

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
CHRISTI WATER SYSTEM, INC. FOR AN
INCREASE IN RATES AND CHARGES.

CASE NO. 20-1428-WW-AIR

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on June 22, 2021

{¶ 1} Christi Water System, Inc. (Christi or Applicant) is a waterworks company as defined by R.C. 4905.03(G) and a public utility as defined by R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission pursuant to R.C. 4905.04, 4905.05, and 4905.06.

{¶ 2} An application for an increase in rates is governed by, and must meet, the requirements of R.C. 4909.17, 4909.18, 4909.19, and 4909.42.

{¶ 3} On August 24, 2020, and amended on September 24, 2020, Applicant filed an abbreviated application to increase its rates for water service, pursuant to R.C. 4909.18.

{¶ 4} On September 24, 2020, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) filed a motion to intervene in this case. No memoranda contra were filed. By Entry issued on November 4, 2020, the Commission granted OCC's motion to intervene in this case.

{¶ 5} On October 1, 2020, Staff filed a review and recommendation in which Staff concluded that Applicant's abbreviated application substantively conforms to the Standard Filing Requirements for Rate Increases (SFR) as described in Ohio Adm.Code 4901-7-01.

{¶ 6} On November 4, 2020, the Commission determined (1) that the application was accepted as of the amended filing date of September 24, 2020, (2) that the application conforms to the SFR, (3) that the test period for the application is July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, (4) that the date certain for the application is December 31, 2019, and (5) that Applicant's requested waiver of R.C. 4909.18(A) through (E) is reasonable and should be granted.

{¶ 7} Pursuant to R.C. 4909.19, Staff conducted an investigation of the facts, exhibits,

and matters relating to Christi's application and filed its report (Staff Report) on April 7, 2021.

{¶ 8} By Entry Issued April 15, 2021, the attorney examiner established a procedural schedule which, among other things, set a prehearing conference for June 14, 2021, and an evidentiary hearing for July 6, 2021.

{¶ 9} On May 7, 2021, Terry Beilharz, President of Christi, filed an objection to the Staff Report on behalf of the Applicant. Mr. Beilharz specifically objected to Staff's proposal on Page 12, Tables 2 and 3, which proposed a rate of 0-50 cf/month at \$34.34. No other parties filed objections to the Staff Report.

{¶ 10} On June 14, 2021, the prehearing conference was held as scheduled. During the prehearing conference, the parties discussed the procedural posture of this case and advised the attorney examiner that they were engaged in settlement discussions.

{¶ 11} On June 21, 2021, Christi filed a letter indicating that it is withdrawing the objection it filed on May 7, 2021, and that it desires to proceed with the recommendations offered within the Staff Report.

{¶ 12} Since no objections to the Staff Report are currently outstanding and no motion for a hearing has been filed by Christi or OCC, in accordance with Chapter IV, Section (A)(1)-(2) of the SFR regarding abbreviated application filings, the attorney examiner finds that an evidentiary hearing is no longer necessary for the Commission to reach a decision in this matter. Consequently, the evidentiary hearing scheduled to commence on July 6, 2021, is cancelled. The Commission will take this case under consideration and issue its decision as soon as practicable. Furthermore, a subsequent entry will address the scheduling of the local public hearing and publication of notice of the hearing.

{¶ 13} It is, therefore,

{¶ 14} ORDERED, That the evidentiary hearing scheduled to commence on July 6, 2021, be cancelled, in accordance with Paragraph 12. It is, further,

{¶ 15} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Matthew J. Sandor

By: Matthew J. Sandor
Attorney Examiner

GAP/kck

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Case No(s). 20-1428-WW-AIR

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordering that the evidentiary hearing scheduled to commence on July 6, 2021, be cancelled, in accordance with Paragraph 12. electronically filed by Kelli C. King on behalf of Matthew Sandor, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio