

In the Matter of Argyle Estates Water Supply's Request for a Water Rate Increase

Hearing before:

Judge Ross Keeling

August 11, 2022

Vol 1

PHIPPS REPORTING

Raising the Bar!

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

Thursday, August 11, 2022
6:08 p.m. - 6:16 p.m.

Missouri Public Service Commission
WebEx

VOLUME 1
Pages 1 - 10

In the Matter of Argyle Estates)
Water Supply's Request for a)File No. WR-2022-0345
Water Rate Increase)

ROSS KEELING, Presiding
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

MAIDA J. COLEMAN, Commissioner
JASON R. HOLSMAN, Commissioner

Stenographically Reported By:
Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

Job No. 266912

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3 Public Service Commission:

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18 Present on behalf of Argyle Estates
19 Water Supply: Albert Argyle

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1 (The following proceedings began at 6:08 p.m.):

2 JUDGE KEELING: Let's go on the record. First
3 I would like to ask everyone to mute themselves unless
4 they're speaking. That will cut down on the noise level
5 and prevent the audio feedback. And if you don't have a
6 mute button or perhaps can't find it, I believe that the
7 *6 button will also mute and unmute your phone.

8 Today is August 11, 2022. The Missouri Public
9 Service Commission has set this time for a local public
10 hearing in a case File No. WR-2022-0345, which is
11 captioned as In the Matter of Argyle Estates Water
12 Supply's Request for a Water Rate Increase.

13 The Commission has scheduled this local public
14 hearing to give members of the public a chance to
15 comment about Argyle Estates application. The Missouri
16 Public Service Commission regulates the rates charged by
17 public utility companies in Missouri to ensure that
18 those rates are just and reasonable. The Commission
19 also regulates the quality of service and safety of the
20 operations of public utilities.

21 The Commission is made up of five
22 Commissioners. The Commissioners are appointed by the
23 Governor to fixed terms and confirmed by the Senate.
24 The Commissioners employ a staff of engineers,
25 accountants, attorneys, financial analysts, and other

1 specialists in the field of utility regulation.

2 My name is Ross Keeling. I'm a Regulatory Law
3 Judge for the Commission and I'll be presiding over this
4 hearing. With me today are Commissioner Coleman, and
5 are there any other Commissioners that have come in
6 after that? Just Commissioner Coleman.

7 This is an official hearing of the Missouri
8 Public Service Commission, and the statements and
9 testimony of witnesses will be recorded by a court
10 reporter. They must be given under oath.

11 All of the Commissioners will have the
12 opportunity to read the witnesses' remarks, and
13 additionally I'll brief the Commissioners on what was
14 said here tonight. And the Commissioners value your
15 comments and input.

16 Commissioners, would you -- Commissioner
17 Coleman, would you like to make any opening remarks?

18 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Can you hear me?

19 JUDGE KEELING: I can hear you, Commissioner.

20 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Great. It's sometimes
21 hard to unmute. Only that we appreciate those who are
22 there tonight to provide us with information regarding
23 this. Thank you for your time and attention to this
24 matter. Thank you, Judge.

25 JUDGE KEELING: Thank you, Commissioner.

1 Okay. Note that the Commissioners will not be able to
2 answer any of your questions today, because they have to
3 remain impartial until after all the evidence is
4 presented at the evidentiary hearing if there is one.
5 The Commission has not made any decisions in this case.
6 The Commission is interested in your comments and will
7 use them to help make their decision.

8 I'll begin by asking counsel to enter their
9 appearance for the record. Do we have the Commission
10 Staff, counsel for Commission Staff?

11 MS. BRETZ: Karen Bretz for Commission Staff,
12 and with me is our summer law clerk, Ethan Dwyer,
13 D-w-y-e-r, and also is another staff person, David
14 Spratt.

15 JUDGE KEELING: Okay. Thank you. And do we
16 have any --

17 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Commissioner Holsman is
18 here.

19 JUDGE KEELING: Hello, Commissioner. I have
20 just gotten past opening remarks for the Commissioners.
21 Do you have any opening remarks that you would like to
22 present at the hearing?

23 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you, Judge. I
24 just to want to thank everybody for showing up today and
25 giving us their opinions, we do listen and we appreciate

1 it. Thank you.

2 JUDGE KEELING: Thank you. I'll resume with
3 entries of appearance. Are there any attorneys here
4 from the Office of the Public Counsel?

5 MS. VanGERPEN: Lindsay VanGerpen on behalf of
6 OPC.

7 JUDGE KEELING: Good evening. And is there
8 anyone here representing Argyle Estates, either an
9 attorney or Mr. Argyle?

10 MR. ARGYLE: Just Mr. Argyle is the only one.

11 JUDGE KEELING: Good evening, Mr. Argyle.
12 Okay. Now, the process will be to call the names listed
13 on the sign-up sheet in the order they appear.
14 Ordinarily I'd tell you what to do. We do not have
15 anybody listed on our sign-up sheet for testimony this
16 evening. Ordinarily I would call that person's name and
17 they would go ahead and unmute their phone or their
18 computer and then I'd place them under oath and ask them
19 to state and spell their name and then they would offer
20 their comments to the Commission.

21 Now, there is no one on our sign-up sheets.
22 Is there anyone at the hearing right now who would have
23 any questions -- would have any comments or testimony to
24 provide at the hearing?

25 Okay. Hearing none, I will move on. I'd like

1 to thank anyone who came to the hearing and anybody who
2 participated in the hearing today for their
3 participation. If they have any comments or if they
4 would like -- or if they know someone who could not be
5 present or would like to comment, if they would please
6 have them make those written comments through the Public
7 Service Commission's website and, of course, there's the
8 email address used to register for this hearing at
9 watersewercomments@psc.mo.gov or going to the PSC's web
10 page and clicking on the submit comments link in the
11 upper right-hand corner of the page. Be sure to include
12 the file number of this case in your comment, which is
13 WR-2022-0345.

14 If you'd like to contact the Office of the
15 Public Counsel, you can do so by writing them an email
16 at mopco@opc.mo.gov. Is that still the correct email
17 address, Ms. VanGerpen?

18 MS. VanGERPEN: I believe so.

19 JUDGE KEELING: Thank you very much. And
20 hearing no other comment or content, I want to thank
21 everyone for their participation, thank you
22 Commissioners for coming. Do you have any other
23 comments aside from those comments you've already made?

24 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: No comments, Judge.
25 Thank you.

1 JUDGE KEELING: Thank you, Commissioner
2 Holsman.

3 Okay. And hearing no others, this hearing is
4 now adjourned and we are off the record.

5 (Thereupon, the proceedings concluded at 6:16
6 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF MISSOURI)
COUNTY OF COLE)

I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing Public Service Commission local public hearing and that the transcript, pages 1 through 9, is a true record of my stenographic notes.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

Dated this 25th day of August, 2022.

Beverly Jean Bentch

Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <hr/> <p>11 4:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <hr/> <p>2022 4:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <hr/> <p>6 4:7</p> <p>6:08 4:1</p> <p>6:16 9:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <hr/> <p>accountants 4:25</p> <p>additionally 5:13</p> <p>address 8:8,17</p> <p>adjourned 9:4</p> <p>ahead 7:17</p> <p>analysts 4:25</p> <p>appearance 6:9 7:3</p> <p>application 4:15</p> <p>appointed 4:22</p>	<p>Argyle 4:11,15 7:8, 9,10,11</p> <p>attention 5:23</p> <p>attorney 7:9</p> <p>attorneys 4:25 7:3</p> <p>audio 4:5</p> <p>August 4:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <hr/> <p>began 4:1</p> <p>begin 6:8</p> <p>behalf 7:5</p> <p>Bretz 6:11</p> <p>button 4:6,7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <hr/> <p>call 7:12,16</p> <p>captioned 4:11</p> <p>case 4:10 6:5 8:12</p> <p>chance 4:14</p> <p>charged 4:16</p>	<p>clerk 6:12</p> <p>clicking 8:10</p> <p>Coleman 5:4,6,17,18, 20</p> <p>comment 4:15 8:5,12, 20</p> <p>comments 5:15 6:6 7:20,23 8:3, 6,10,23,24</p> <p>Commission 4:9,13,16,18, 21 5:3,8 6:5, 6,9,10,11 7:20</p> <p>Commission's 8:7</p> <p>Commissioner 5:4,6,16,18, 19,20,25 6:17,19,23 8:24 9:1</p> <p>Commissioners 4:22,24 5:5, 11,13,14,16 6:1,20 8:22</p> <p>companies 4:17</p> <p>computer 7:18</p> <p>concluded 9:5</p> <p>confirmed 4:23</p>	<p>contact 8:14</p> <p>content 8:20</p> <p>corner 8:11</p> <p>correct 8:16</p> <p>counsel 6:8,10 7:4 8:15</p> <p>court 5:9</p> <p>cut 4:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <hr/> <p>D-W-Y-E-R 6:13</p> <p>David 6:13</p> <p>decision 6:7</p> <p>decisions 6:5</p> <p>Dwyer 6:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <hr/> <p>email 8:8,15,16</p> <p>employ 4:24</p> <p>engineers 4:24</p> <p>ensure 4:17</p>
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