



City of Aumsville



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AUMSVILLE CITY COUNCIL Minutes – January 27, 2020

Mayor Pro-tem Seney called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Chester Bridges Memorial Community Center, 555 Main Street, Aumsville, Oregon. Council present was: Councilors Angelica Ceja, Nico Casarez, Larry Purdy, and Della Seney. Council absent was: Mayor Derek Clevenger, Councilor Jim Case, and Councilor 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 Pro-tem Seney announced that staff has requested that Council switch item 2A Presentations with item 2B Public Comment. She asked for a motion to approve the agenda with this change. Councilor Casarez motioned to approve the agenda with changes as requested by staff. Councilor Purdy seconded. Motion APPROVED 4-0: (Yes: Casarez, Ceja, Purdy, and Seney. No: None.)

VISITORS:

There were 5 visitors in the audience, and no one asked to speak during the public comment period.

PRESENTATION: *State of the City*

CA Harding led Council through a PowerPoint presentation of the State of the City. He talked about the five goals that Council previously set during their visioning process and presented the accomplishments within those goals.

Some of the milestone accomplishments of 2019:

- Wildwood Park expansion and upgrades, including new restrooms
- Purchase of 23-acre East side park property
- Completed Safe Routes to School project
- Funded road overlay of Michael Way
- City-wide IT upgrades for efficiency and continuity

- Purchased two new police cars
- Improved financial position of the city
- Deployed radar signs throughout the city
- Installed rumble strips on problematic streets

Significant Challenges that the City is still facing:

- Wastewater system requirements
- Stormwater issues
- Potable water delivery system
- Water sources
- Challenges with developing the ID zone
- State and Federal mandates

CA Harding showed a comparison (2016 vs 2019) of the city's financial net position. In June 2016, assets exceeded liabilities by \$8,908,996. With careful budgeting and hard work from staff and Council, that number showed in June 2019 assets exceeded liabilities by \$12,259,981.

State of the City:

- The city's financials are stable.
- The community is engaged and participating.
- Staff are working effectively.
- New development is occurring.
- We have a greater understanding today of our challenges.
- We are on the cusp of developing a consensus for direction and the community's future with our vision plan.
- We are implementing a greater communication strategy to inform residents of challenges and necessary actions.

CA Harding concluded the presentation, reporting that the state of our community is overall good. There were no questions or comments from Council.

CONSENT AGENDA: Council reviewed the January 13, 2020 Council meeting minutes. Councilor Purdy moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilor Ceja seconded. Motion APPROVED 4-0: (Yes: Casarez, Ceja, Purdy, and Seney. No: None.)

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: Council reviewed the Westech Engineering Mixing Zone Study proposal and contract. CA Harding explained that this is part of the requirements of the Memorandum Agreement Order (MAO) with DEQ. The first requirement is to commission a capital facilities plan. Part of that plan is to conduct a mixing zone study.

He stated that this study is one that Westech Engineering, our city engineer, is qualified to do.

Councilor Purdy moved to approve the proposal and contract from Westech Engineering, LLC as presented to complete a mixing zone study with a not to exceed \$33,000 limit. Councilor Casarez seconded. Motion APPROVED 4-0: (Yes: Casarez, Ceja, Purdy, and Seney. No: None.)

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

CA Harding presented Council with a letter of support for an investment company that is wanting to purchase East Marion Rail Line that runs from Woodburn through Aumsville and ends in Stayton. They have stated that they would commit to making upgrades to safety crossing. He explained that this letter is just a letter of support for them to purchase the rail line; it is not an obligation on either party. He stated that he did talk to Mayor Clevenger and wanted to let Council know that the mayor voiced some concern about how this would affect the property that Lucky You leases from the railroad. CA Harding commented that the city cannot negotiate on behalf of a private entity and we must stay focused on the issues that affect the community. Negotiating the costly safety improvements of three crossings will benefit all of our citizens. Even though that is our main focus, we could of course make the purchaser aware of the business and their desire to continue to use or purchase the property.

Councilor Casarez motioned to approve and authorize CA Harding to sign the letter of support of Oregon Cavalier Development, LLC, supporting their negotiation for purchase of the East Marion Rail Line. Councilor Purdy seconded. Motion APPROVED 4-0: (Yes: Casarez, Ceja, Purdy, and Seney. No: None.)

CA Harding has been working with Pacific Power on Rule 13 which has to do with underground power lines on Main Street. There is a program available that can help to get the project completed. There is a cost to the city that would be spread out through a citywide surcharge. Depending on the cost of the project, it would add \$.25 to \$1.00 on the utility bills. He stated that he will bring this forward for discussion at a future study session. He will work with Pacific Power to develop an estimate before that time. Then if Council wished to pursue this, we would take it out to the public for input.

CA Harding followed up on the concerns for the sale of Kratom in our local stores. He stated that he spoke with the owners of the stores and they are willing to work with whatever Council decides. They have offered to remove outside advertisement and put the product behind the counter so that youth do not have easy access.

Campaign season is coming up, and CA Harding wanted to discuss whether or not the city should allow paid campaign ads in our newsletter. It was discussed and Council decided that it would be best to have this conversation when more Council members are available. CA Harding will add this as a topic at the upcoming Council retreat.

CA Harding talked about the Arbor Day event in April. We will be planting a Hiroshima Peace tree in Mill Creek Park. Staff has partnered with the elementary school for an educational part of the event. There will be an art contest for 3rd through 5th grade students and approximately 300 students will attend the planting ceremony.

Council received the check registers for January 13, 2020 through January 17, 2020. There was no discussion.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS AND INITIATIVES: NONE

GOOD OF THE ORDER: NONE

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

Council convened to the City Hall conference room at 8:40 PM for an Executive Session

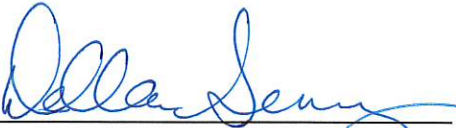
EXECUTIVE SESSION - The council met under the authority of ORS 192.660(2)(h), to *consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.*

In an executive session, the discussion is off the record; matters discussed are not to be disclosed. No decision was made in this Executive Session.

Council reconvened into regular session at 9:40 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION OUTCOME: Council had no outcome to give. The session was held with no decisions made.

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 PM without prejudice.



Della Seney, Mayor Pro-Tem



Ron Harding, City Administrator