

Kristin Banfield

From: Peter Forbes <prforbes60@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 2, 2018 10:35 AM
To: Kristin Banfield
Cc: prforbes60@gmail.com
Subject: [External] - Proposed Water Bill Increase to Cover EMS cost overages

Kristin,

Please accept my comment as opposed to the proposed \$15 increase in property owners water bills. The purpose of the increase was stated as needing to cover the expanding costs of EMS services to the city. I see it as unfair to tax property owners and leave others, such as renters, who also need/use the service, not paying for a portion of those costs. Besides, I believe our water costs are already higher than some of the neighboring communities. Increasing water costs may be a challenge to those on fixed incomes as well.

To be fair and transparent, I feel the expense of EMS needs to be borne by all and not hidden in, or tacked on to, our water bill.

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment.

Peter

“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”

Arthur Ashe

Kristin Banfield

From: Joe Mansour <nawalma@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 12:41 PM
To: Kristin Banfield
Cc: Barbara Tolbert; Jsticles@arlingtonwa.gov; Josh Roundy; Debora Nelson; Sue Weiss; Marilyn Oertle; Hopson@arlingtonwa.gov; Jschette@arlingtonwa.gov; cingelson@5news.com
Subject: [External] - Ambulance utilities taxes not fees.

Dear city leaders

When will this ridiculous taxes stop, I have a house in Arlington and one in AZ. I have never seen any taxes like this in my city in AZ.

The reason folks are voting republican because when we place Democratic in power then taxes goes up. Even I am and my wife registered Democratic, I am tired of paying for the police and Ambulance on every bill. How many Ambulance taxes are you going to impose on the residence of this city. I invite the city leaders to go and park your car by the Arco gas station and see how many drug deals goes on in one hour and **no police anywhere to be found.**

We became the capital of homeless because we keep taxing the folks that work hard to give to the folks that don't. Regardless of my email I suspect you all will pass this anyway. But as I did in Mountlake Terrace city where I sold all my property, I will do the same if this pass. I will move my investment to another city that does not tax the hard working families.

Will remember these taxes next elections,

Sincerely

Joe
425-772-9424

Kristin Banfield

From: JC R <rest066c@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 9, 2018 5:04 PM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - Re: Ambulance utility fee

If you we're to get every address to pay (that would be more fair.) :)
Just cause people pay to get a service don't mean they should be the only ones to pay more.
Just a thought
Thanks

----- Original message -----
From: JC R <rest066c@outlook.com>
Date: 6/9/18 4:54 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: kbanfield@arlingtonwa.gov
Subject: Ambulance utility fee

Hello we are wondering how those people that don't have a city utility bill will help pay this monthly fee. The druggies don't have a bill they should get to help pay for their stuff. We are not ok with it - if everyone don't get dinged for it- only some people pay for? (Not quite fair- for only some to have to pay.)

Kristin Banfield

From: Lenny Jensen <LennyJensen@usa.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 9, 2018 6:43 PM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - Letter from mayor regarding her new fee

Mayor,

The letter about the ambulance utility fee I received from you infuriated me. This \$15 fee should appear on my trash bill instead of hidden in my already huge water bill because it's pure garbage. I'm a 40 year old male who've never used or even know a person personally who's needed an ambulance. Maybe instead of wasting 4 years on studies your team could have come up with a creative way to generate your own revenue. Maybe some parking tickets for the people parked illegally all over town or charge the passenger who's fault it is for need of this service, junkies homeless and uncared for elderly I'm assuming. I'm not paying anymore fees and you've lost my vote.

Lenny Jensen

Kristin Banfield

From: Tom Campbell <tcampbell611@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 9, 2018 4:33 PM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - Proposed utility increase

Dear Kristin:

I received notice of your up-coming public hearing on July 2. My schedule prevents me from attending so am submitting my comments as suggested:

I am totally opposed to any increase of the utility bill! It is too high already.

Taxes and prices are rising at a dizzying rate with no corresponding income increase for retirees. My wife and I are in our late 70's trying to make ends meet on Social Security and a small pension. Our life savings have been exhausted. The landlord here at Mobile Estates on 67th is planning to raise our lot rent by almost 25% next month. We have health issues that prevent us from working anymore.

You would have great support if you would have your financial people scrutinize the budget again looking to trim away some of the "padding" and overspending.

Try freezing salaries until pensioners get a cost of living increase that is not taken away with an increased charge for medicare.

Look for ways to cut the existing high charge for storm water runoff. Put the able-bodied homeless to workworkers are tax payers!

Please don't just raise our costs with punishing fees and rate increases because other communities around us are doing it to their residents.

Thanks for the opportunity to express my views which I hope were helpful and wont fall on deaf ears.

Sincerely,

Tom Campbell
19920 67th. AVE NE SPC 53
Arlington, WA 98223

Kristin Banfield

From: Kathy & Guy Sykes <sykes2000@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 10, 2018 8:00 AM
To: Kristin Banfield; gpsykes57
Subject: [External] - Ambulance Utility Fee and utility bill

Hello,

Yesterday I received the letter announcing the proposed \$15 increase to our utility bill for additional Arlington EMS services. I live in a new development called Gregory Park on 169th St NE, just east of Highway 9. Our address uses the Arlington Post Office and we receive water through Arlington but we are not part of the city of Arlington. We are in unincorporated Snohomish County and aside from water and sewer we do not receive services from Arlington. Our fire is Snohomish County Fire District 25 and police service is Snohomish County Sheriff, North Precinct and I have only seen the Sheriff patrolling our neighborhood. Our property taxes are also to Snohomish County, not to the City of Arlington.

While a truly noble cause, I feel that for you to add a fee to our utility to support services we do not receive would not be right. I know there will come a day when there will be a ballot measure to support a levy that will support the Fire District and that would be more appropriate use of our money for services like these. I would be glad to support the fee if you first incorporate our development into the city of Arlington.

Thank-you,

Guy Sykes

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<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

Kristin Banfield

From: John Meno <jvmeno@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 10, 2018 9:45 AM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - Ambulance Utility Fee

I realize that most feedback in issues concerning fee increases or new fees originate from those that do not support it.

With that in mind, I'm taking the time to say that I support this as a homeowner AND business owner.

You've done your research and I trust the council members.

Thank you for representing the best interests of our community and determining an effective and fair way to fund community needs.

Sincerely,
John Meno

Kristin Banfield

From: Craig Larsen <celarsen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 9:27 AM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - Utility bill tax

Arlington City Council,

I am a homeowner in the Smokey Point area. It is wrong and a disservice to the Arlington residents to attach a TAX increase to a UTILITY bill. Our Utility bill should reflect our utility usage and fees ONLY. It should not be used for special interest TAXES on projects that have nothing to do with our utilities. I urge you to reject this TAX increase as it sets a very dangerous precedent where non utility projects are being funded by our utility bills. Is this the tip of the iceberg where you start using our utility bills to fund all sorts of projects that you cannot otherwise fund without voter approval? This is a shameful way of attempting a method of taxing us without our vote or approval.

Craig E. Larsen
18605 31st Ave NE
Arlington, WA 98223
360-414-7192

Kristin Banfield

From: Edith Rose <nurseratched59@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 8:59 AM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - Proposed Ambulance Utility Fee

I am a 67 year old retiree living on a fixed income. I am trying to remain in my home here in Arlington, but I cannot afford to pay an additional \$15 per month on my water/sewer/storm water bill. The \$109.19 I already pay per month for a 1-person household is already a stretch on my budget. I am the only person living here, do not use water outside on lawn/plants, and wash one (1) load of laundry per week and run my dishwasher only one (1) time per week.

And that does not even take into consideration the outrageous property tax raise of over \$600 this year I have received. All of this is going to impact me and my health. What do I place a priority on as a senior citizen? Do I pay a \$15/month higher city bill, and an average increase of over \$50 month in my property taxes, or do I do without medication or MD visits or adequate food, or do I have to go to the expense of moving out of this town that I have grown to love? I AM WORRIED!

I also feel that based on your letter of May 25 (delivered on June 8) outlining what this "fee" will cover, the name of the fee is quite deceptive. I beg the Arlington City Council to not levy and add this fee to our monthly bill. Thank you for your consideration of the request of this 67 year old senior who is quite worried about the impact this fee would have on my physical and emotional well-being.

Sincerely,

Edith Rose
3325B 182nd St NE
Arlington, WA 98223-4747

(425) 870-8676

nurseratched59@yahoo.com

Kristin Banfield

From: Kathy & Guy Sykes <sykes2000@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 7:49 PM
To: Kristin Banfield; gpsykes57
Subject: [External] - Re: Ambulance Utility Fee and utility bill

Hi,

Evidence tonight to my email from yesterday . There was a serious structure fire on 164th Street with firearm rounds going off and trees involved about 1/4 mile from my address. I was one of the first to call 911. The response was not from Arlington. The response was Snohomish County fire and sheriff. We are not part of Arlington services beyond the water/sewer and school we already pay for. Any fee added to utility beyond that for service we do not receive would be completely inappropriate and wrong.

Please bring this up at the 7/2 meeting or let me know so we can bring our concerns to the meeting or to understand any justification.

Thank-you,

Guy Sykes

On 6/10/2018 8:00 AM, Kathy & Guy Sykes wrote:

> Hello,
>
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> to our utility bill for additional Arlington EMS services. I live in
> a new development called Gregory Park on 169th St NE, just east of
> Highway 9. Our address uses the Arlington Post Office and we receive
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> glad to support the fee if you first incorporate our development into
> the city of Arlington.
>
> Thank-you,
>
> Guy Sykes
>

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<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

Kristin Banfield

From: kim davis <kimsplace29@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 1:49 PM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - Public meeting on the Ambulance Utility Fee..

This letter is in response to the mail that arrived about an increase of \$15.00 per month Ambulance utility fee, which is \$180.00 per year. I am not liking this increase.. I have noticed a lot of new homes in the city of Arlington..One would think that that would bring revenue to the City of Arlington. correct?? just seems logical.. So that right there makes me think that the need to raise Ambulance Utility Fee would be null and void. Wouldn't it make sense that all this new money helps the city? It is NEW money ... come on.. lets get real and stop trying to blow smoke up my skirt ... so to speak.

Kristin Banfield

From: Phil <pcstrong@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 2:30 PM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - Ambulance Utility Fee

My normal bill is in the range of \$32 - \$35; a \$15 increase amounts to almost a 50% increase!

I am a senior citizen on a fixed income (Social Security only) so that will be extremely difficult for me.

Can there be some consideration for seniors?

Thank you, Phil Strong

Kristin Banfield

From: James Poyner <jwp641947@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 9:36 AM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - \$15 fee

City Communications Manager

I am the financial administrator for First Baptist Church of Arlington located at 426 North French Ave. Presently we receive three separate water bills on the property we own along French street. All these properties are contiguous. This fee would impact us \$540/year which seem to be exorbitant for a single property owner. Can any relief be given to **Non Profit Organization** that find themselves in this situation?

Past James W Poyner
FBC of Arlington
426 North French Avenue

Kristin Banfield

From: Stephen Mariorenzi <smariorenzi@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 9:52 AM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - Public hearing Ambulance Utility Fee.

To the City Council,

The fee of \$15 extra on each monthly bill is too much for low/fixed income families. There should be waivers or something considered for them. What I don't understand is that you start out talking about EMS services but then your hiring two new police officers. I am not sure I understand how they are part of EMS but have you considered cross-training among the firefighters and police officers? Instead of hiring two new officers and buying all the support equipment and personnel. My point though is that \$15 extra a month is too much for low/fixed income families living in the city.

Respectfully,
Stephen Mariorenzi

Kristin Banfield

From: Kathy & Guy Sykes <sykes2000@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2018 3:57 AM
To: Kristin Banfield; gpsykes57
Subject: [External] - Re: Ambulance Utility Fee and utility bill

It took a few days but I believe I found the answer. We look like we are part of the city of Arlington. Our development sticks out on the southeast corner a city and voting (dist 13) map. Where the fire was on 164th is not part of the city. The original information I had came from an emergency response map that I hope is older!

Please let me know this is correct.

Thank-you,

Guy

On 6/11/2018 7:49 PM, Kathy & Guy Sykes wrote:

> Hi,
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> Evidence tonight to my email from yesterday . There was a serious
> structure fire on 164th Street with firearm rounds going off and trees
> involved about 1/4 mile from my address. I was one of the first to
> call 911. The response was not from Arlington. The response was
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>> Guy Sykes
>>
>

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Kristin Banfield

From: JC R <rest066c@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2018 6:50 AM
To: Barbara Tolbert
Cc: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - ambulance - utility fee

Hello Tolbert

I am emailing to say it is NOT fair to only try to get the people with bills from the city to pay this fee.. If we can't get ALL households to pay then it isn't right.. Just cause someone pays the city a (fee for a service) don't mean they should be the only ones to pay MORE. That isn't right.. What about the people with wells- they should have to pay also they use ambulances, fire people, etc. as do others with NO city bills..

Thank you

Received
JUN 14 2018

June 11, 2018

**City of Arlington City Council
238 North Olympic Ave.
Arlington, WA 98223**

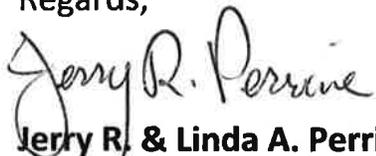
Dear Council Members,

While understanding the need for additional funding to “ensure public safety” which includes the homeless issues and drug control, it has become extremely clear that the “well has gone dry” when it comes to additional taxes on the elderly, fixed income citizens of Arlington. WE CANNOT AFFORD ANY MORE TAXES! PERIOD!

In recent times our fuel prices have gone up, property taxes have gone up, grocery prices have gone up, all services have gone up as well as credit card interest and fees. Everything has escalated with the exception of our Social Security payments.

Thank you for taking this information and plead into your decision making. Please, get the additional revenue from all the NEW residents moving into the area, not your elderly citizens who have lived in this wonderful community for decades.

Regards,



Jerry R. & Linda A. Perrine

8331 Gallery Lane

Arlington, WA 98223

per6912@gmail.com

Kristin Banfield

From: Lynn Shinnick <lynnshinnick41@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2018 11:03 AM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - public hearing feedback

In response to the notice of the hearing regarding the need to fund the **Ambulance Utility Fee** to fund Emergency Medical services. I understand there is a funding gap, and **would support filling this gap with a reasonable fee** attached to the utility bill.

However...it appears you are adding to the funding discrepancy to add a great deal more in the way of public services, over and above the need for Emergency Medical Services. I don't doubt the need is there, but **I do NOT like tacking it on to this other**. I don't feel the community knows enough about the severity of the need and need for funding. And I think a **\$15/month hike is very difficult for most in our community**.

Lynn Shinnick
17917 W. Country Club Dr
Arlington, 98223
425-238-2571

Kristin Banfield

From: Jerry Cooley <jecool@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, June 15, 2018 2:59 PM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - Fw: proposed surcharge on utilities

----- Original Message -----

From: [Jerry Cooley](#)
To: kbanfield@arlingtonwa.gov
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2018 5:45 PM
Subject: proposed surcharge on utilities

I just wanted you to know that the \$15 surcharge to my utility bill will cause me to give up something in my food purchases. My total income is from social security at \$1846/mo. Therefore you can see what impact another surcharge does to me. You are probably doing this since you know it wouldn't pass on a ballot measure. When did you start passing tax type measures without a vote of the people? Is this even legal? Us 80 yr olds don't count for much anymore.

Gerald Cooley
7725 Inverness DR
Arlington 98223

Kristin Banfield

From: teft@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, June 17, 2018 1:04 PM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - Written Comment on the proposed Ambulance Utility Fee

Hello Arlington City Council,

I do not support the proposed Ambulance Utility Fee that would be added to my monthly utility bill. I have been living in Arlington for over 20 years and I have seen our small town changing in good and bad ways. The additional fee is not a good change for the community. I understand how important it is to have police, firefighters, and EMS, however, there have been multiple tax raises on utilities, sales tax, car tabs, gas, cell phones, tv, and property taxes. As all these things rise in cost, my own paycheck is not rising fast enough. My discretionary income is shrinking. The council needs to understand that when people have less discretionary income, the community suffers. Things that make life enjoyable like going out to eat or supporting local businesses will simply not happen at all because there is no money left to spend. These local businesses will not just absorb the costs, they will pass it to consumers who can barely afford to purchase things and in turn, local businesses will not be around for long. There is a point of too much taxation and the city of Arlington does not see that with these taxes going up, people will not be able to afford their homes, food on the table, and even driving to work. In addition, citizens of the community should be able to vote on this increase not just the few voices in the Arlington City Council making costly decisions for the larger community. Before reaching into someone's pocketbook and wallet for money, you need to ask first and wait for the person's response and respect their decision to decline giving any money to you. Otherwise, if you take the money anyway, you are stealing from hard working people. The council should not add this additional fee without people of Arlington voting on this. Taxes never go down. There is always a need for more money. From experience, the government always needs more funding, this \$15 per month per billable unit on water/sewer/ storm water bill is only the beginning. Most likely, the cost per month will go up to \$20 or \$50 or \$100 per month within a few short years. Aside from the \$15 per month proposal, the current rate on the water/sewer/storm water will go up eventually because every few years the rate is always going up. The utilities being taxed should not be included with EMS services because this will start the precedent of unrelated taxing to fund government projects and services that citizens are forced to pay without any consent through voting. I ask the Arlington City Council to not approve this proposed Utility Fee for the greater good of the Arlington Community.

Please do **NOT** add the Ambulance Utility Fee,

David Nemes

PS:

I hope the entire council brushes up on the history of the American Revolution against the tyranny of the British. Remember the saying "Taxation without representation" because before any increase in taxes occur, citizens need to physically cast their vote on the matter.

Kristin Banfield

From: Julia <jstebakova@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 17, 2018 11:25 PM
To: Kristin Banfield; lidiyasroses@gmail.com
Subject: [External] - July 2 meeting

Hello Kristin Banfield,

My name is Lidiya Stebakova. My household and I, which consists of two others residents, Sergey Stebakov and Mark Stebakov, are registered Arlington voters. We are unable to attend the city council meeting on July 2nd and would like to submit our written statements. We oppose this proposed utility fee. It is getting harder to get by as the cost of living increases every year. Property taxes, income taxes, home insurance, health insurance, vehicle registration, all of our utility bills, and the list goes on. We cannot afford such a drastic increase to our already steadily increasing utility bills. We recommend the city council look over the books and carefully examine for proper allocation of funds.

Lidiya Stebakova, Sergey Stebakov, Mark Stebakov

Kristin Banfield

From: marvinbruns@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, June 17, 2018 1:15 PM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - Comment about Ambulance Utility Fee

Dear Arlington City Council,

In response to your letter of May 25, 2018, inviting comments regarding the proposed Ambulance Utility Fee, I submit the following:

I am against using water as a means to obtain funding for other projects. Water, like food, should remain inviolate.

Funding for EMS should be obtained through property taxes or other voter-approved methods, as it is now. If that funding leaves you unable to do all the things you wish (\$1.5 million gap), then don't do them. Live within your means.

Instead of forcing voters, through their need for water, to pay for that which they didn't approve, send out notices. Identify these "other programs and services", and explain the degradation they will suffer as a consequence of your choice to use general fund money, intended for them, to instead pay for the desired additional EMS. Let the people of Arlington decide whether to:

1. Forgo the extra EMS.
2. Accept the degradation to those other programs and services.
3. Approve a tax/fee/levy to fund extra EMS or the other programs and services.

Voters have already given you the bottom line: a \$1.5 million gap. You should accept it, instead of trying to find a way around it. If we complain about inadequate services, remind us that the blame lies squarely with us. And then let us suffer with the shortfall until we vote otherwise. Make us live within our means.

Yes, water is an untapped "cash cow" that you control and therefore have the power to tap; a new way to get hands into people's pockets. I consider it somewhat immoral, however, to hit people where they are weak (unable to resist) and needy (must have water). "Sustainable funding model" indeed.

Also, consider that such a practice would never stop, no matter the good intentions of the current council. Once this becomes the norm, the temptation to piggyback "worthy" expenditures onto water bills will be too great to resist. The water bill will forever remain a funding source for things other than water.

Everyone has to have water. To withhold our water unless we pay for something we didn't approve is extortion. Please do not do this.

Marvin Bruns
marvinbruns@comcast.net
June 17, 2018

Kristin Banfield

From: Steve Konek Sr. <sk1k47@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 17, 2018 5:25 PM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - July 2 Meeting.
Attachments: Letter to the City of Arlington .docx

Our apologies but the July 2, 2018 meeting date is already scheduled for us. Attached is a letter which we ask that you pass on to the Mayor and Council outlining our perspective.

Thank you for your efforts on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Steve Konek Sr.

Steve Konek Sr.
19427 45th Drive NE
Arlington, WA 98223

15 June, 2018

City of Arlington
ATTN: Mayor Barbara Tolbert & City Council
238 North Olympic Avenue
Arlington, WA 98223

REFERENCE: City of Arlington Letter of May 25,2018/July 2, 2018 Public Hearing

It is with some forethought that we take the time to write a letter to public officials as I appreciate that you are busy and we do not wish to waste your time or ours.

We are “retired” people who live on a rather fixed income. Any potential cost of living upgrades are more than buried by inflation. We could move elsewhere or live in a “retirement community” but we live in a neighborhood by choice. We often have different personal priorities based on the variety of age groups, children, and concerns that come with “time of life issues” of the neighbors who surround us. This mix, we believe, is what makes a vibrant community from which we all benefit and why we continue with our choice to live here. We believe, to our core, that donation of time & dollars for community benefit is an obligation of citizenship. We have done this for over fifty years and plan to continue.

First we address your letter and its message. We interpret this notification as an effort to levy an additional tax of \$180 per year for each “In most cases, a billable unit is a home, apartment or business”. This without putting it to a vote. Adding to an existing EMS levy an additional tax while not addressing the pertinent issues. All under the umbrella of the title of an “Ambulance Utility Fee” is misleading in that you go on to explain that it is essentially a planned addition of police officers, firemen, along with a contracted Domestic Violence Coordinator and additional equipment/vehicles to facilitate the additional personnel. If you want a larger budget and to add to the public employment pool, say so. This either is a poor choice of wording or an intentional effort to mislead, we are not clear which.

These are difficult economic times with affordable housing practically non-existent, especially for young people. This adds to the stress on neighborhoods. In our neighborhood for example, especially evenings and weekends, an emergency vehicle would be hard pressed to get through quickly if at all because of the number of vehicles parked on both sides of the street and congestion at most homes. It is also difficult for large vehicles such as moving trucks and waste trucks to navigate even during regular work hours. Better public transportation support might be a better priority and an increased EMS Levy is not going to change the response time because of the physical reality.

Again in our neighborhood planting of Maple and Cherry Trees were, we assume part of builders landscaping plans which were approved by the city or county. The root systems quickly lifted sidewalks creating very real hazards to the public and cost to both home owners, who have the responsibility, and the city who contributed work hours to rectify the problem. Rather than a rush to pander to builders and expand the tax base; a more long term approach and more careful consideration to development might avoid some of these issues. Wider streets, types of landscape, types of drainage issues, and requirement of public employees to address upkeep might save budget in the future.

With changing weather patterns in the area, reduced size in building lots, numbers of folks in the neighborhoods, and closeness of neighborhoods, fireworks are of increasing concern. If we are hard pressed with Emergency Services response then the danger of fire and injury from fireworks should be a concern. We understand that it is a part of the national culture in this country to celebrate with fireworks but at what price? The sale of fireworks is an income producer for local entities and may or may not be of tax revenue to the city but their use contains a danger. We personally retrieve spent fireworks from our roof each year. Possibly a public or group celebration would be more cost effective in an open area like the airport while causing reduced potential demand on emergency services.

Maybe projects like the expansion of airport runways should be considered not only from cost or long term planning but more importantly as an Emergency Response issue. As air traffic continues to increase, as prescribed flight corridors subsequently become infringed/expanded, as more commercial structures are built at the airport and in the immediate area, and the potential for "crash" in a neighborhood becomes more of a possibility: a long term plan with public input from all potential stake holders becomes an imperative. We have lived "outside" of flight paths for fifteen years and have experienced the infringement ebb and flow with the complaint level. There may be, but if not, a consideration of mitigation fees at the airport or an "Ambulance Utility Fee" on airport businesses to cover this future development could be a consideration. Future planning with a wider scope as to the function of the airport and its purpose could provide a long term cost savings.

We understand that increased development requires by habit, increased public services. This is often from the already tried solutions of throwing more personnel, more equipment, and more taxes at the situation. It is time for innovative ideas and process as the font of tax payer purse is not bottomless. We do not hesitate to give tax breaks to businesses to "provide jobs" in the region but we are far less creative in giving back to those workers/tax payers when the taxes given away create shortfalls in the communities. Small savings with an organized plan can become large savings with time. We live in litigious times and everyone expects to have immediate service, we understand that problem. Sometimes we do not get what we expect or want. We ask that you consider the mentioned issues as a part of Emergency Response Capabilities Plan. If you continue to tax the neighborhoods that are the lifeblood of an active community, those very communities might dry up because of high taxes & "Fees".

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Konek Sr.

Suong T. Konek



City of Arlington

Administration

Barbara Tolbert, Mayor

NO!

May 25, 2018

Dear City of Arlington Resident or Business Owner,

On July 2, 2018, Arlington City Council will hold a public hearing on a proposed Ambulance Utility Fee that would be added to your monthly utility bill to ensure public safety is sustainably funded and staffed to support our community.

The City Council is considering this fee after four years of intensive study to find a sustainable model to fund Emergency Medical Services (EMS). EMS services are currently funded through an EMS Property Tax Levy and fees paid by other jurisdictions that contract with the City of Arlington for services. This still leaves a \$1.5 million gap in funding that must be filled with funds from the General Fund, impacting other programs and services. The Council and City directors have carefully considered all options to ensure the community needs for public safety services are met.

NO!

NO!

With this fee in place, the City Council commits to hire three police officers and three firefighters over the next three years. In addition, the fee will allow us to contract for a domestic violence coordinator, a police services officer, and all vehicles and equipment necessary to support these new hires. Approval of the fee by the City Council will enable the City to immediately start recruitment and hiring of two police officers.

NO!

This fee will address concerns around call response times and increases in homelessness, mental illness and substance abuse in and around our community. The Ambulance Utility Fee would raise utility bills \$15 per month per billable unit and will appear on residents' or businesses' water/sewer/storm water bill. In most cases, a billable unit is a home, apartment or business.

NO!

Arlington City Council remains committed to ensuring that your public safety investments benefit the community and address ongoing public health challenges. This is a sustainable funding model that has proven successful to support and grow public safety in communities around Washington.

The public hearing on the Ambulance Utility Fee will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 2, 2018 at the Arlington City Council Chambers located at 110 E. Third Street in Arlington. We invite you to testify or submit written comments in advance of the hearing to the City Communications Manager at kbanfield@arlingtonwa.gov. If you have questions, please contact City Administrator Paul Ellis or Communications Manager Kristin Banfield at 360-403-3441.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Oertle
Mayor Pro Tem

Mike Hopson
Councilmember

Debora Nelson
Councilmember

Joshua Roundy
Councilmember

Jan Schuette
Councilmember

Jessica Stickle
Councilmember

Sue Weiss
Councilmember

SEATTLE WA 98101

14 JUN 2008 PM 2 1



City of Anlington
238 North Olympic Ave.
Anlington, Wash 98223

Justin Bayfield



Kristin Banfield

From: Jennifer Agostino <agostinojennifer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2018 7:12 AM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - July 2nd Council meeting

We received the letter for the upcoming City Council vote on a fee that is to be added to utility bills for Arlington residence. I really feel that bypassing voters to impose a fee shows extremely poor judgment by the Council.

Taxpayers continually foot the bill for "studies" that anyone who lives and utilizes the area can see as things that need to or not be done. There seems to be an unbalanced focus on growth over comfort. With that growth has come larger city problems and larger city politics such as non voted fees being imposed. Perhaps if money wasn't wasted on unnecessary studies, meetings.....fluff, etc. there would be money left.

The economy has continued to grow for several years now and that means a repeated increase to property taxes for residence everywhere and revenue for the budget. There has not been a decrease in the number of residence. Where has that money gone? I am sure there are raises and things of that nature, but reflection on how money is truly being spent probably needs to happen. We budget in our home and if we need to adjust then my husband and I do it together. I don't just start taking money from our savings allotment because I decided it needed to be done even if necessary. Nor would an employee jut give themselves a raise without their bosses approval. PEOPLE GET FIRED FOR THAT! For some reason the Council doesn't appear to operate that way. Something I will keep in mind when I vote for sure.

I really understand the need for the services, but can not get on board with the way elected officials want to go about filling that gap. If it is really needed and the City can make a good case while showing responsible spending then a vote by the residence shouldn't be a problem. Imposing a fee without a vote seriously brings things into question.

I thought this was a great place to live, but the traffic and panhandling from the growth that keeps me from leaving my house most of the time is ridiculous. Now possible cost of living increase done arbitrarily is not making us much different than Lynnwood or cities of that size. That kind of growth will not be solved by hiring a few more people. It's just inviting more mess for the rest of us.

Arlington Resident,
Jennifer Agostino

Kristin Banfield

From: Jill Clark <jillclark721@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2018 8:40 AM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - Ambulance Utility Fee

Dear Arlington City Council,

I would like to comment on the proposed Ambulance Utility Fee.

While I have no doubt that there is a need for additional police officers, firefighters, etc, I do not feel that it is appropriate to add this fee to our water and sewer bill. Just by calling it an Ambulance Utility Fee does not make it a utility. Our utility bill should be just that, water and sewer.

Funding for additional police officers and firefighters should be through tax levy. This ensures that the funding is voter approved, for a certain dollar amount, that these dollars are assessed appropriately, and spent appropriately.

I feel that adding a fee to our utility bill requires no accountability as to where the monies are spent and that the council can raise the amount of the fee at any time. How did you decide upon the \$15 per billable unit? Where is the documentation supporting this amount?

I feel that \$15 is a lot to add to our already high utility bill. And when I say high, I am referring to the fact that no one can stay within the base water usage unless one lives alone and uses very little water. I am a new resident to Arlington and was very surprised to see that I am charged every month for going over the base water usage and there is only two of us in our household and we are gone two weekends per month. In 27 years of being on Seven Lakes Water, I can count on one hand the number of times I went over their base amount.

I encourage the council to seek other more appropriate means, such as tax levy, to obtain the funding needed to hire additional staff. I ask that the council not approve the Ambulance Utility Fee.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jill Clark
505 N MacLeod Ave.
Arlington, WA 98223
(425) 350-5018

Kristin Banfield

From: J. Starr <jleighstarr77@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2018 1:43 PM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - Arlington City Council Hearing 7/2

Subject: Arlington City Council Hearing 7/2

To: Kristin Banfield | City Communications Manager,

As a City of Arlington resident, I have zero control over the city's call response times, any stated increase in homelessness, mental illness, nor substance abuse issues, in and around our community. I vehemently disagree with a \$15 fee increase each month in addition to my already expensive bill. My monthly bill is for me solely, as a single resident household, and yet I have always had to pay a flat rate for a four person household since moving to Arlington at the beginning of 2007. Our cost of living increase across the county is exceptionally higher, and it is not okay, in my opinion, to keep gauging the residents for community issues that should already be addressed and covered specifically by the city with our ever increasing tax paying dollars. That said, I do not support the proposed "Ambulance Utility Fee" - in any way.

Regards, Jennifer Starr | City of Arlington resident since 2007

Kristin Banfield

From: Karla Lowe <holy.cannoli@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2018 1:47 PM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - Re: Ambulance Utility Fee
Attachments: Arlington_Ambulance_Utility_Fee (Karla Lowe).docx

From: Karla Lowe <holy.cannoli@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2018 1:41 PM
To: kbanfield@arlingtonwa.gov; Karla Lowe
Subject: Ambulance Utility Fee

Dear Kristin, attached is my response to the proposed Ambulance Utility Fee.

Thanks,
Karla Lowe

Date: June 19, 2018
To: kbanfield@arlingtonwa.gov
From: Karla Lowe, Arlington Resident
SUBJECT: AMBULANCE UTILITY FEE

I object to the proposed Ambulance Utility Fee for the following several reasons:

1. \$15 per month to each billable unit—whether it be a home apartment, or business. This is grossly unfair to residents who already pay an outrageous monthly utility fee. Your argument that our rates have not been increased in several years, while true, is not fair. The rates ARE outrageously high, probably because of the new storm water systems and the water handling facility. I'm guessing that the \$15 represents anywhere from a 3% to a 30% hike in a resident's water/sewer bill. \$15 is a miniscule hike for apartments and commercial facilities. Walmart, Automotive Dealerships, Retail Stores, Builders and Contractors, for example, couldn't care a bit about a simple \$15 hike. Commercial facilities can pass on ANY hike to their customers in a heartbeat. Arlington Residents must absorb it all if you tack this fee on to Water and Sewer bills.
2. I also submit that the purchase of police officers and additional firemen, vehicles, equipment, and a domestic violence coordinator are all routine, normal city business-as-usual acquisitions. They should not be paid for and assessed directly to the Water and Sewer customers. They should be paid for through normal property taxes and an increase in sales tax, where EVERYBODY can pay for these services, including visitors. I maintain that these purchases are not NEW services—they are an extension of already-available services. They are NOT directly related to only Water and Sewer.
3. If the City Council remains committed, please re-visit this issue of cost-sharing. Let "commercial" pay their share. Arlington Water&Sewer customers pay the bills while shopping, building, dining, and living/working in Arlington. Don't penalize the residents, when all should pay.

Please reconsider.

Karla Lowe 513 E. Division St. Unit B, Arlington, WA 98223

Kristin Banfield

From: Richard Robinson <ricklrobinson48@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 12:13 PM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - Fwd: \$15.00 fee

----- Original Message -----

Subject: \$15.00 fee
From: Richard Robinson <ricklrobinson48@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018, 10:39 AM
To: kbanfield@arlingtonwash.gov
CC:

As a homeowner, 70 years old, I oppose this additional fee. Retired people in Washington feel any additional taxes and fees in the state are dangerous to those of us on fixed incomes. Gas, property and sales taxes, etc. already take a toll. Arlington's water/sewer charges are high enough. Several months ago I predicted such increases when the city council and Everett Herald lauded an increase of industry in the area. More industry means more people, density, crime follows, pollution, noise, and need for more services, i.e. police and fire. The fee is proof of this.

Richard Robinson
Arlington



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Kristin Banfield

From: Barbara Tolbert
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2018 10:43 AM
To: Paul Ellis; Kristin Banfield
Subject: Fwd: [External] - Upcoming EMS/ambulance fee ordinance

Barb Tolbert
Mayor
City of Arlington
238 N Olympic Avenue
Arlington, WA 98233

Office: 360-403-3442
Cell: 360-631-2986

----- Original message -----

From: Gary Gibbs <saga04@comcast.net>
Date: 6/22/18 10:25 AM (GMT-08:00)
To: Barbara Tolbert <btolbert@arlingtonwa.gov>
Subject: [External] - Upcoming EMS/ambulance fee ordinance

Mayor Tolbert

Thank you for speaking to our group on Wed at the golf course clubhouse. You did a good job clarifying the complex challenge of how we fund our EMS/ambulance service.

We talked together after your power point presentation. I related to you that there is a general misconception by city residents that this fee is unfair because it will allow people who live in the service area, but who are not subject to the fee, get either a free ride, or service at a reduced rate. You stated that in order for this plan to work, the out of city, but in service residents will have to pass an upcoming ballot measure that funds this service.

I suggest to you and the council, to put more information out to city residents that explains the “ how’s and why’s “ of this funding challenge.

Does it make sense to put language into the ordinance that makes the the fee contingent on the successful passage of the ballot measure? Without passage, the original model won’t work, and a new funding mechanism will have to be found.

Gary Gibbs
18227 Greywalls Dr
Arlington
425 231 8172

Sent from my iPad

Kristin Banfield

From: Barbara Tolbert
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 12:27 PM
To: Paul Ellis; Kristin Banfield
Subject: Fwd: [External] - Fw: \$15 Fee Added to Monthly Water/Sewer/Storm Bill

Barb Tolbert
Mayor
City of Arlington
238 N Olympic Avenue
Arlington, WA 98233

Office: 360-403-3442
Cell: 360-631-2986

----- Original message -----

From: Peter Armato <pjarmato@yahoo.com>
Date: 6/26/18 12:22 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: Barbara Tolbert <btolbert@arlingtonwa.gov>
Cc: Peter Armato <pjarmato@yahoo.com>
Subject: [External] - Fw: \$15 Fee Added to Monthly Water/Sewer/Storm Bill

Good Afternoon,

I wanted to forward my email to the council to you as well because I feel this is an important issue to us all.

Thank you,
Peter

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Peter Armato <pjarmato@yahoo.com>
To: josh@arlingtonwa.gov <josh@arlingtonwa.gov>; jessicas@arlingtonwa.gov <jessicas@arlingtonwa.gov>;
deboran@arlingtonwa.gov <deboran@arlingtonwa.gov>; suew@arlingtonwa.gov <suew@arlingtonwa.gov>;
marilyno@arlingtonwa.gov <marilyno@arlingtonwa.gov>; mikeh@arlingtonwa.gov <mikeh@arlingtonwa.gov>;
jans@arlingtonwa.gov <jans@arlingtonwa.gov>
Cc: Peter Armato <pjarmato@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 12:20:08 PM
Subject: \$15 Fee Added to Monthly Water/Sewer/Storm Bill

Hello Council Members,

I wanted to send an email voicing mine, and fellow constituents, concerns over adding another fee to a water/sewer/storm bill that is already unacceptably high.

To put this into perspective I moved from Lynnwood to Arlington a few years ago. My water/sewer/storm bill then was \$145 every 2 months, + or - a bit here and there, but it never exceeded \$150 in a 2 month period. In talking to co-workers

who live in Seattle I also found they pay less than I currently pay by about \$25 a month. My current monthly bill hovers at around \$120 to \$130 plus I pay an additional \$10 for irrigation to my association at Gleneagle. If the \$15 fee is added that will put my monthly bill at roughly \$135 to \$145, plus the \$10 irrigation, which equals approximately \$155 a month.... \$50 a month more than Seattle, and very close to double Lynnwood. That is extremely unacceptable.

I urge you to please vote no to raise the funds through another fee, and instead re-evaluate expenditures.

If you have any questions, or would like a fresh perspective on anything, feel free to let me know.

Thank you,
Peter

Kristin Banfield

From: George Spencer <1981gds@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 8:15 AM
To: Kristin Banfield
Subject: [External] - Concerns about proposed Ambulance Utility Fee
Attachments: Ambulance Utility Fee.docx

June 27, 2018

Dear Arlington City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed Ambulance Utility Fee that was explained in the letter dated May 25, 2018 to citizens and business owners of Arlington.

The letter states that there's a \$1.5 million gap in funding for EMS services that is being filled with General Funds therefore impacting other services. I'm concerned that in two separate previous City Updates, Mayor Tolbert didn't mention this gap. Instead a healthy picture was "painted". In the November 2017 Update, she stated, "...our finances are healthy. ...growth in sales tax revenue and new businesses will allow the City to make some additional investments, especially in the area of public safety." Then in the April 2018 Update (one month before the May letter saying we had a budget problem), Mayor Tolbert stated, "...efforts in economic vitality have resulted in a 10.6% growth in sales tax ... job growth of 23%.. 55 new businesses... transparency in our process" I couldn't find the original document, but I seem to recall that we were told that there was no need to raise property tax rates for 2018 because the City was financially doing fine. The comments from the City prior to May 25th, clearly do not indicate a need for a "sudden" \$15 monthly fee in the middle of a calendar year.

In the November Update on page 2, the budget highlights indicated that three newly budgeted positions would be added to the police department and an embedded social worker. If the City already had budgeted for three new police officers then why do you need to collect \$15 dollars monthly to add two police officers immediately as stated in the May 25th letter? If the money was in the budget for 2018 then additional money should not be needed to hire these positions. If the budget couldn't be met because of the gap, then the City should be telling it's citizens each time a budget and financial picture is presented.

The letter mentioned that EMS services are currently funded through an EMS Property Tax Levy. If there is a shortfall, then that's where the additional money should be raised, not through our water bills. Also consider raising the fees that are paid by other jurisdictions that contract with the City of Arlington for services. Raising money through the Levy or will treat individuals and businesses more equitably.

I have heard that this proposal was discussed in detail last Monday at the City Council meeting and that not one citizen was in attendance. Why wasn't that stated in the May 25th letter? I would have attended if I had known that it was going to be discussed.

I strongly encourage the Arlington City Council to NOT approve an Ambulance Utility Fee. It makes citizens not trust the government when we are told repeatedly that the financial picture is good and then suddenly you need more money in the

middle of a budget year. It also gives the appearance of slipping in a tax increase by avoiding what is proper to do. Either the EMS Levy should be adjusted for 2019 or contracts with other jurisdictions should be modified to properly cover the costs. The EMS services should be self-supporting and definitely shouldn't be part of a water bill!

We will be in attendance at the July 2nd public hearing.

Thank you for your time,

Debra and George Spencer
Arlington Citizens for 35 years