BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

Monday, September 22, 2025 6:00 p.m. - 6:48 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Hall 5101 Blue Ridge Cutoff Kansas City, MO 64133

> VOLUME 2 Pages 1 - 16

JOHN CLARK, Presiding
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

MAIDA J. COLEMAN, (WebEx)
GLEN KOLKMEYER,
JOHN MITCHELL,
COMMISSIONERS

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

Job No. 195455



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1	APPEARANCES:
2	On behalf of Staff of the Public Service Commission:
3	CAROLYN KERR
4	Public Service Commission 200 Madison Street, Suite 800
5	P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102
6	Carolyn.Kerr@psc.mo.gov
7	On behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel:
8	JOHN CLIZER
9	Office of the Public Counsel 200 Madison Street, Suite 650
10	P.O. Box 2230 Jefferson City, MO 65102
11	John.Clizer@opc.mo.gov
12	Present Pro Se:
13	NEAL CLEVENGER President/General Manager
14	Raytown Water Company 10017 East 63rd Street
15	Raytown, MO 64133
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L	The	following	proceedings	began	at	6:33	p.m.:
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JUDGE CLARK: Let's go on the record. Good evening. It is September 22nd of 2025, and the current time is 6:33 p.m. The question and answer portion of the hearing just ended. If you had questions about this rate increase case, I hope you were able to get those questions answered.

The Missouri Public Service Commission has set aside this time for a local public hearing in File WR-2025-0294, a small company rate case which is captioned as In the Matter of a Small Company Rate Increase for Raytown Water Company.

My name is John Clark. I'm the Regulatory Law Judge presiding over this hearing. The Missouri Public Service Commission regulates the rates charged by investor-owned utility companies in Missouri to ensure that those rates are just and reasonable. The Commission also regulates the quality of service and the safety of operations of investor-owned utilities.

The Commission is made up of five

Commissioners: The Chair of the Commission, Kayla Hahn,

and Commissioners Maida Coleman, Glen Kolkmeyer, and

John Mitchell. One Commission seat is currently vacant.

The Commissioners are appointed by the Governor to a fixed term and confirmed by the Senate.

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1	The Commission employs a staff of engineers,
2	accountants, attorneys, financial analysts, and other
3	specialists in the field of utility regulation.
4	Commissioner Kolkmeyer, would you like to make
5	any opening remarks?
6	COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Yes, please. Good
7	evening everyone. I want to welcome everyone here to
8	the public hearing. We have not made a decision in this
9	case. We've not seen any evidence in this case
10	presented to us. And the reason why is this is the
11	first step in a public hearing is to have a public
12	hearing so we can hear from you.
13	And the other thing, and I wanted to say too,
14	because Commissioner Mitchell and I are the only two
15	here, it's like the other Commissioners don't care.
16	Yes, we do care. The thing of it is, Commissioner
17	Mitchell and I are from this region. So we cover the
18	public hearings that are in this region. Likewise, I
19	typically don't go to St. Louis and Poplar Bluff for
20	those hearings. So that's what we do. We kind of
21	divide the hearings up. So the other Commissioners are
22	online listening. So thanks again, welcome here to the
23	hearing, and we welcome your comments. Thank you.
2.4	JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Commissioner

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Kolkmeyer. Now, there's a court reporter who is

1	transcribing everything that's being said so the
2	Commissioners can review this later.
3	I'll begin by asking counsel to enter their
4	appearance for the record. I know there's not counsel,
5	but I'm going to ask that Raytown Water Company
6	acknowledge that they're here. Would you use the
7	microphone.
8	MR. CLEVENGER: Yeah. I'm Neal Clevenger,
9	President of the Raytown Water Company. And I've told
10	you all about myself earlier. We're here for the
11	hearing and questions, no questions but the hearing.
12	JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much. On behalf
13	of the Commission Staff.
14	MS. KERR: Carolyn Kerr on behalf of the
15	Commission Staff.
16	JUDGE CLARK: And on behalf of the Office of
17	the Public Counsel.
18	MR. CLIZER: John Clizer.
19	JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Clizer. It's my
20	understanding that we only have a couple people here.
21	If either or both of you would like to provide comments
22	to the Commission today about this proposed rate
23	increase, I'm going to open this up in a second and
24	you'll be able to come up.

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Now, there aren't a lot of people here so I'm

not going to put a definite time or time limit you to about three minutes or so. I'm not going to do that. I am going to ask that you kind of stay on point and if it starts to get repetitive, I will let you know.

As Commissioner Kolkmeyer said, the Commission

As Commissioner Kolkmeyer said, the Commission won't be able to answer your questions today and that's because we're at the start of this case and they have to remain impartial until after an evidentiary hearing is presented, if there is an evidentiary hearing. If you have questions that were not answered during the Q&A, I would ask you to speak to representatives from the company, the Office of the Public Counsel or staff here.

With that in mind, is there anybody who would like to offer comments to the Commission at this time? Please come up, sir. When you get up here, I'm going to ask you to state and spell your name for the court reporter.

MR. HOFFMAN: My name is Ryan Hoffman, R-y-a-n H-o-f-f-m-a-n.

JUDGE CLARK: And Ryan, would you raise your right hand and be sworn. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the comments you're about to give the Commission at this hearing are the truth?

MR. HOFFMAN: I do.

JUDGE CLARK: What would you like to tell the



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Commission this evening?

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MR. HOFFMAN: I just wanted to make a comment about there's only a couple of residents here this I know for myself the notice came in the mail evening. with my bill. I received that today. I got home at I opened up my mail. That's when I found out about this hearing. So I'm sure there's a lot of residents that would like to speak, especially on a 24 percent increase. That's quite a chunk. We've had several increases in taxes here in Raytown here recently in the past couple years. I'm sure a lot of people would like to speak. I'm most definite that a lot of people don't know about it. Just like me. I iust happened to -- normally I wouldn't open my mail as soon as I get it. It's a day or two later that I go through my mail. So I just happened to come across it. Otherwise, I wouldn't be here either. So I just wanted to let you know.

JUDGE CLARK: You said you got your notice today or has it been sitting around and you just opened it today?

MR. HOFFMAN: It came in the mail today. I received my water bill today. Notice was in with the water bill.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much. Do you



1	have any other comments for the Commission?
2	MR. HOFFMAN: I do not.
3	JUDGE CLARK: Appreciate your comments.
4	MR. HOFFMAN: Okay.
5	JUDGE CLARK: Is there anybody else here who
6	would like to comment to the Commission? Would you
7	please state and spell your name for the record.
8	MS. MURRAY: Clarissa Murray, C-l-a-r-i-s-s-a
9	M-u-r-r-a-y.
LO	JUDGE CLARK: And do you solemnly swear or
L1	affirm that the comments you're about to give the
L2	Commission are the truth?
L3	MS. MURRAY: Yes.
L4	JUDGE CLARK: What would you like to tell the
L5	Commission this evening?
L6	MS. MURRAY: It's redundant for some, but my
L7	concerns and reason for coming tonight is because I am a
L8	preferred stockholder with the Raytown Water and there
L9	was a decision not to pay dividends for a quarter. So
20	they're behind on dividends. And also one of my stocks
21	has matured and I wanted to cash in but unable to do so.
22	So that just gave me a lot of concern.
23	My other concern was about the rate increase
24	and how that money was going to be utilized. So they
25	did water did answer, you know, they planned more



1	infrastructure, things like that. And hopefully some of
2	that would be able to, you know, get us caught up on our
3	dividends. And you know, the ability to cash out once
4	because the time has matured. So those were my
5	concerns. And then I had there's been a water main
6	break at my corner. It's been there for a couple
7	months. Like I said, it's not gushing. It just needs
8	repair. I told them it's probably on the list but, you
9	know, Chickie (phonetic spelling) took my address to
10	make sure, something they're going to will be
11	repaired hopefully soon, as soon as they can get to it.
12	And then I did ask also were they having
13	problems with recruitment, because I'm an HR
14	professional. So I know it's been difficult. One of
15	the most difficult jobs right now is hiring, because
16	everybody is looking, especially in this area, needs to
17	hire. But you know, wages are low. But prices continue
18	to increase exponentially and, you know, there is the
19	need back to I'm circling back to the need to, you
20	know, cash in my stock. So those are my main concerns.
21	JUDGE CLARK: Did you bring the water main
22	break to the company's attention?
23	MS. MURRAY: Yes. And I did share the
24	address, sir, yes.
25	JUDGE CLARK: I appreciate that. I'm just



1	trying to gauge this to understand. So as a preferred
2	stock owner, what's your position on the company's
3	request for a rate increase or do you have one?
4	MS. MURRAY: Selfishly, to be honest, I'm
5	hoping that they get the money so they can pay me.
6	JUDGE CLARK: That's what I was thinking.
7	MS. MURRAY: I'm just being honest, because,
8	you know, I just, you know, that was the agreement and I
9	just want them to be able to keep the agreement.
10	JUDGE CLARK: That was my assumption when you
11	said that they had suspended the dividends. Are you a
12	Raytown Water customer?
13	MS. MURRAY: I am a Raytown Water customer.
14	Yes, I do live in Raytown proper. That's how I was
15	notified of the stock. It was in my bill. It was
16	inserted in the bill. That's how I knew about well,
17	the way I knew about this meeting, unlike that
18	gentleman, it was included in my notice about they're
19	going to make the decision on dividends October 1. So
20	that's how I knew about this meeting was because that
21	was as a stockholder I guess that's how I got the
22	letter.
23	JUDGE CLARK: Were you also informed in your
24	bill?
25	MS. MURRAY: I don't recall. To be honest, I



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JUDGE CLARK: Well, thank you so much for your comments. I'm sorry. Hold on just a second.

Mr. Clizer, you have a question?

MR. CLIZER: Just a couple quick questions. When you said you tried to cash in your stock, you tried to redeem the preferred stock, did the company tell you they wouldn't or that they couldn't redeem the preferred stock?

MS. MURRAY: I requested the stock in person with Neal once and he said that he could probably do it in June. Now, I requested it probably in March or April. When I learned that they couldn't pay dividend, I was nervous. Plus, I've had some personal issues that I need some money to cover and so he said he didn't think it would be a problem. And then I emailed Chickie, and I can't remember who else was copied, and I did not get a response.

MR. CLIZER: Just regarding the main break, I know that the judge asked you if you had brought it to their attention. I wanted to make sure I understood the timeline. You said that break had been around for like I think you said two months. Is that accurate? Do you know where in that two-month time frame the company was aware of it? Has it been leaking for two months and it



1	just now became aware or was there some reason the
2	company was aware for some portion of that two-month
3	period?
4	MS. MURRAY: To be honest, I did not call it
5	in. It's my neighbor's yard. And he does over the
6	road. So he's not he may be gone for weeks at a
7	time. I don't know when he called it in, but I know he
8	did because the cone I saw the cone was there shortly
9	after I noticed the break just on my walks because I
LO	could see the water coming up.
L1	MR. CLIZER: About how long has that cone been
L2	there? Rough estimate.
L3	MS. MURRAY: At least probably six, seven
L4	weeks maybe.
L5	MR. CLIZER: All right. Thank you. Thank you
L6	very much, Your Honor.
L7	JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments.
L8	MS. MURRAY: Thanks.
L9	JUDGE CLARK: I believe those are the only
20	people here. Are there anybody else here that I missed
21	that would like to offer comments to the Commission? I
22	see no one.
23	Commissioner Mitchell, would you like to make
24	a closing remark?
25	COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Sure. Thank you,



Judge Clark. On behalf of the entire Commission, I
thank our witnesses for coming out tonight and sharing
your thoughts and opinions with us. It will be helpful
for us to have your information as we go through this
process and hear all the evidence and ultimately make
the decision about this.

I think here in just a little bit the judge will have some instructions to submit comments in an alternative format on the Commission's website. So if you have friends or neighbors who weren't able to be here tonight, didn't get a chance to be here tonight, maybe didn't know about the meeting, please help us spread the word that it's not too late to submit comments. There's still an open process to do that. The judge will have some information for you on that.

Again, thank you for being here and we appreciate your comments.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner
Mitchell. I'd like to thank all of our participants
today for offering their testimony and comments to the
Commission. As Commissioner Mitchell said, if you have
additional comments you'd like to make or if someone you
know was unable to attend and comment today, you can
still comment on this rate case by making written
comments by contacting the email address PSC, that's



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1	Public Service Commission, pscinfo@psc.mo.gov, by
2	contacting the Office of the Public Counsel. They've
3	been very gracious about seeing that comments get filed
4	with the Commission about cases. Or by going to the
5	Public Service Commission's web page and you'll find a
6	link there to comment about cases.
7	Because we have a number of cases going at any
8	point in time, if you do decide to go and comment, be
9	sure and include the case number. The case number in
10	this case is WR-2025-0294, and that makes sure that it
11	connects with the correct case.
12	Again, thank you for your participation today.
13	With that, I will conclude this local public hearing and
14	we will go off the record. We're adjourned.
15	(WHEREUPON, the proceedings concluded at 6:48
16	p.m.)
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1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2	STATE OF MISSOURI)
3	COUNTY OF COLE)
4	I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, do
5	hereby certify that I was authorized to and did
6	stenographically report the foregoing Public Service
7	Commission Local Public Hearing and that the transcript,
8	pages 1 through 15, is a true record of my stenographic
9	notes.
10	I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
11	employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties,
12	nor am I a relative or counsel connected with the
13	action, nor am I financially interested in the action.
14	Dated this 29th day of September, 2025.
15 16	Beverly Jean Bentch
17	Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640
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