

State of Florida



Public Service Commission

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: December 2, 2022

TO: Adam J. Teitzman, Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk

FROM: Emily Knoblauch, Engineering Specialist III, Division of Engineering *EK LK*

RE: Docket No. 20210098-WU - Application for staff-assisted rate case in Pasco County by A Utility Inc.

Please place the attached letter from customer, Al Hashemi, on the correspondence side for Docket No. 20210098-WU.

EK/jp

Attachment



Docket Number 20210098-WU

Response of a Customer to A Utilities Inc. Rate Increase

Florida Public Service Commission
Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850
Email: clerk@psc.state.fl.us

November 30, 2022
Ref: AI-FPSC-2022-418

To the Honorable Commissioners,

I am a resident of Tropical Park, where A Utilities, Inc. (Referred hereinafter as AUI) is providing the water distribution. I have reviewed 4 Documents: the Staff Report 10823-2022; Original Request of AUI 04075-2021; Response to Staff's Information Request 00041-2022 (only the first 373 pages); and AUI response to Staff's Report 11370-2022 making additional claims and requests which are simply unrelated in my point of view to water distribution system. As a person with 48 years of experience in managing businesses. I would not consider running a business with \$20,000+/- revenue be a credible work if not run by the proprietor himself. Based on invoices and associate water system costs this is a profitable operation without any increase in the rate, now maybe additional discretionary income would be necessary for AUI. Does the owner of the AUI has other businesses? It probably seems to be the case. When such consolidated operation is reported then maybe it becomes justifiable and the requested items by AUI could be shared among the consolidated business.

Now referring to the Staff's Report 10823-2022, staff is trying to accommodate some of AUI's requests which I believe is excessive. As I have reviewed the documents provided by AUI, I am, in all honesty, unable to even consider them as questions arise regarding AUI's unrelated charges including those filed on November 16 including but not limited to the 10% interest (7% above prime rate at the time) on 100% private financing in a non-arm's length transaction (in fact all purchase and financing is non-arm's length) as all transactions are with related families and his own companies therefore, nothing but transient profit. The actual value of what was purchased in 2017 which seems partially irrelevant to the water distribution system and its valuation. Therefore, this response refers to Staff Report 10823-2022, as I strongly believe the staff's 40.96% Increase is simply excessive and should be reduced to the maximum of inflation for the periods of 2021 and 2022. Please allow me to file a single combined table with explanation of why the rate increase in-line with inflation is more reasonable than the staff's suggested 40.96% increase. The said combined table will take a few extra days for me to prepare with each item well explained.



Executive Summary

The honorable Commission Members, I am 70+ and I want to make sure the commission understands I am looking for fairness. Imagine the chain reaction of increasing the cost beyond the nominal inflation then inflation increase by many folds and carries itself up and down the supply chain. Inflation is an evil which should not be helped and should be crushed, the ugly greed loves inflation so it can use it as an excuse for multi fold increase in profiteering, I believe staff are highly qualified and they are up to this challenge.

My mobile home is my residence and on a limited budget. Probably half the park is like me, the other half snow birdies. I don't think there are any wealthy people living here.

A small operation like this one wouldn't need a CPA or an accountant spending 20% of revenue on accounting reports. A maximum of 100 transactions per year doesn't require a CPA. A single bank account that all income or expense transactions are made and a yearly spreadsheet of these transactions should be sufficient for preparing financial statements and the Staff's professional valuation of such spreadsheet would suffice in my opinion. If need be I would assist AUI free of charge to set this spreadsheet up and how easy he can prepare all his financial statements.

An increase beyond the applicable inflation is disparaging and only a discretionary income for the applicant, Chart 1 and Table 1 show the inflation over the last two years.

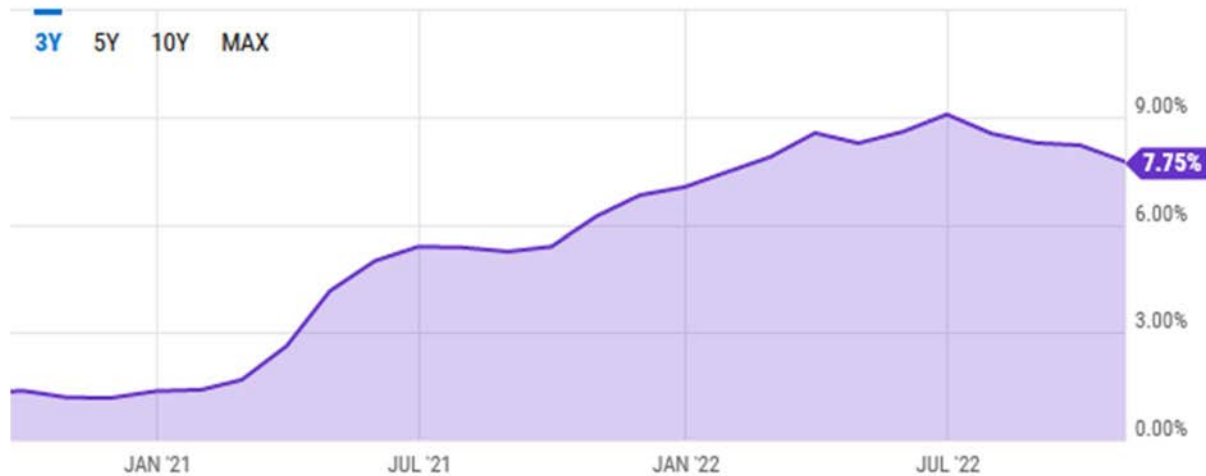


Chart 1: Monthly depiction of Inflation rate over the 2021 and first 10 months of 2022



Table 1. Fair and Reasonable Increased Rate for 2023

Year	Actual Monthly Water Rate	Average Inflation Rate	Calculated Inflation to Reach 2023 Rates	Calculated Monthly Water Rate For 2023
2020	\$14.66			
2021	\$14.79	4.69%	\$0.69	
2022	\$15.26	8.25%	\$1.27	
2023				\$16.61

Note: Inflation rates based on average of 12 months for 2021 and 10 months for 2022

The matter of lack of filtering at the plant level is pronounced in the Picture 1. Which shows one week of filtering at home for about 4.5 Gallons.



Picture 1. A Week of Residue in Water Filter



Al Hashemi

37427 Ray Dr., Zephyrhills, FL 33541 T:(803)310-3337 F:(505)213-9020 hashemi.al@gmail.com

I have spoken with AUI owner and he is a nice person, but my depiction of this particular business activity and the calculated rate of \$16.61 a month (Please See Table 1) is credible and sufficient together with the accumulated depreciation (which seems totally disregarded) to profitably run this business.

I hope the commission will consider all relevant factors which directly relate to the distribution system, not the disparaging charges I have observed in AUI's data and to a significantly lesser degree in Staff's Report.

I thank you for your consideration.

I remain yours with my prayers for a very Happy Holidays and a very Merry Christmas to everyone.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Al Hashemi', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Al Hashemi

37427 Ray Dr.
Zephyrhills, FL 33541
Hashemi.al@gmail.com
(919) 633-6337