

Minutes of the
CANNON BEACH CITY COUNCIL
Work Session
Tuesday, September 19, 2023
Council Chambers

Present: Mayor Barb Knop, Council President Nancy McCarthy, Councilors Brandon Ogilvie, Lisa Kerr, and Gary Hayes.

Excused:

Staff: City Manager Bruce St. Denis, IT Director Rusty Barrett, Administrative Assistant Tessa Schutt and Finance Director Laurie Sawrey

Other: Doug Gabbard and Amanda Levine from FCS Group in person.
City Attorney Ashley Driscoll via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Knop called the work session to order at 5:59 p.m.

Motion: Ogilvie moved to approve the agenda; Hayes seconded the motion.

Vote: Hayes, McCarthy, Ogilvie, Kerr, and Knop voted: AYE: the vote was 5:0 and the motion carried. The agenda was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jan Siebert-Wahrmund, PO Box 778: Siebert-Wahrmund spoke on behalf of herself and her husband, Wes. Siebert-Wahrmund expressed concern about Cannon Beach water, saying that she was eagerly awaiting a written comprehensive water report responding to six specific variables she shared in a letter to the Council in early August 2023. She said that the Mayor requested the same. Additionally, Siebert-Wahrmund said that she had become aware of the proposed development of a 9,000 square foot home just east of Highway 101 and Cannon Beach. Siebert-Wahrmund said the development would be surrounded by industrial timberlands and could pose a fire hazard to the entire watershed. She added that the home would pull water from a private well, but with some wells running dry in the county over the summer, there was no real assurance that fire sprinklers would work properly. Siebert-Wahrmund said there was no requirement by the Fire Department to install water storage or hydrants on site. She shared her belief that the City of Cannon Beach must be more aware of the developments east of Highway 101 and their associated water use challenges and potential fire hazards. She suggested taking a new look at the City's priorities and considering the acquisition of key portions of the watershed to protect the water and the community. Siebert-Wahrmund told the body that the changing climate demanded cooperation.

DISCUSSIONS

(1) Utility Rate Study Presentation by FCS Group

Sawrey introduced the FCS Group representatives, gave a brief background of the project and distributed materials, and then turned the floor over to the FCS representatives, Doug Gabbard and Amanda Levine.

Gabbard and Levine walked through their presentation (updated version projected onscreen and available online).

Gabbard, Levine, and Sawrey answered clarifying questions from Council members.

Knop thanked the FCS Group representatives for their thorough presentation.

Siebert-Wahrmund said that her household uses less water monthly than the base rate for billing. She said it would be wonderful to explore incentives for those who use less water. Siebert-Wahrmund recalled a tiered rate system in Arch Cape and suggested the City examine this option. Additionally, she suggested that the City investigate requiring breweries to treat their wastewater and asked the Council to think about how they felt about beer made with water within the City being distributed outside of the watershed.

Council requested more information about revenue by meter size and usage over the base rate.

Sawrey asked for additional guidance about how to proceed. Knop suggested holding another work session after Sawrey provided the additional requested information. Sawrey explained that new rates would be adopted by resolution and would be presented to Council prior to budget planning time.

Knop closed the work session and opened the special meeting.

(2) Resolution 23-18 for the Purpose of amending the Employee Handbook dated September 19, 2023

Driscoll introduced the updates to the City Employee Handbook.

McCarthy asked a few clarifying questions about the handbook and recommended several phrasing changes.

Motion: Hayes moved to adopt Resolution 23-18 as amended for the purpose of amending the employee handbook dated September 19, 2023; Ogilvie seconded the motion.

Vote: Hayes, McCarthy, Ogilvie, Kerr and Knop voted AYE: the vote was 5:0 and the motion carried unanimously. Resolution 23-18 was adopted.

(3) Resolution 23-19 for the Purpose of Adopting a Temporary Paid Leave Oregon Policy

Driscoll explained the intention of the resolution and answered clarifying questions from Council members.

Motion: Hayes moved to adopt Resolution 23-19 for the purpose of Adopting a Temporary Paid

Leave Oregon Policy; Ogilvie seconded the motion.

Vote: Hayes, McCarthy, Ogilvie, Kerr and Knop voted AYE: the vote was 5:0 and the motion carried unanimously.

(2) Good of the Order

Kerr mentioned that the City had recently received an application from ORLA to use the Council Chambers for a meeting on December 7, 2023. Driscoll said she would examine the situation further to understand whether the organization intended to adhere to public meeting requirements, which she understood was a requirement of the application.

Kerr recalled requests for water reports and asked St. Denis when this information might be available to the Council. St. Denis responded that he was unsure but would update the Council at their next meeting.

Kerr wondered whether the development east of Highway 101 that Siebert-Wahrmund had mentioned would draw from the City's groundwater supply.

Knop and Ogilvie said that there would be a celebration of life for Jerome Arnold in the future at the Chamber of Commerce, but they were unsure of the date.

ADJORNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

ATTEST:

Tessa Schutt, Administrative Assistant

Barb Knop, Mayor