

RESOLUTION NO. 09-15

INTRODUCED BY:

*L. M. Hyls*

DATE:

*Sept. 21, 2009*

**RESOLUTION OBJECTING TO AND OPPOSING THE PROPOSED WATER RATE INCREASE FILED BY OHIO AMERICAN WATER COMPANY WITH THE OHIO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.**

WHEREAS, a certain residents of the City of Tiffin, Ohio (the "City") receive water service from Ohio American Water Company ("OAW"); and

WHEREAS, in June of 2009, OAW filed a request with the Ohio Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO") to substantially increase rates for all of its residential customers in Ohio, including numerous residents of the City, over a four year period as follows: 25.05% increase in April 2010; 23.34% increase in April of 2011; 6.86% in April of 2012; and 5.73% increase in 2013, resulting in a total increase of approximately 60%; and

WHEREAS, the request by OAW is their third rate increase request in three years and, if granted, will result in an approximate increase of 240% in water rates since 1999 to City residents; and

WHEREAS, the PUCO mission is to "assure all residential and business consumers access to adequate, safe and reliable utility services at fair prices, while facilitating an environment that provides competitive choices;" and

WHEREAS, City residents receiving OAW water service already pay a substantially higher and unfair rate for such service when compared with residents of surrounding jurisdictions that receive such service from other utility providers; and

WHEREAS, due to the current difficult economic times and previous rate increases granted to OAW, the City Council of the City of Tiffin believes a rate increase of 60% for water service is unjustified and will result in many City residents not being able to afford water services; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes it is in the best interests of the City and its residents to oppose the proposed OAW water rate increase filed with PUCO and to further urge the Commissioners of the PUCO to reject OAW's proposed rate increase.

**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TIFFIN, OHIO THEREFORE RESOLVES:**

**Section 1:** The Tiffin City Council hereby objects to and opposes the proposed OAW water rate increase as filed with the PUCO in June of 2009. The Council believes that OAW's requested increase is unfair, excessive and incapable of justification. The Council further agrees to support, assist and work with other governmental

jurisdictions affected by the proposed OAW water rate increase in opposing the increase.

**Section 2:** The Tiffin City Council authorizes and appoints each of the following persons to appear and speak on behalf of the Board at any meeting and/or hearing to be held by the PUCO in its review of OAW's water rate increase proposal: each member of City Council, the City's Mayor, Director of Finance and Director of Law.

**Section 3:** The Tiffin City Council encourages all City residents to contact the PUCO, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, and their state legislators through letter and phone calls voicing their opinion on OAW's proposed water rate increases.

**Section 4:** All formal actions of Tiffin City Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution, were adopted in an open meeting of the Council and all deliberations of Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Authenticated:

Paul L. Debert Jr. and Ruth Kin  
President of Council Clerk of Council

Sept 21 2009  
Date

Sept. 21, 2009  
Date

Approved by:

[Signature] 9-21-09  
Mayor Date

Effective date: 9-21-09