

WORK SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
CITY OF AMITY, OR

Minutes

Work Session of the City of Amity City Council was held at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 109 Maddox, Amity, Oregon.

Councilors Present

Mayor Ryan Lehman, Councilor Napua Ann Rich, Councilor April Dyché, Councilor Sandy McArthur, Councilor Rachel King.

Councilors Absent

Councilor Robert Andrade

Staff Present

City Administrator Michael Thomas

BUSINESS FROM THE STAFF:

City Administrator gave updates on any on-going City business and updated on status of projects.

OPEN FORUM & DISCUSSION FROM MAYOR & CITY COUNCILORS:

- a. **Infrastructure** - Topic #1: Water Improvement Project Report by Councilor Rich: City Administrator Michael Thomas gave an update on current happenings on the Water Improvement project. Progress continues to stall as the City works with USDA, Tribal leadership, and other partners to secure permissions to proceed to next phase. There was discussion of a need for the City to have a more involved voice in ongoing negotiations. Michael has reached out to State and Federal Representatives in an effort to facilitate reaching mutual goals in relation to the project and has requested additional information on how best to proceed in a way that meets the needs and requirements of the City while being respectful and contentious of what is has been asked of us. This is in light of currently not being included into firsthand discussions. These discussions are pertinent to knowing what our next steps as a City entail as the project moves forward.

Continue Topic #1 Report by Mayor Lehman: Mike updated the council on the ongoing water project standstill. Mike had a phone conversation with Holly Halligan at USDA. As promised, they did meet with the tribal leadership this month. Here's where we stand.

BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT: We're no closer now than we were previously; if SHPO gets their way, then we may have slid backwards!

1) The tribal leadership stated that they have not fully reviewed the last set of mitigation documentations and proposals from USDA.

1a) Therefore, we need to wait until the next meeting to give the tribal leadership time to review the documents and possibly offer counter proposals.

2) State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) - which is a required signatory to the MOA - stated the Environmental Assessment is insufficient, in that it does not properly address all 4 categories of mitigation.

2a) The 4 categories are defined individually, but 1 of the 4 says something to the effect of "meets the requirements of USDA oversight and funding requirements." This is how our assessment was completed and it was deemed sufficient at the time. SHPO now states that the assessment needs to cover the other

3 categories, too.

2b) This surprised USDA, as SHPO didn't balk at this previously and Holly isn't sure why they are requiring this change now.

2c) Holly said that she will work with the USDA national office and SHPO to try and determine a work around to this possible problem.

3) The tribal leadership asked a few questions of possible mitigation measures that are City of Amity specific. Holly stated that the City is not an attendee to these meetings and USDA will not speak to specific City issues.

3a) Holly said that she will also work with the USDA national office in getting authorization for the City to attend the meetings.

3b) It is my thought, that if we're allowed the participation may be limited to the Mayor and city Admin.

3c) City asked Holly about the meeting frequency and she stated usually monthly.

So, recap, the city is waiting on SHPO and tribal leadership, also we are advocating with congressional leadership that represents our region to get us a seat at the table. Hope to have mayor and city admin seats but at the least mayor.

Topic #2: Salt Creek Waterline Relocate Report by Councilor Rich: City Administrator recapped history, timelines and current work on the Salt creek waterline relocation project. Discussion was of changes in project design and what has been found to be necessary to cross the creek since findings of horizontal directional drilling is no longer an option. This was a continuance from last month's work session discussion. The City has been working with ODOT to secure easements, right of ways, and collaborate on timing. Currently awaiting environmental studies and additional easement permissions before moving forward. Project amendments have recently been made to accommodate additional funding needs and design changes.

Continue Topic #2 Report by Mayor Lehman: ODOT has backed up its timeline on replacement into the 2022 year, the city is working closely with them to get the project completed. Amity is going to help ODOT with right of way on Amity's side of the Bridge, on the south (cemetery) side of the roadway. ODOT is working with Amity on the west end with right of way issues. The topic of the cemetery tree line was brought up and the city will have to keep an eye on this possible issue. The city is waiting on ODOT's environmental report so that Amity can move along with our engineering of the water line, at the time of the work session that report was not available, but on Thursday, 4/22/21 that report was sent to the city for review. City & Keller can now move into next stages of the project planning.

Topic #3: Wastewater/Sewer Report by Councilor Rich: Mayor, Council, and Staff spoke briefly of future needs and next steps pertaining to waste water and sewer facilities and upgrades. Mayor Lehman and I will attend upcoming Water task force meeting with representative from the County and local communities to discuss and highlight the needs of our City and local communities, in an effort to move forward on future projects of this nature in the most efficient and collaborative manner possible.

Topic # 4: City of Amity Sign Reinstall Project Report by Mayor Lehman: The city and council was sent an email about the status of signs project, ODOT reviewed, and the cost has gone up, because ODOT is wanting all safety items followed, this prompted the sign installation company Salem Sign to contact the City. Staff informed them that the city has \$10,000.00 budgeted dollars to complete this project, and so this may only lead to North and South city limit signs to be installed. This is a now evolving change and staff will keep council in the loop if anything changes.

- b. **Community Engagement** - Topic #1 Report by Councilor Rich: April 14, 2021 committee meeting only included Chair Napua Rich and Co-chair April Dyche. Members Erin Rainey and Bill Willis did not attend. Attendance of the Tourism committee has struggled to meet quorum for some time now. During the work session, councilor Rich engaged the council about alternatives as the tourism committee continues to struggle with attendance, despite member outreach attempt, advertisement of vacant seats, and zoom availability. There was discussion about discontinuing the Tourism committee and reallocating funds. Councilor Rich will review Ordinance and research alternatives of fund reallocation.

Topic #2: Business Outreach Report by Councilor Rich: Michael Thomas has continued outreach via email to local business owners. Councilor Rich extended gratitude to Michael Thomas for keeping the business community engaged and updated, especially during our current state of emergency.

Topic #3: Transparency Report by Councilor Rich: Councilor Rich engaged Mayor Lehman about scheduling community town hall, as decided by the council during goal setting. Councilor Dyche conceded, with the same question. Mayor Lehman nodded but did not commit to a date at this time, as he likely needs to work on planning and collaboration for the event. Councilor Rich engaged council members about council meeting transparency. Provided two examples and stressed the importance of discussion necessary, during meetings, to provide our community with content supporting the decisions we are making.

- c. **Public Safety** - Topic #1 Report by Councilor Dyche: Tow tags and parking ticket update. The deputies have placed a few warnings but no citations or tows thus far.

Topic #2 Report by Councilor Dyche: Possible Cops Grant-Mike will look into it.

- d. **Parks** – No report given by Councilor Andrade.

- e. **City Services** – No report given by Councilor McArthur.

- f. **Finance** – Topic #1 Report by Councilor King: There was some discussion on budget season and upcoming meeting. I asked a few clarification questions on Budget vs. Actual documents. There was no finance POC work to be completed at the meeting. I am still waiting to learn more about the responsibilities of this position and what tasks I'll need to carry out in the future.

Approved by City Council May 5, 2021

Ryan Lehman, Mayor

Attest:

Natasha Johnson, City Recorder