



City of Aumsville



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AUMSVILLE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION Minutes – January 29, 2020

Chair Della Seney called the meeting to order at 6:22 PM in the Chester Bridges Memorial Community Center, 555 Main Street, Aumsville, Oregon. Council present was: Councilors Nico Casarez, Angelica Ceja, Larry Purdy, and Della Seney. Council absent was: Mayor Derek Clevenger and Councilors Gus Bedwell and Jim Case. City Administrator Ron Harding (CA Harding), Finance Officer Josh Hoyer (FO Hoyer), and Office Assistant RYanne Crowther were also present.

PRESENTATION:

1. Water Rate Structure Study

CA Harding and FO Hoyer presented a water rate structure study prepared by city staff. The purpose of the study is to give Council hypothetical options for Aumsville's water rate structure to obtain feedback on approach to the water rate structure. There is a high rate (97%) of residents versus 3% of nonresidential water accounts in the city of Aumsville. 16% of the residential accounts are getting the senior rate. Winter months are what are considered "basic use." In the summer, there is an increase in discretionary use. The distinction is important because we are limited on capacity, fire flow, and water rights, which leads to the issues of conservation and disaster preparation. Compared to other cities in Aumsville's population bracket, according to the League of Oregon Cities' rate survey, Aumsville's water rates are below the middle for the rate comparison. The way to let residents know the value of the commodity (clean water from adequate facilities) is to show the comparison to other areas and the value of the service we perform. Regardless of rates, the value of the commodity needs to be fully understood by the community. CA Harding led Council through scenarios of different water rate structures the Council could consider as possibilities for Aumsville. It was discussed that Aumsville residents would benefit from transparent conversation about the value of water and the needs of our water facilities as the city moves toward critical projects. Council discussed ways to portray the message, and that changes would need to be as slow as needed, not only for funding, but for education on the state of our water facilities.

2. Public Works Shop Expansion

CA Harding presented the current capacity and needs of the Public Works Facilities. There is equipment, such as the new Vaccon truck, that is partially left uncovered and/or exposed to elements of weather and wildlife. There is also a strong need for adequate office space for staff. CA Harding gave his proposal for a new, bigger building, and to make some upgrades to the existing structures to protect the equipment. It was discussed that the quality of buildings protects not only the equipment, but the life of the investment versus less expensive structures. Council was supportive to plan for a larger 8000 sq ft building to be constructed on the public works site this year. It was discussed that the next step is to get plans drawn up and send it out to bid, and further explore funding possibilities for the upgrades to the public works shops.

3. Other Business May Come Before the Council At this Time

CA Harding presented to the Council a map of Aumsville's Interchange Development zone and an update to the railroad's potential recommission impact on that zone. The possible consequences/opportunities of the change were discussed in regard to the potential to work with property owners to come to a plan that will raise the potential for this zone to be developed. One of the possibilities was for the city to obtain a 20% plan for the right of way and intersection that would make the zone more attractive to potential developers. It was discussed that that strategy was a good direction and should be explored further.

The meeting adjourned without prejudice at 8:26 PM



Ron Harding, City Administrator



Della Seney, Mayor Pro-tem