and address the myriad problems our aged system faces.