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AUMSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

February 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Angelica Ceja called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Present were Mayor Angelica Ceja, Councilors Della Seney, Doug Cox, Katie Wallace, Scott Lee, Nico Casarez, and Walter Wick. Staff present: Assistant City Administrator (ACA) Kirsti Pizzuto, Assistant Public Works Director (APWD) Matt Etzel, and Administrative Assistant Celia Lemhouse. Staff present via Zoom: City Administrator (CA) Ron Harding. The meeting was video recorded to be released later.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Councilor Seney moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Wick seconded. Council present voted unanimously to approve the agenda. Agenda approved.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

VISITORS: Cameron Haerer.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilor Seney moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilor Lee seconded the motion. Council present voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A) Budget Committee Appointments: Mayor Ceja stated there were no reappointments this year, and there two new applicants. Council had no questions. Mayor Ceja asked for a motion. Councilor Casarez moved to approve Carrie Murphy to the vacant Budget Committee seat with the term expiring December 31, 2026. Councilor Wick seconded the motion, Council present voted unanimously to approve the motion. Motion passed.

Mayor Ceja asked for a motion for the second appointment. Councilor Casarez moved to approve Jennifer Molan to the vacant Budget Committee seat with the term expiring December 31, 2026. Councilor Lee seconded the motion. Council present voted unanimously to pass the motion. Motion passed.

B) Westech Engineering Services Proposal for SCA Grant: APWD Etzel discussed the proposal to have Westech design the 3rd Street Improvements for the Small City Allotment (SCA) Grant awarded through ODOT. APWD Etzel explained the City had met with Westech when they applied for the grant and Westech has already begun some preliminary design work.

Councilor Seney moved to approve the Westech Civil Engineering Services Proposal for the 3rd Street SCA with a not-to-exceed amount of \$25,000 as presented by staff. Councilor Casarez seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to pass the motion. Motion passed.

C) Fencing at Porter-Boone Park: APWD Etzel stated the City was previously donated property north of Porter-Boone Park. APWD Etzel explained the property doesn't have a fence line and there have been issues with people crossing from the park to a resident's property. APWD Etzel stated the City wants to put a fence along the west end of the park to establish a clear boundary between the two properties.

APWD Etzel stated the City has received three quotes to install a six-foot chain link galvanized fence. APWD Etzel discussed the fence will be made of nine-gauge fencing material which is a little heavier than residential fences for a longer-lasting fence.

APWD Etzel explained there was an additional proposal from Farmer's Laborer to clear the area where the fence would go as there is an existing old fence and brush. APWD Etzel stated the area the fence would go has been surveyed so the City knows exactly where the property line is. APWD Etzel explained he had been in contact with the adjacent property owner who was in agreement with the City's plan.

Councilor Lee asked if there was going to be a pathway connecting the Caleb St. block neighborhood to the park. APWD Etzel explained there is some possible development in the area that could provide some connectivity, but nothing right now.

Councilor Cox asked for clarification on where the fence was on the proposal. APWD Etzel explained the fence would be 50 feet from the creek and run north in a straight line for 915 feet to the end of 13th Street. APWD Etzel elaborated there is a little jog in the property line that will not be fenced as there is no need.

Councilor Cox asked if someone could walk around the end of the fence to cross to the adjacent property. APWD Etzel stated yes that was possible, and that he would get an estimate for additional fencing to present the option to Council.

Councilor Lee moved to approve the FW Fencing Company Incorporated quote for 915 feet of galvanized fencing for \$24,147.05 and to approve the quote from Farmer's Laborer LLC for brush removal for not-to-exceed amount of \$6,500. Councilor Casarez seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to pass the motion. Motion passed.

D) TMDL Report & Funding Information: APWD Etzel explained every February, the City has to submit an annual TMDL (total maximum daily load) report to DEQ describing what the City is doing to limit pollutants going into stormwater.

APWD Etzel referenced the TMDL matrix presented to Council last year for the end of the City's five-year reporting and explained that there are new requirements for the TMDL reports, including mercury reporting, public education and information, and a stormwater webpage on the City's website. APWD Etzel discussed some other requirements Council should be aware of, and mentioned that staff will likely bring recommendations for a funding source directed specifically for stormwater, which DEQ wants to see within the next year or so. APWD Etzel explained a lot of other cities have done a stormwater fee to cover the high costs associated with stormwater maintenance.

Mayor Ceja asked if there was some sort of timeline for the cost analysis or a projection of when the fees would be implemented. CA Harding explained the City has been discussing the issue for about five years and should have implemented some of the fees, as the City is behind in some of its TDML work and supplementing stormwater expenses with the Street Fund. The City hasn't proposed a fee yet due to the uncertainty of how the wastewater project will impact the water/sewer bill. CA Harding further explained he would like to get the stormwater fee set up within the year to meet DEQ requirements.

APWD Etzel stated by the end of the five-year cycle, 2028, the City has to have a stormwater ordinance in place with a fee structure and enforcement action on anyone caught discharging pollutants into the stormwater system. APWD Etzel explained the City currently has a nuisance ordinance that allows for citations, but DEQ wants an ordinance specifically for stormwater with enforcement action.

Councilor Cox agreed with CA Harding that it is best to wait until the City has a better idea of what the wastewater fee is going to be before creating a new storm system fee to minimize the number of fee increases introduced.

Councilor Casarez asked if there was currently anyone the City had to enforce the nuisance ordinance on. APWD Etzel answered there have been a few different complaints with pet waste dumping and mud runoff from buildings during the wet season which qualifies under the bacteria of the DEQ matrix. There were a couple of instances where the City made contact with homeowners.

Councilor Casarez asked if anyone had contacted the COG (Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments, MWVCOG) to see if any work was being done with them for similar projects. APWD Etzel said he had spoken with the City's compliance person from DEQ and asked if any other cities are developing a stormwater ordinance to see if Aumsville could see their ordinance and use it as a template. CA Harding added the City had a stormwater fee collected on a limited basis in 2019-2020, but no plan or funding mechanism to go with it. CA Harding stated the City can ask the legal counsel for help with the ordinance but needs help on what the capital funding will look like. CA Harding explained he wanted to work these fees concurrently, so they increase at the same time. CA Harding elaborated stormwater fees are typically very small.

APWD Etzel described a few of the accomplishments the City has made within the new requirements like planting 23 maple trees along Highberger Greenway and cleaning and paved 30,000 linear feet of sewer collection pipes.

E) Culpepper & Merriweather Circus Service Agreement: CA Harding explained this was a possible event from a Council work session. CA Harding added he had spoken to the owners of the Circus after Council indicated they would like the City to sponsor the event, and they agreed to the City's event contract. CA Harding stated if Council approves the contract, he will get it signed and lock in the event for May 24th, 2024. CA Harding explained the only financial obligation the City had, aside from issuing a permit and organizing a couple of volunteers, was a \$290 application/sponsor fee. CA Harding elaborated that the City will also help sell tickets and spread the word in exchange for a percentage of ticket sales which can go wherever Council directs.

Councilor Wallace asked if the Circus would perform one show or two shows. CA Harding answered the Circus typically does two shows, but it will depend as this is the first year.

Councilor Casarez moved to approve the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus Service Agreement as presented by staff. Councilor Lee seconded the motion. Council present voted unanimously to approve the motion. Motion passed.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: None.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS AND INITIATIVES: Councilor Seney stated there was a SKATS meeting February 27th that she and Mayor Ceja would attend. Mayor Ceja stated the "If I were Mayor" interview went on the radio last week, and the COG dinner is on Wednesday.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

Mayor Ceja adjourned the meeting without prejudice at 7:36 PM.

February 26, 2024 minutes unanimously approved by Council present on March 11, 2024.