

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, September 15, 2021, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 109 Maddox, Amity, Oregon.

Councilors Present

Councilor Sandy McArthur, Councilor Cody Goings, Councilor Robert Andrade, Councilor Napua Rich and Mayor Rachel King.

Councilors Absent

Councilor April Dyche

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** – See Mayor's Report.

b. **Community Engagement** –

Topic 1: Amity resident came to address concern about water bill. Concern regarding one month's cost exceedingly higher than normal. Not concerned about paying the bill received, concerned about this becoming an issue for an unknown reason. Neither City staff nor resident can determine the cause of an increased use. City Council engaged resident, asking several clarifying questions in hopes of assisting resident with determining the cause. It is determined, beyond the meter is the resident's responsibility. Resident agrees to continue monitoring use. If this becomes a pattern (exceeding 3 consistent months), resident will reach a plumber for further inspection. If this is not the issue, resident will bring supporting documents to council for review. City staff will begin water meter replacement in this resident's neighborhood.

Topic 2: Staff provided several updates also received via email. Council had opportunity to ask questions and gain any clarification needed.

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

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

e. **Public Safety** - No Report given by Councilor Dyche.

- f. **Finance** – Councilor Rich was newly appointed to Finance committee and needs to gain understanding of “folder”.

g. **Mayor Report:**

Topic #1: Infrastructure

Mike gave updates on 3 ongoing/ upcoming water improvement projects.

•Water Intake project- MOA between City, USDA, and local tribal leaders has been written detailing additional responsibilities of Amity during the execution and construction phase of this project. These include on sight archeologists for duration and specific scale criteria and protocol to follow If cultural or historical artifacts are found during dig. Amity will also work with Confederated strides of Grand Ronde to construct and display and educational kiosk in the city park detailing the significance of the land, history, etc. Amity will also need to instate a historical followed now and also in all actions moving forward where it may be pertinent. This memo of agreement should be ready for signatures before the end of September.

•Salt creek water transmission relocate- Council discussed changes to plans and engineering for the relocation on transmission line across Salt Creek. Due to necessary timelines to accommodate ODOT, easement availability, and environmental and geological studies; Amity has chosen to complete necessary work within ODOT easement, work in conjunction and use their contractors, and ultimately rehang the transmission line onto the bridge after the new bridge has been completed. This necessitates a temporary bridge to be constructed to house our line during the time ODOT is demolishing and rebuilding the bridge over Salt creek.

•Water meter replacement- City Administrator shared what updated information was available concerning the planned replacement of the vast majority of water meters throughout the city. This work will start on Sept 20 and should be completed by the end of the month. Public will be notified, as much as able, of progress and when to expect work to be happening in their area. There will also be a push of information in newsletter and elsewhere about how and why these meters may affect their meter reads and calculated usage.

Topic #2 Budget/Finance

While discussing the changes to the Salt Creek transmission line project one topic of discussion was how this impacts the budget and expected total cost. Due to a number of factors, to include temp bridge construction, higher prices of materials and labor, and an expedited timeline there has been a significant increase to the total funds needed to complete this project. An additional 600,000 dollars may be needed. Keller has supplied an updated project budget breakdown. Discussion was had between Council and staff regarding the reasoning and justifications for these increases. Mike explains that funding options have been considered and he has worked with Business Oregon to initiate changes and secure additional funds through the current loan process as necessary. Mayor and staff have also been in contact with County and State leaders to seek financial help in closing the current funding gap.

Topic #3: Water Customer concerns

Ms. Riggs joined our work session to appeal and discuss a recent high water usage notice and uncharacteristic spike in her water consumption as read by the meter. Ms. Riggs main concern was that to the best of her knowledge there is no explanation as to why this excessive usage would have occurred. Council let her know that the meter on her property will be replaced in a matter of weeks and that more accurate read and leak detection capabilities of these improved meters should give more insight to the situation if there happens to be an ongoing issue. Ms. Riggs agreed to pay the current charges and monitor usage and the meter on her property. It was acknowledged that it may be best to 'watch and wait' looking for trends and changes through the next few months. She was also given the leak adjustment policy. A plan moving forward was discussed. The City will continue to follow policy, install new meter, and be receptive and proactive in helping to come to a mutually agreed on resolution if there are ongoing concerns or issues.

Topic #4: City Park

Council discussed issues of a variety of non-compliance to rules and disruptive behaviors that have recently and historically been observed by patrons of the park. We noted improvements seen since the installation of security cameras and problem-solved ways to improve the park experience for visitors. There were also questions about the role of Park host and talk of the appreciation of his presence and upkeep of the grounds and facilities.

Approved by City Council October 6, 2021

Rachel King, Mayor

Attest:

Natasha Johnson, City Recorder