

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEDFORD WATER COMMISSION

May 4, 2016

The regular meeting of the Medford Water Commission was called to order at 12:44 p.m. on the above date at the Medford City Hall Lausmann Annex, Room 151/157 with the following commissioners and staff present:

Chair Leigh Johnson; Commissioners Jason Anderson, John Dailey, Lee Fortier, Bob Strosser

Manager Larry Rains, Medford City Attorney Lori Cooper; City Recorder Karen Spoons; Administrative Coordinator Yvette Finstad; Principal Engineer Eric Johnson; Finance Director Tessa DeLine; Public Information Coordinator Sara Bristol; Conservation Coordinator Laura Hodnett; Duff/Water Treatment Plant Director Jim Stockton

Guests: Medford Councilmember Michael Zarosinski; Central Point Mayor Hank Williams; Central Point City Manager Chris Clayton

The pledge of allegiance was given.

3. Approval or Correction of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 20, 2016
The minutes were approved as presented.

4. Comments from Audience

- 4.1 Central Point City Manager Clayton requested a copy of the draft budget; both City Manager Chris Clayton and Central Point Mayor Hank Williams were given a copy at the meeting.

- 4.2 Commissioner Anderson questioned what the City is doing pertaining to sidewalks; Councilmember Zarosinski stated that we are making sidewalks ADA compliant.

5. Written Communications

- 5.1 Quarterly Letter to the Mayor and City Council

- The letter for the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2015-16 was presented. The Board members agreed to its contents, the Chair will sign and staff will forward it and the attachments to the Mayor and Council.

6. Authorization of Vouchers

Motion: Authorize the Manager and the Recorder to issue check-warrants in payment of invoices in the total amount of \$648,961.26.

Moved by: Mr. Dailey

Seconded by: Mr. Strosser

Commissioner Anderson questioned a payment to McClure & Sons; Principal Engineer Eric Johnson stated that we are on budget.

Roll Call: Commissioners Anderson, Dailey, Fortier, Johnson, and Strosser voting yes; Anderson recused himself from the C&C Tires voucher; Commissioner Fortier recused himself from Rogue Transfer voucher.

Motion carried and so ordered.

7. Engineer's Report (Principal Engineer Eric Johnson)

- 7.1 Duff Water Treatment Plant Floc/Sed Basins: The concrete forming, rebar setting and concrete pours continue for the sedimentation basins and the settled water flume. Work continues on the 48" pipe for the basin influent water and the electrical system. Piping in the sludge vault is being installed.

- 7.2 Highway 62 14" Water Main Reroute: MWC has received and processed the invoice from ODOT for the drilled shaft sign post in the amount of \$9,045.00. Commissioner Dailey questioned the price of the crank shaft; Engineer Johnson noted it was around \$50,000 and we are ahead of budget.
 - 7.3 City of Medford Lozier Lane Project: MWC is awaiting the outcome of the May 17 election on the dissolution of the Jacksonville Highway Water District. Meanwhile, MWC staff continues to work with Marquess and Associates on the water plans. MWC staff and City of Medford staff continue to coordinate on the plans and the specifications for the project.
 - 7.4 Master Plan Updates: A meeting with CH2M was held on April 26 with MWC staff. The Water Distribution System Facility Plan and the Robert A. Duff Water Treatment Plant Facility Plan were the main focus of the meeting. System water modeling, future CIP projects, and the 65MGD build out of Duff Water Treatment Plant were some of the items discussed. CH2M has submitted more of the Water Management and Conservation Plan (WMCP) for review; staff is currently reviewing the submittals.
8. Water Treatment Report (Water Treatment Plant Director Jim Stockton)
 - 8.1 Duff Water Treatment Plant has been totally commissioned as of last month. Record high temperatures caused us to fill with river water. Demand for water in town slightly exceeds the need for water. MWC has about two million gallons of water ready; water has been turning over every day. Monday we will probably be kicking water into the system. Commissioner Dailey questioned if we are at full pipe; Director Stockton noted we are.
 9. Finance Report (Finance Director Tessa DeLine)
 - 9.1 Finance Director Tessa DeLine stated she is waiting for the proposed changes from staff and Commissioners. This afternoon she will close the month end for April.

Water Commission Director Larry Rains stated the public hearing will be June 1, 2016 if all questions are answered as requested during the study session.

10. Operations Report (Operations Superintendent Ken Johnson)
 - Mr. Rains stated that Ken Johnson is out due to training.

11. Manager/Other Staff Reports

*Out of sequence.

- 11.2 Eagle Point Irrigation District (EPID): Mr. Rains stated that he met with EPID pertaining to the annual agreement. They requested two word changes in the document which had to do with the 1,500 minimum amount in Willow Lake. The agreement has been signed. Commissioner Johnson questioned the total capacity; Mr. Rains stated Willow Lake has 8,320 feet; MWC likes to keep a minimum of 1,500 feet but have gone as low as 800 feet. Mr. Rains noted the lake is full and water is spilling out.
- 11.3 Mr. Rains stated that the Duff wetlands permit is physically here.
- 11.4 On April 25, Operations Superintendent Ken Johnson discovered that Bullis Reservoir was overflowing into the Talent Irrigation District (TID) canal; immediately the valve was closed. Unfortunately, it is estimated the overflow began a day earlier and over three million gallons went into the canal. The TID Manager was notified; who estimated 8-12 cfs, meaning we had an immediate 50% dilution. MWC reported the matter to the DEQ. It was determined MWC had two mechanical malfunctions: 1) MWC was filling Bullis Reservoir over the weekend and the operator set the controls to "auto mode". Sometime on Sunday, the system clicked out of auto mode, which may have been caused by a power outage. 2) The water level alarm sensor drifted, which is not an unusual situation. To eliminate this problem in the future, staff lowered

the alarm by one foot in every reservoir. DEQ advised they would get back to us on the situation.

Commissioner Dailey questioned if we have a dechlorinator system at Bullis; Mr. Rains noted we do not. Commissioner Strosser noted there was a previous mechanical failure and questioned procedures to stop these errors. Commissioners questioned the system and requested a status check on the entire system.

*Back in sequence.

11.1 Lead and Copper Corrosion Discussion Update

At the last regular meeting, the Board directed staff to bring forth a report to address any deficiencies and to plan for the anticipated increase in government regulations regarding substances such as lead and copper, in addition to any necessary funding requirements.

Staff presented their findings of possible things that we could do based on a) items being done now; b) options with minimal or no cost; c) options with substantial financial impact. A report called Medford Water Commission System Corrosion Investigation Options dated May 4, 2016 was presented to the Board.

Items being done now

- Information released to the public in the MWC's newsletter
- Tracking lead or other piping in our system. There is no known lead piping in our system today. The last time a public leaded system was found was approximately eight years ago
- Use of low-lead fittings
- Construction looping to minimize dead end mains
- Every time MWC taps a main, they cut a piece to review the condition and maintain those samples on file
- Current lead and copper testing; our elaborate testing program, designed to meet the state requirements which has been established over the last 15 years. MWC tests the water every three years for lead and copper, following all the rules and has never exceeded the limit in any test

Mr. Rains also discussed the ideas for improvement with minimal or no cost or with substantial financial impact. He would like the Board to review the report and noted this is not in the new budget. Commissioner Anderson requested Mr. Rains work with staff to select items from the list they would recommend as a group. Commissioner Strosser wanted to know if there is really a problem. Commissioner Johnson requested members review the paperwork.

12. Propositions and Remarks from the Commissioners

12.1 Commissioner Strosser remarked on a letter to the editor pertaining to the Jackson Highway Water District. He stated he called the man who wrote the letter and who was agitated that the project was not done. The man lives on Lozier Lane.

12.2 Commissioner Strosser spoke regarding the issue of marijuana and wells running dry; the land owners will call tanker trucks which drive over the dry ground. He noted he spoke with a fencing company that estimated 70% of their business was fencing marijuana grows. Commissioner Strosser questioned the impact on the City's water stations; Mr. Rains noted there are two water stations; we have one and the County has the second one. Jackson County's water station runs off their master meter.

Mr. Rains explained that water is sold from the water stations and it more than covers our cost. He noted MWC attempted to find another location in the past, but was unsuccessful. Commissioner Strosser stated this complaint had to do with an area on Hillcrest, just outside

the City; Mr. Rains noted MWC monitors the hydrants. Commissioner Strosser explained there are other issues pertaining to residential property being used as marijuana farmland. Commissioner Johnson noted that police can be called if citizens believe someone is using water illegally. Commissioner Dailey questioned how fire hydrants were monitored; Mr. Rains noted visually and people reporting use to MWC. Commissioner Strosser noted this is the third time he has received a complaint on this.

13. Adjourn

There being no further business, this Commission meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m. The proceedings of the Medford Water Commission meeting were recorded on tape and are filed in the Water Commission's Office. The complete agenda of this meeting is filed in the Water Commission's Office.

Karen M. Spoonts, MMC
City Recorder
Clerk of the Commission