

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEDFORD WATER COMMISSION

August 17, 2016

The regular meeting of the Medford Water Commission was called to order at 12:28 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, Bob Strosser

Manager Larry Rains, Medford City Attorney Lori Cooper; City Recorder Karen Spoonts; Administrative Coordinator Yvette Finstad; Public Information Coordinator Sara Bristol; Water Quality Director Rosie Pindilli; Operations Superintendent Ken Johnson; TS Administrator Kris Stitt; Engineer Rodney Grehn; GIS Technician Larry Wise

Guests: Medford Councilmember Chris Corcoran; Central Point Mayor Hank Williams; Central Point City Manager Chris Clayton; Eagle Point Public Works Director Robert Miller

Commissioner Lee Fortier was absent.

The pledge of allegiance was given.

3. Approval or Correction of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 3, 2016

The minutes were approved as presented.

4. Comments from Audience

4.1 Commissioner Strosser introduced his granddaughter, Gina Zack, who was in the audience.

5. Written Communications

5.1 Quarterly Letter to the Mayor and City Council

The report for the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2015-16 was provided, including the draft financial statements for June. The Board agreed to its contents, the Chair will sign and staff will forward the letter and relevant attachments to the Mayor and Council.

Motion: Direct staff to send the quarterly letter to the Mayor and City Council

Moved by: Mr. Strosser

Seconded by: Mr. Dailey

Roll Call: Commissioners Anderson, Dailey, Johnson, and Strosser voting yes.

Motion carried and so ordered.

6. Authorization of Vouchers

Motion: Authorize the Manager and the Recorder to issue check-warrants in payment of invoices for a total amount of \$1,915,113.16

Moved by: Mr. Dailey

Seconded by: Mr. Strosser

Questioned was the Asante Physician Partners bill of \$2,900; staff noted it was for the annual health risk assessments. Commissioner Anderson questioned auto insurance and being self-insured. Staff noted we are self-insured for damage (collision). Pertaining to the recent accident, Manager Rains stated the other party was uninsured. Ken Johnson also noted the Vacons which have over 75,000 miles are covered, but miles less than that are self-insured. He noted we have been money ahead by doing it this way.

Roll Call: Commissioners Anderson, Dailey, Johnson, and Strosser voting yes; Anderson recused himself from the Asante and C&C Tires vouchers.

Motion carried and so ordered.

7. Operations Report (Operations Superintendent Ken Johnson)

- 7.1 Operations Superintendent Ken Johnson stated that pertaining to the lead issue, staff is down to one plat, only 60 to go. They hope to have them done by the end of the week. Secondary meter boxes will be next. There are 247 potholes they plan to do. He reminded the Board that 10 leaded pigtailed were removed with one pigtail yet to remove. Water Quality Director Rosie Pindilli will sample before staff removes that pigtail. After that the second tier of risk will be next.
- 7.2 Staff is working on the replacement of Lester McFall's truck which was totaled in an accident, as reported at the last meeting.

Pertaining to lead, Commissioner Johnson questioned how many pigtailed have we tested; Ms. Pindilli said all 10 have been done but most had leaks although if the water does not sit the result may not be conclusive. Staff explained the testing and remarked that some customers just wanted the pigtail out with no testing. Meter boxes of over 4,000 services were investigated; there are 222 secondary which will need to be looked at again.

8. Water Quality Report (Water Quality Director Rosie Pindilli)

- 8.1 Customer inquiries regarding lead/lead pigtailed are at 210. The Family Nurturing Center located at 212 N. Oakdale Avenue found high lead at their kitchen tap. They contacted the MWC for guidance on what to do. Public Information Coordinator Sara Bristol talked to them.

Jackson, Roosevelt, and McLoughlin Schools found high lead levels at many locations inside the buildings. All of the schools in Medford have posted the lead results to the school district webpage and the schools immediately notified all parents of the situation via email, in English and Spanish. Neilson Labs charges the same to analyze for lead or both lead and copper. The schools only have some results for copper and most were well over the action level of 1300 ppb. The regulations for schools are different and focused on lead. It would be very advantageous to MWC to also know the copper results from all of these locations. MWC may want to consider working with the schools in an effort to better evaluate the corrosiveness of the water and accelerate the corrosion control study. Ms. Pindilli also understood that all City buildings tested were only tested for lead. Again, this was a missed opportunity to collect copper data. She stated copper contributes a metallic taste to the water which is what employees complain of. Lead does not contribute a taste or color to the water.

MWC conducted lead and copper testing at the meters of Jackson and Roosevelt Elementary Schools on August 2, 3, and 4, 2016. The highest lead reading was 11 ppb and the copper ranged from 508–724 in the first samples then dropped down to about 30-50 ppb in the mains (BBS = 30 ppb, Duff = 3 ppb), indicating service lines may be contributing copper to the water. The three sets of meter results are posted on the MWC website.

Oregon DEQ anticipates adopting the revised copper standards to protect aquatic life based on EPA's 2007 national recommendations for copper. In January 2013, EPA disapproved of Oregon's rebuttal to EPA's 2007 copper standards. More stringent copper standards will place additional pressure on wastewater facilities to remain in compliance for water returned to rivers and streams.

MWC lead and copper compliance monitoring is being conducted this week. We have collected about 15 of the 30 required samples as of yesterday.

- 8.2 Blood Testing for Lead – Attorney Lori Cooper is checking into any legal concerns. Commissioner Dailey said if we pay for the testing we should get the results; staff noted that would require a HIPAA release.

Commissioner Strosser question if testing for lead and copper is the same cost; Ms. Pindilli confirmed it is. Some school copper results showed over the action levels, however, currently

they only need to monitor for lead. Commissioner Strosser would like them to be aware it is the same cost to have both tested at the same time. Mr. Rains noted the governor's office has required that lead testing in schools be done. Commissioner Anderson questioned if our tests include both lead and copper. The answer was yes. The Commissioners discussed adding this information to the newsletter. Commissioner Dailey asked Ms. Pindilli to call the schools to suggest they test for both lead and copper at the same time.

- 8.3 Groundwater Assessment Required Monitoring – Our last tests confirmed Ecoli at Rancheria Springs. This moves us into the next phase of running Microscopic Particulate Analysis tests on Rancheria. If those results indicate that Rancheria spring is under the influence of surface water, MWC will have to decide whether to build an intake structure free of surface influence, not use the spring, or apply additional treatment at the spring.

Commissioner Strosser questioned if it is because the spring is not used. Mr. Rains noted we only use it for emergency's (every four years or so depending on seasonal weather and precipitation issues) but would like to save and use it as needed if we can. Once the tests are complete at the end of the year, the State will direct and we will have an indication of what needs to be done. Not using Rancheria Springs when needed means more use of the Duff Treatment Plant on the Rogue River.

9. Finance Report (Finance Director Tessa DeLine)
Out of the office.

10. Manager/Other Staff Reports

10.1 Fund Reallocation for Flocculation/Sedimentation Basin Expansion Project

At the last regular meeting of August 3, 2016, staff presented an update on the Flocculation/Sedimentation Basin Expansion Project. It was bid as a phased project with certain milestones to be reached and a set amount of money available each fiscal year to accomplish these milestones. In order to move forward to the next phase of construction, the contractor, McClure and Sons, has determined that the current fiscal allocations are not consistent with the actual project needs. They have requested a reallocation of funds to complete the required work and maintain operation of the plant, while remaining in chronological sequence and avoiding a shutdown of construction. The total project amount will not be changed. Staff requested a motion to authorize the transfer from the Water Construction Fund.

Commissioner Dailey questioned the comment of unanticipated expenditures. Mr. Rains noted it was unanticipated in the year.

Motion: Direct staff to transfer \$2,000,000 from the Water System Construction Fund to the Water Fund in the 2016-17 fiscal year, decrease the unappropriated ending fund balance in the Water System Construction Fund from \$6,622,418 to \$4,622,418, and increase the budgeted amount for Capital Expenditures from \$6,399,300 to \$8,399,300 for the purpose of allocating funds to accommodate accelerated expenditures for CIP-14-00009 (Floc Sed).

Moved by: Mr. Dailey

Seconded by: Mr. Strosser

Commissioner Anderson questioned if this is changing the budget; Mr. Rains noted that it is changing the budget this year but not the total cost of the project.

Roll Call: Commissioners Anderson, Dailey, Johnson, and Strosser voting yes.

Motion carried and so ordered.

10.2 Cooperative Agreement for Lozier Lane Improvements

The cooperative agreement between MWC, City of Medford, and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the improvements to Lozier Lane has been received; staff requested authorization for the Manager to sign. The agreement provides an option for a letter of credit for

MWC versus depositing cash with ODOT. In the wording of the options, there can be a letter of credit vs. cash. Finance Director Tessa DeLine would like a letter of credit, if possible. Commissioner Dailey questioned what the letter of credit would cost. Mr. Rains was unsure. Ms. Cooper stated she would like time to review the agreement and noted there are typos; Mr. Rains provided a new copy. Commissioner Dailey noted this gives ODOT a blank check. Mr. Rains noted our hands are tied; Ms. Cooper noted the City routinely does this and there is a paragraph that talks about this issue. Commissioner Anderson questioned where the money is coming from; Mr. Rains noted it is budgeted for and we are collecting a surcharge from former JHWD customers over the next 10 years to pay back their share of the incurred costs.

Motion: Direct Manager to sign cooperative agreement between MWC, City of Medford, and ODOT and directing the Finance Director to determine if a letter of credit would be more cost effective vs. cash

Moved by: Mr. Anderson

Seconded by: Mr. Dailey

Roll Call: Commissioners Anderson, Dailey, Johnson, and Strosser voting yes.

Motion carried and so ordered.

11. Propositions and Remarks from the Commissioners

11.1 Commissioner Johnson stated there will be an Executive Session on August 31, 2016 at Noon. City Recorder Karen Spoonts requested clarification that it will not be a Special MWC meeting followed by an Executive Session. Commissioner Johnson stated that it will only be an Executive Session.

11.2 Commissioner Strosser stated that Medford Council has agreed to allocate \$400 on behalf of Mel Winkelman for a memorial stone at WinterSpring's Memorial Grove and questioned if the MWC would like to contribute somewhere between \$100-200 for that stone. He noted we have done that in the past for former commissioners. The Board agreed to \$200.00. Councilmember Corcoran stated the family is ecstatic. Commissioner Strosser noted WinterSpring, located at Donahue-Frohnmayr Park, started about 1998 and the wall has expanded to twice its original size.

11.3 Progress of Beaver Issue

Commissioner Johnson questioned if staff has met pertaining to the beaver issue; Mr. Rains stated staff is working on the issue but have not set a date for a meeting with Ron Anderson. Commissioner Johnson encouraged staff to proceed as soon as possible.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business, this Commission meeting adjourned at 1:05 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