

TOWN HALL MEETING
CITY OF AMITY, OR

Minutes

A Town Hall Meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday June 16, 2021 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 109 Maddox, Amity, Oregon.

Councilors Present

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

Councilors Absent

Councilor Napua Rich

Staff Present

City Treasurer/Recorder Natasha Johnson, City Administrator Mike Thomas, and City Clerk Chrisy Worthington.

1. **DISCUSSION REGARDING FEDERAL RESCUE PLAN MONEY:**

Mayor Lehman updated the public regarding ARPA Funds the city is receiving and what the plan is for the funds. There were no comments from the public regarding this discussion.

2. **DISCUSSION WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT & RELOCATION OF WATER LINE @ SALT CREEK BRIDGE:**

Mayor Lehman updated public regarding the water infrastructure project. He informed the public regarding what has been completed with the project, its status, and what is delaying completion of the remainder. He also explained the reason for the project and our need to see it through.

Citizen Erin R. asked about what kind of artifacts were found at the proposed construction site. Mayor Lehman and Administrator Thomas described the discovered artifacts. Mayor Lehman also updated the public about the status of the project's funding. There were no more comments regarding this topic from the public.

Mayor Lehman then provided an update about relocating the City's water main off the Salt Creek Bridge. There were no comments from the public regarding this discussion topic.

3. **DISCUSSION REGARDING SEWER RATE INCREASE:**

Mayor Lehman described in detail the rationale and reason for the City's decision to raise sewer rates. He mentioned the requirement to conduct a sewer rate study and the water rate study that will finish soon. Mayor Lehman then compared Amity to neighboring cities' sewer rates, noting that the City is currently in the middle for rate costs. But he noted that once the new rates go into effect, Amity will be one of the highest rates in the area.

Citizen Melissa B. asked if Amity had a program or could start one allowing customers to round up their bills, the excess going to help those rate payers on a fixed income. Mayor Lehman let Melissa know there are currently programs out there to aid rate payers, but it is up to the customer to seek that assistance.

Councilor King and Councilor Dyché let the public know the City's Staff will seek information about such programs. There were no more comments from the public regarding this discussion.

Next, Mayor Lehman stated that Council looked over the sewer budget and could not find any expenses that could be cut. He explained how the different budget funds work and how the funds must pay for themselves.

Mayor Lehman then updated the public about the City's street paving projects. Then Administrator Thomas listed off the ODOT street grants Amity has going. There was some discussion regarding street paving and street needs within Amity. Mayor Lehman also updated regarding the Amity Signs being re-installed in town.

Mayor Lehman asked Council and the public if they had anything else to add. There were no further comments.

Mayor Lehman adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Approved by City Council July 7, 2021

Ryan Lehman, Mayor

Attest:

Natasha Johnson, City Recorder