

AUMSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

March 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Angelica Ceja called the meeting to order at 7:02PM. Present in-person were Mayor Angelica Ceja, Councilors Nico Casarez, Douglas Cox, Della Seney, Katie Wallace, and Walter Wick. Council absent: Scott Lee. Staff present: City Administrator (CA) Ron Harding, Assistant Public Works Director (APWD) Matthew Etzel and City Clerk Traci Nichols. The meeting was video recorded to be released later.

****Alexis Fleming from Aumsville Scouts, Troop 9050, led Council, City staff and attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.***

AGENDA APPROVAL: Mayor Ceja requested a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Casarez motioned to approve the agenda as presented; Councilor Seney seconded. Agenda approved.

PRESENTATIONS:

- a) **Introduction to the Mayor – Aumsville Scouts, Troop 9050:** Ron Fleming, Troop Leader, spoke briefly to Council. He stated the Troop was learning about communication – different types of verbal and non-verbal communication, and different forms of communication through media. He said that this evening, the Scouts would be observing how different points of view could be discussed and settled in a public manner. He asked Mayor Ceja what the most contested or decisive issue had been since she became mayor, and how she navigated that communication fairly and effectively. Mayor Ceja said the 'how-to' of community involvement had come up a lot, and the proper channels for how to communicate concerns (how to address it to the City, and what the Council role was in that). She mentioned the City had just put out a request for signatures to support funding for the new Wastewater Treatment Plant, which affects the *whole* town and will end up raising water bills if we don't acquire outside funding. Another issue had been communicating [to State and local leaders] what the City's biggest concerns are, who will be impacted the most, and why Aumsville should receive outside funding. The money to build the new facility will be substantial and it's important to convey how Aumsville is different than other cities, and why Aumsville should receive the funding.

Mr. Fleming expounded on the Scouts structure. He explained that they weren't the same as the Girl Scouts (they don't sell cookies). The Boy Scouts of America organization changed the structure a couple of years ago into a youth program for kindergarten through fifth grade (Cub Scouts), and then split into a girls unit and boys

unit for programs similar to the traditional, previous Boy Scout model. They could accelerate into Eagle Scout status in the older youth program.

VISITORS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

a) Approval of Minutes from February 27, 2023 Regular Meeting

b) Accounts Payable

Councilor Seney motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; Councilor Wick seconded. Councilor Casarez abstained from the vote, as he was not present at the February 27, 2023 meeting. Consent Agenda approved.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

a) Budget Committee Appointments

City Administrator Ron Harding spoke to Council regarding the Budget Committee. He indicated that 2 positions on the Committee had expired [terms of service], and 2 parties wished to be reappointed. Additionally, there is one new applicant. CA Harding stated that the only criterion for Budget Committee members is that they are a resident of the City. He said Staff felt the applicant as well as the potential reappointments would participate in good faith, and work toward aiding the City in reaching an adopted budget.

Mayor Ceja asked if there were any questions or discussion. Councilor Casarez indicated that he knew the new applicant, who was a former neighbor. He is excited to see this applicant, as he thinks he's in a place where he can be more involved.

Mayor Ceja requested a motion to appoint the new applicant to the Budget Committee. Councilor Casarez motioned to appoint Austin Gallup to the Budget Committee with term expiring December 31, 2023. Councilor Seney seconded. Austin Gallup was appointed to the Budget Committee.

Councilor Seney motioned to reappoint Tammy Bennett to the Budget Committee with term expiring December 31, 2025. Councilor Casarez seconded. Tammy Bennett was reappointed to the Budget Committee.

Councilor Seney motioned to reappoint Karla Willmschen to the Budget Committee with term expiring December 31, 2025. Councilor Cox seconded. Karla Willmschen was reappointed to the Budget Committee.

Mayor Ceja confirmed there was still one open position on the Budget Committee. CA Harding indicated that was correct, and the City would continue to advertise the vacancy.

b) 2023-2028 New TMDL Matrix

Assistant Public Works Director Matthew Etzel addressed the Council stating that last year the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) posted new TMDL limits for Mercury. He stated that Public Works had brought before Council updates to the TMDL matrix that addressed the Mercury limits. That was the end of the 5-year cycle. The new matrix has moved from voluntary limiting to a mandatory enforcement action/compliance matrix. He stated that there were some language changes in the new matrix, and there are quantity amounts that must be reported. Public education and engagement will also have to be reported. One of the major changes was: annual funding sources for TMDL projects must be reported. In the past, Stormwater Fees and System Development Charges (SDCs) have been discussed as means to fund TMDL projects. Previously, Street, General and Parks Funds have been used for these projects, but this takes away from maintenance, upgrade and repair projects. Having a fund for TMDL/Stormwater projects will be important. Another part of the new requirements is a separate City ordinance that includes regulations and enforcement actions, so the City has recourse if there is a violation. Those violations must be tracked, and there must be fines associated.

Mayor Ceja asked APWD Etzel to define what the acronym "TMDL" stood for. APWD Etzel indicated it was "Total Maximum Daily Loads". The EPA has set limits for the Willamette Basin – the Basin our stormwater drains in to – which consists of Mill Creek and Beaver Creek. Right now, those creeks don't meet water quality standards, so the EPA has set a table so cities, counties and other entities have to make some form of effort to reduce pollutants in the Basin. The City tracks 3 types of pollutants: bacteria, temperature and Mercury. Mercury is often caused by erosion and is found in the soil. It also comes to us from other countries and is hard to regulate. Bacteria is combated through pet waste cleanup stations in the City parks and along walkways. Efforts at reducing temperature are through our street tree program. Aumsville is also a 'Tree City USA' (awarded through the Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Forestry).

The new matrix presented to Council was approved by DEQ and created in cooperation with Keller Associates and an agent from DEQ. APWD Etzel said that Council will eventually have to adopt the matrix, and the ordinance will be developed and brought before them later.

CA Harding said this had been discussed previously. He mentioned the City being brought into the Metropolitan Planning Organization (or SKATS: Salem-Keizer Area Transportation Study), and as part of that, the City will have to adhere to federal stormwater regulatory standards. The City knew the TMDL implementation phase was on the horizon, but as part of the MPO/SKATS a separate stormwater funding avenue is necessary. Staff is looking at a stormwater system development master plan, a stormwater utility fee and some sort of regulatory enforcement. A lot of the regulatory framework is in place through the Public Works Design Standards – but those Standards will have to be updated to meet the federal standards. For example, if we build a road, stormwater drainage tends to just be a ditch. But, under federal standards, you must have onsite treatment and distribution of stormwater. This will all be developed over the next year.

Ron Fleming, Troop 9050 Leader, inquired as to whether the City had a dollar amount of funds needed for the stormwater/TMDL projects. APWD Etzel said there wasn't an exact amount given – it was more a plan on where the funding would be sourced that had to be reported to the regulating agencies, as well as the plan for allocation.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

City Administrator Harding brought up the work session/meeting the following evening. He said there would be a strategic planning discussion on some of the more technical aspects of some of the things coming up in the City. There have been a number of legislative actions over the last few years that are being implemented this fiscal year (end of June), and we have to make some decisions and take some action.

Open staffing positions are being filled. One position is unfilled, but there is one person through the background check.

CA Harding brought to Council's attention a DEQ warning letter from a situation that occurred last year, though the City had just received it mid-March. The wastewater facility is limited by fixed calendar dates on when it can discharge. There was heavy rainfall near the time referred to in the warning letter, which overran the capacity of the facility. Staff is forced to discharge to the creek due to that, which is what generated the warning letter.

The emergency generator for the water system has arrived. It has been in transit for several months. All the infrastructure is in place, and the project will wrap up in the next couple of weeks.

We have a number of franchises that are up for renewal, a number of new laws at state and federal level, and a couple of new companies have approached the City asking for franchise agreements. We will have to get started on those right away. We will have to look at our franchise ordinances first to make sure they are compliant with new laws, approve the renewals and potentially approve the new franchise agreements. We will receive revenue from the new franchises in the future.

Staff hasn't received many sponsorships for Corn Festival. If we don't receive more sponsors, the City may have to contribute funds. Mayor Ceja said that before she was mayor, she spent a lot of time and outreach to find sponsors. She welcomed other Councilors to take that on, as she no longer has the time. Councilor Cox asked what sponsorship looked like. CA Harding indicated there was a chart that allowed a sponsor more benefits, depending on what they contributed financially. The last couple of years, we have received \$18-20,000 from sponsorship.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS AND INITIATIVES:

Councilor Seney stated the parks open house had been held, and had gone well. They received lots of comments. They are in the process of putting together the final plans to submit to the Planning Commission. Mayor Ceja asked for the timeframe on ground-breaking. CA Harding stated there was no date set. The first thing that needed to happen was community outreach on the updated Parks Master Plan, which was the point of the open houses. On April 20, the suggested plan will go to the Planning Commission for a public hearing. Up to this point, Staff has been soliciting public input through open houses, looking at conceptual plans, asking the community what they would like to see and what they think they need. That information will be rolled into conceptual plans that will be voted on through surveys. Staff will then make a recommendation to adopt the finalized plan. There needs to be a Parks Master Plan before the City can qualify for grants, and the work that has gone into this so far is part of that process. The other part of this is that the proposed park property isn't within the City limits. It was identified as a future park area in a previous Plan. Now, the urban growth boundary has to be moved outside to include the park property. Once that work is done, we can apply for grants.

Mayor Ceja has had a couple of meetings with state and federal leaders. She is continuing to touch base regarding where we are at with lobbying. She asked that citizens and business owners sign the online letter of support for our Wastewater Treatment Plant funding. She has been getting a lot of questions on how to get involved in town, and how to reach out. She said that there are forms online to address concerns, and there is a proper way to communicate – and those forms are checked by Staff.

Kayla Webb of Aumsville Scouts Troop 9050 asked Mayor Ceja what the job of the newly-appointed Budget Committee members would be. Mayor Ceja briefly explained the budget analysis process the Budget Committee takes on.

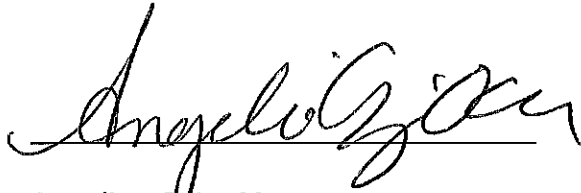
Nathan Webb, Scout Master of Troop 9050, addressed Council. He stated that their youth needed service hours, and would be contacting the Parks Department [for ways and places to volunteer]. CA Harding said there were hundreds of opportunities to serve, but if there was specific criteria would need to be met, the City could work that in.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: None

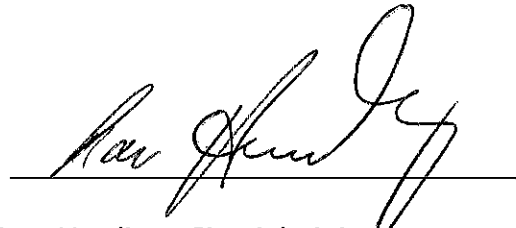
CORRESPONDENCE: None

Mayor Ceja presented each member of Troop 9050 present: Kayla Webb, Alexis Fleming and Grace Stave with a City of Aumsville medallion.

Mayor Ceja adjourned the meeting without prejudice at 7:56PM.



Angelica Ceja, Mayor



Ron Harding, City Administrator

/s/ Respectfully submitted by Traci Nichols, City Clerk

