

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, July 21, 2021, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 109 Maddox, Amity, Oregon.

Councilors Present

Mayor Ryan Lehman, Councilor April Dyche, Councilor Sandy McArthur, Councilor Rachel King.

Councilors Absent

Councilor Robert Andrade and Councilor Napua Ann Rich

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: New Water Meters:

Update via Michael Thomas: The City's meter reading contract has been cancelled and that work has been taken over by City Public Works staff. City's A.R.P.A direct funds will be used for the purchase and installation of new meters to every customer. As of now, the expectation is that this process of meter swapping will begin as soon as September, with the goal of the project being completed by Thanksgiving.

Topic #2: Salt Creek Bridget Project:

City Administrator gave updates on ODOT bridge timelines concerning the salt creek bridge and how their progress will affect the timeline of the work Amity will be doing in the area to replace current water transmission line (attached to bridge) with a new line (underneath Salt Creek). We discussed procurement of needed easements and permits and the slow advancements of negotiations between USDA, SHPO, and Tribal leadership. All necessary actions on the part of the city are being taken to be shovel ready and have all necessary paperwork in order when given the go ahead to commence construction phase of this project.

b. **Community Engagement** – No Report given by Councilor Rich.

c. **Parks** – No report given by Councilor Andrade.

d. **City Services** – No report given by Councilor McArthur.

e. **Public Safety** -

Councilor Dyche reminded Council about National Night Out and City-Wide Garage Sale (which has already gone by).

f. **Finance** –

Topic #1: A.R.P.A Funds Expected by City:

Michael gave an update on the latest news from LOC, State and Feds concerning expected relief funding to the city. Final request paperwork is being submitted to the State of Oregon and the expectation is that those monies will be released from the State to Amity by mid-August.

The City of Amity will also be receiving \$2,000,000 in additional American Rescue Plan Act funds as granted by former Representative Nearman (and current Representative Scharf) for the purpose of fully funding two top priority water infrastructure upgrades. As of now this funding bill is still awaiting signature by the Governor and the City of Amity will most likely not receive this funding until the beginning of 2022 or later.

Topic #2: Franchise Agreement with Recology:

Council and staff discussed the need for an updated contract and franchise agreement between the City and Recology. The current agreement is 22 years old and outdated. Michael will initiate the steps needed to make changes on the City's end. Recology is expected to come before Council in September or October to discuss rate changes effective Nov. and new contract year would start Jan.1.

Topic #3: Budget vs. Actuals:

I brought up recommendations found in last two audits about more oversight needed throughout the year in order to minimize over-expenditures and transfers. Discussion was had about the outlook for the next audit and the disruptions in previous and current budgeting forecasts because of Covid impacts. We also discussed how loan and grant funds and the timing of pending projects and fund disbursements will affect the budget for this fiscal year.

g. **Mayor Report:**

Topic 1:

I gave council an update on the MOA that USDA and tribal leadership have been working on accomplishing. We are close just trying to iron out a last few items and were waiting for the Siletz tribes to respond. they have limited staff and that is the reason for the slow response to the inquiry from USDA. We are happy to start building a relationship with the Tribe and their leadership and hope to have a strong relationship with them into the future.

Topic 2:

New gas tax and what it takes to get to voters. There were past talks about asking voters for an added gas tax on fuel sold in Amity to help pay for street improvements. Council asked staff to inquire what it takes to complete this task to refer this item to voters.

Topic 3:

I commended the work that former rep Nearman and current rep Scharf did to secure the funds for Amity, the 2 million will help with a new water project in the Goucher street area. City hopes to get our ARPA funds to start the water meter replacement and hope to get a commitment from the county from their ARPA funds to help pay for replacement of transmission line from water tanks into town.

Topic 4: We also talked about the new state law that requires the city to provide online meeting access. City will be looking into a new sound system for better quality and will be working out the logistics of this new requirement. I asked about state cost sharing for implementation.

Approved by City Council August 4, 2021

Ryan Lehman, Mayor

Attest:

Natasha Johnson, City Recorder