

**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, June 15, 2022, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 109 Maddox, Amity, Oregon.

Councilors Present:

Councilor Melissa Bojorquez, Councilor Acie Dunlap, Councilor April Dyche, and Mayor Rachel King

Councilors Present via Zoom

None

Councilors Absent

Councilors Goings, McArthur, and Saucier

Staff Present

City Administrator Mike Thomas

CITIZEN COMMENTS/QUESITONS:

- A. Citizen Comments: A community member (a minor) apologized to Council for his behavior towards the city. Mayor King accepted the apology.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

- A. Administrator Thomas began with a summary of the incident that led to the citizen comments. Mayor King commented as well that she reached out to multiple individuals about the incident, too. Councilor Dyche requested that she be included in such City business.
- B. Administrator Thomas then discussed his progress with ODOT in installing direction finding signs for the park. Mayor King concluded by stating that Councilors may email/call/text the City Administrator directly.
- C. Administrator Thomas covered the transition of Municipal Court Judges as well as the increase in code enforcement, noting that the new Judge will likely handle these new code violations.
- D. Administrator Thomas mentioned that the Salt Creek Bridge project is exempted from the Governor's work stoppage order. Mayor King asked if the Administrator could work ODOT about removing the weight restriction signs from around town.
- E. Administrator Thomas mentioned the new City Park Host starting work. Council requested City Staff complete a full background check on the individual.

COUNCILOR COMMENTS:

- A. Councilor Dunlap: Asked about fixing the Amity News Community Board at the Post Office. Mayor King directed Administrator Thomas and Councilor Dunlap to investigate how to potentially fix the sign and to determine who owns it and if we have a right to access it.
- B. Councilor Bojorquez: Asked about the locks on the bathroom doors at the City Park. Administrator Thomas stated he would investigate it with City Staff.
- C. Councilor Dyche: Councilor Dyche emailed City Recorder Johnson her comments to add. She updated for Finance Committee that payment has been made on Salt Creek Bridge.

Law Enforcement: Code Enforcement letters going out. Juveniles that damaged the park did their community service. One of the boys wrote a letter and came to present it.

- D. Mayor King: Council discussed the upcoming ‘Movie in the park’; plans, timing, and backup plan in case of rain. Gary is set to deliver needed equipment, Mike plans to be in attendance, and 3/6 Councilors and I have confirmed our intent to be present for the event.

I shared with the Council details of a meeting held with Wendy Veliz of PGE. Topics of interest were ways in which Amity can strengthen partnerships with their company, how to help keep residents informed regarding changes, news, and PGE programs, and how might the City and PGE collaborate to initiate, and fund moves towards back-up power solutions and clean energy use. I was also invited to meet with PGE CEO Maria Pope later this summer to discuss the needs of Amity and similar small rural communities. The goal is to move forward in partnership with Portland General Electric in mutually beneficial ways. I asked for Councils help to brainstorm topics of importance, questions, and considerations for conversation, in advance of this upcoming meeting.

Administrator Thomas gave an update on the timeline for the USDA water improvement project. The City has established a closing date for interim financing and is in frequent contact with USDA. After closing, financials should be in order to give notice to proceed to approved contractor with a start date of August or September of this year.

Administrator Thomas also gave an update on the City’s portion of ODOTs Salt creek bridge project. Amity has paid ODOT for the work of temporary relocation and reattachment of our Water transmission line to what will be the newly constructed bridge. Using grant money in addition to loan funds issued by Business Oregon; Amity will now wait until the completion of the project for next steps. Required reporting during the duration of construction will be handled by MWVCOG through contractual agreement.

Approved by City Council July 6, 2022

Rachel King, Mayor

Attest:

Natasha Johnson, City Recorder