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AUMSVILLE CITY COUNCIL Minutes – March 8, 2021

Corrected at 3/22/21
Council Meeting.

Mayor Clevenger called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM via Zoom Conferencing. Council present was: Mayor Derek Clevenger, Nico Casarez, Angelica Ceja, Doug Ecclestone, Scott Lee, Walter Wick (logged in 7:07^[CR1]), and Della Seney. Council absent: None. City Administrator Ron Harding (CA Harding), Public Works Director Steve Oslie, Assistant Public Works Director Matt Etzel, City Engineer Chris Brugato, and City Clerk Colleen Rogers (CC Rogers) were also present via Zoom. The meeting was video recorded to be released later.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Staff requested to add a letter from Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to the agenda under Correspondence. Councilor Ecclestone moved to approve the agenda as amended. Councilor Seney seconded. Motion APPROVED 7-0: (Yes: Councilors Casarez, Ceja, Ecclestone, Lee, Seney, Wick, and Mayor Clevenger. No: None.)

PRESENTATION: Wastewater Treatment Plant Presentation

Public Works Assistant Director Matt Etzel introduced himself, Public Works Director Steve Oslie, and Chris Brugato from Westech Engineering. He walked Council through a slide presentation on the timeline of what has been happening with our wastewater treatment system.

Matt explained that the city's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit has expired, and we are waiting on DEQ for renewal. Since our last permit, DEQ has lowered the allowable levels of ammonia that can be discharged into Beaver Creek. Our current system will never be able to achieve these low levels. DEQ representatives informed the city that the new permit would require lower levels of ammonia in the discharged water and that they will be enforcing compliance. To achieve the lower ammonia limit, the city could be required to upgrade the current lagoon system to a mechanical treatment facility with a cost estimate of 10-15 million dollars.

January 2020, with the help of consultants/city engineer, the city agreed to a Mutual Agreement Order (MAO) with DEQ. The MAO requires the city to move forward with bringing the treatment facility into compliance by building a mechanical treatment facility or adding additional treatment systems. Milestones must be met by the city or face enforcement penalties which could be thousands of dollars per day.

MAO Milestones:

- Complete and submit a facilities plan by July 1, 2020. Westech Engineering submitted a signed proposal on May 21, 2020.
- Complete a Mixing Zone Study of Beaver Creek. This study was completed and submitted to DEQ on July 27, 2020.
- Complete and submit a Sludge Depth Survey. Completed and submitted on August 17, 2020.
 - The survey determined that the depth of the sludge had increased. This may be that the sludge is fluffier or has increased in mass but is less dense. However, since the survey, the city has added a compound that is intended to break down the sludge. We agree with DEQ to continue to monitor the sludge depth for now, but, in any case, removing the sludge will be a necessary project as it's intended to be dredged every 20 years and our sludge has been building in lagoons 1 and 2 for 60 years. Removing the sludge is estimated to cost 1.5 million dollars.

Council explored the option of adding an effluent discharge point into Mill Creek so the lagoons could process higher volumes of wastewater by splitting the outflow. CA Harding stated that staff is looking into this and other options. He said that the Capital Facilities Plan draft will outline all the different options that were researched. The draft will be brought before Council for review. The plan will weigh the long term operations and maintenance over an upgraded construction facility for each option.

Once DEQ assigns us a new permit, we have six months to finish the facilities plan. Westech Engineering has started the preliminary work on this plan and is just waiting on the new permit requirements to finish it.

After we submit the facilities plan to DEQ, they will make comments and accept public comments, then send it back to us. We will have three months to submit the final draft with corrections if there are any. Once the plan is approved by DEQ, the city will have six months to submit a predesign report. Chris Brugato explained that this report will outline detailed design criteria that will show DEQ what path the city is choosing to meet the MAO requirements. He stated it is a preliminary design report where you uncover some of the details and present it to DEQ for their approval before you spend a bunch of money generating construction drawings. Once this report is approved, the city will have one year to submit the final engineering plans and specifications. Matt Etzel stated we are looking at 18 months from now to have this done. One year after plans are approved, we have to have a contractor lined up to start the \$10-15M project. That realistically puts us only 2-2.5 years away from construction.

CA Harding introduced a video that staff put together to educate and build awareness to the public about the needed updates to the city's wastewater treatment plant. He stated that it is not quite ready to launch, it still needs some fine tuning. It will be posted to our YouTube

channel and our website once it is ready. The video gives the viewer a tour of our facility and the future improvements that are necessary for the health and wellbeing of our community and environment. It also shows a comparison of a nearby mechanical plant.

Mayor Clevenger voiced concerns about how to go about making these upgrades happen with the least monetary impact to our citizens. CA Harding stated that he will be diligently seeking outside funding sources that are available to offset as much of the cost as possible; however, there is no magic pot of money waiting for the city. CA Harding stated that we should explore grants and even ask for a federal appropriation, but Council needs to know these are longshots and it is likely the city will need to fund this project from loans and those loans could only be paid for by increasing rates substantially. The information that we need to get out to the public is that we have to do the upgrades, we are mandated by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to meet these standards, and it is going to be a substantial amount of money. How much money is still unclear. It is important that the community stays engaged and educates themselves on this process. CA Harding encouraged Council to communicate this message to the public.

VISITORS AND PUBLIC COMMENT: There were two online attendees and there was no public comment. Login information was provided for members of the community to make public comment at this time and listen to the discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA: Council reviewed the February 22, 2021 Council meeting minutes and the February 23, 2021 Council Work Session minutes. Councilor Casarez moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilor Seney seconded. Motion APPROVED 7-0: (Yes: Councilors Casarez, Ceja, Ecclestone, Lee, Seney, Wick, and Mayor Clevenger. No: None.)

OLD BUSINESS: There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS: None

City Administrator Report: CA Harding reported that Marion County has agreed to lower the speed limit on Bishop Rd north of Mill Creek Rd to 25 mph. This will go into effect as soon as County gets the new speed limit signs posted.

The City has received a \$13,000 grant to assist with a park master plan for the east side park design.

Porter-Boone Park is open for public use except the forested area where staff are still working on tree cleanup.

CA Harding told Council that it is a challenging time, but also an exciting time. He sees lots of good things happening in the city.

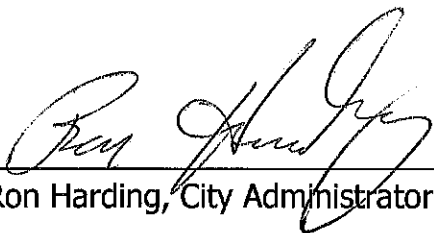
MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS AND INITIATIVES: None

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Mayor Clevenger discussed his work travel itinerary with Council.

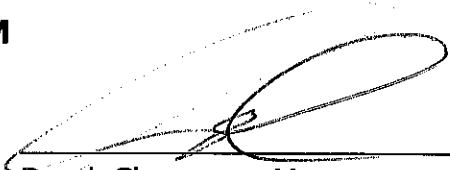
CORRESPONDENCE: Council received a letter from Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) notifying the city that the EPA recently established and released *the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Mercury in the Willamette Basin* and has been provided to the state for implementation. The City of Aumsville is responsible for implementing strategies to reduce mercury according to requirements identified in the Water Quality Management Plan that are specific to the City of Aumsville.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNED WITHOUT PREJUDICE AT 8:35 PM



Ron Harding, City Administrator



Derek Clevenger, Mayor