



City of Aumsville



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AUMSVILLE CITY COUNCIL Minutes – July 22, 2019

Mayor Clevenger called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM in the Chester Bridges Memorial Community Center, 555 Main Street, Aumsville, Oregon. Council present was: Mayor Derek Clevenger and Councilors Nico Casarez, Jim Case, Angelica Ceja, and Della Seney. Council absent were Larry Purdy and Gus Bedwell. City Administrator Ron Harding (CA Harding), Public Works Director Steve Oslie (PWD Oslie) and City Clerk Colleen Rogers (CC Rogers) were also present.

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Clevenger asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Seney motioned to approve the agenda. Councilor Casarez seconded. Motion APPROVED 5-0: (Yes: Clevenger, Casarez, Case, Ceja, and Seney. No: None.)

VISITORS: There were three visitors in the audience and one asked to speak during the public comment period.

Aumsville Historical Society (AHS) President Ted Shepard invited the Mayor and Council to the 10-year anniversary event, celebrating the opening of the museum, on August 10th. The event will take place at the museum from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. He stated that they are welcome to drop in see the latest displays and enjoy refreshments.

CONSENT AGENDA: Council reviewed the July 8, 2019 through July 16, 2019 check registers and the July 8, 2019 Council meeting minutes. Councilor Casarez moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilor Ceja seconded. Motion APPROVED 5-0: (Yes: Clevenger, Casarez, Case, Ceja, and Seney. No: None.)

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: CA Harding gave Council a flowchart that shows the life cycle of a motion. He asked Council for feedback and if they would like the flowcharts in the Council Protocol Manual. Council consensus was that it is a good tool and they would like it in the manual. CA Harding explained that now is a good time to add to the manual as staff is working on reorganizing it for better readability. He added that he will bring the updated manual to council for review at a future meeting.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Wastewater Treatment System Presentation

CA Harding and PWD Oslie teamed up to present an overview of our wastewater treatment system. They cited current maintenance needs as well as short- and long-term required updates.

CA Harding talked about why we need a sewer system and how the US Environment Protection Agency (EPA) set the rules. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the state agency that we work with in complying with those rules.

The Aumsville Sewage Treatment Plant facility consists of two primary open lagoon cells with a total surface of 14.29 acres. The incoming sewage goes through a process that is regulated under a permit issued to the city by DEQ. Once this process is complete, the city is permitted to discharge the gray water into Beaver Creek at specific times of the year when water levels are higher. The city owns an 85-acre track of farmland just south of the city that we also discharge through an irrigation system on non-consumption crops.

Our aging lagoon system is unable to meet the EPA ammonia standard. In fact, it has never met the ammonia standards, but recently DEQ has prioritized a federal interpretation to say we must meet these standards. We are currently working with DEQ to form a Mutual Agreement Order (MAO) to give us a timeline to make the needed corrections to meet the standard and come into compliance. The MAO will help us with funding opportunities and possibly avoid civil penalties.

It is possible that DEQ could tell us that it is time for development of a new, updated Sanitary Sewer System Facilities Plan (SSSFP). The city has known for some time that this would be a requirement, but we are working under a 20-year old plan. DEQ will shorten that window to 5-7 years. In the meantime, we continue to look for funding assistance to help with the cost of developing the new SSSFP as well as any potential funding assistance for future recommended/required improvements to our existing system.

PWD Oslie listed some of his operation concerns, including: transfer piping between lagoons, on-site chlorine generator replacement, vector truck reliability, and safety concerns with having to share lab and office space.

CA Harding talked about the future and how the city may have to move to a mechanical vs. lagoon system of wastewater treatment in order to meet the standards that the EPA and DEQ are imposing. He stated that whether we are able to stay with the lagoon system and make the needed upgrades, or we are forced by state agencies to install a mechanical system, we are looking at a large expense to the city. Staff is looking into grants for capital facilities funds to offset the cost of the upgrades. He said that most of these grants for a planning document is easily obtained, but they are typically matching-fund grants and will only cover a portion of the project costs. The unfortunate part is that grants are rarely available for construction projects.

Councilor Case asked about Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and the process. CA Harding explained the formula of how the grants are awarded. He stated that a city can only be awarded \$1.5m over a 2-year period. Which is not enough to complete the

needed projects. Part of the CDBG formula is calculated on the average salary range of residents. You must have 51% of residents below poverty range to qualify for a CDBG grant. In a 2018 HUD income analysis, Aumsville went from 53% down to 39%, dropping below the eligibility threshold. CA Harding feels this may not be accurate because of the way they conduct their survey. Two options were discussed; conduct our own income survey at a cost of approximately \$10,000 or wait until the US Census survey is completed in 2020 to get the data needed at no cost to the city. CA Harding recommended waiting until the 2020 US Census is done.

CA Harding stated that his priority projects are focused on our water system. He stated that he would like to move forward on cleaning up the million-gallon reservoir and adding an emergency generator. These projects are approximately \$500K. He let Council know that he is in the application process to submit for a USDA grant that will be a 30% matching grant. The city has enough matching funds to get these projects done. He went on to cite other critical water projects that will be needed soon: replacing old AC waterlines, drilling new wells or redrilling existing wells, and adding another reservoir. We are looking at several million dollars to get these projects done. He pointed out that we still have to work out the wastewater facility demands to deal with over the next few years that could cost \$15M or more, depending on what DEQ decides.

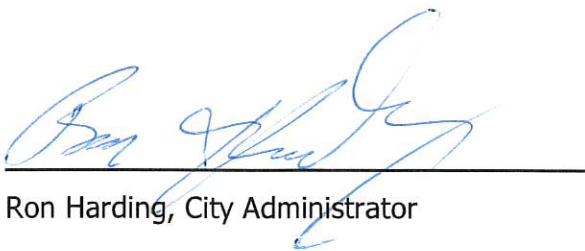
MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS AND INITIATIVES: Mayor Clevenger reported that he has been talking with CA Harding about grants that are available for setting up an electric car charging stations in cities and it was discussed. CA Harding will research costs, feasibility, and availability of grants. He will report back to Council at a future meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: None

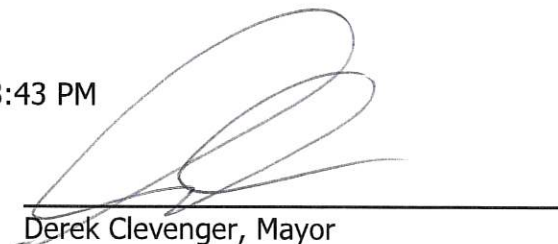
CORRESPONDENCE: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

The meeting adjourned without prejudice at 8:43 PM



Ron Harding, City Administrator



Derek Clevenger, Mayor