

Minutes of the  
**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
Tuesday, August 15, 2023  
Council Chambers

Members: Committee Chair Jenee Pearce-Mushen, Vice Chair Steve Weight, and Committee Member Scott Hudson in person. Doug Craner and Amber Fowler via Zoom.

Excused:

Staff: Public Works Director Karen La Bonte, Assistant Public Works Director Trevor Mount, and Public Works Administrative Assistant Tessa Schutt.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Pearce-Mushen called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**A. Minutes from Tuesday, June 20, 2023:**

Motion: Hudson moved to approve the minutes from June 20, 2023; Fowler seconded the motion.

Vote: Fowler, Hudson, and Pearce-Mushen AYE. The vote was 3:0 in favor and the motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jan Siebert-Wahrmund, PO Box 778: Siebert-Wahrmund asked for information about whether the City was using water from Ecola Creek, and if so, when this began.

ACTION ITEMS

**A. Utility Relief Requests/Disputed Utility Billing Fee Waivers**

Weight joined the meeting at 9:03 am.

The Committee considered a request from the Cannon Beach Conference Center at 100 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

Hudson said that his understanding was that the application was for a three-month leak where water leaked onto the ground. He noted that the customer had signed up for Eye On Water and was notified through the application. Hudson suggested approval up to the maximum \$1000 for relief allowed by the policy because of his observation that the water appeared to leak onto the ground rather than into the wastewater treatment system.

Hudson also recalled that the date on their request was the same date he had a furnace evaporator freeze outside. Hudson added that the leak did not appear to impact the wastewater treatment system. Weight concurred, and Craner agreed that the request was within the allowable parameters.

Pearce-Mushen noted there was no staff recommendation on the relief request. Schutt responded that she had attempted to contact the customer to acquire a repair bill as outlined in the application form.

Hudson said he would like to grant relief to the customer because they were signed up for Eye On Water.

Fowler said she would rather see the backup invoices because she felt the leak was the result of a customer's failed equipment.

Weight suggested tabling the relief request for another month to allow the customer additional time to submit their repair bill.

The Committee agreed to table the request until next month.

## 5. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

### **A. Public Works Status**

La Bonte informed the body that the City was awarded a grant from FEMA for the Fir St. Bridge project in the amount of \$481,654. She explained that the City was required to match 10% of this amount. La Bonte said that FEMA was in the process of scheduling a kickoff meeting with the City and Civil West, who was hired to oversee the grant application.

La Bonte referred to a Council discussion about Pacific Power pre-emptive shutoffs. She said this would likely last until the end of September unless the dry/hot spell continued beyond that point. La Bonte noted that customers would be notified via phone or email by Pacific Power if they could be impacted by these interruptions.

Next, La Bonte told the Committee that contracts had been awarded for the E Harrison Water Line Replacement Project (awarded to Bob McEwan Construction, Inc.) and the Midway & Siuslaw Pump Station Enclosures Project (awarded to O'Brien & Company, LLC). She said that project kickoff meetings would be scheduled soon. La Bonte explained that bids for the Midtown Restrooms Addition and Remodel Project came in extremely high, so she recommended that Council not award the contract but rather wait until the following year.

La Bonte said that the mandatory pre-bid site walk for Phase 1 of the Water Resiliency project saw five contractors in attendance. She said that Phase 2 was nearing a point where the construction elements could go out to bid, but that the City must first finalize an easement with the Cannon Beach Conference Center, who was holding the process up.

Pearce-Mushen asked why they were holding the project up. La Bonte responded that their biggest concern revolved around plans to expand their zipline. She explained that the new reservoir is positioned close to the zipline area, and that the Conference Center had concerns about this. She added that the Conference Center wanted the City to pay to expand their zipline and install a new trail to access it. La Bonte said that this would cost about \$100,000 and that negotiations were underway with the City's attorney.

Mount informed the Committee that the Main Pump Station generator swap-out would occur the following week. He said they would tear into the building to swap the generators and would build a removable wall for easier access.

Soon after that project, La Bonte said, the Center St beach access stairs project could begin. She explained that there was a delay with OPRD permitting and that the City was sharing the cost with OPRD. She said this project would be the last beach access in need of repairs for a while.

Mount said the new generator at Ecola Pump Station was ready to use. La Bonte recalled that this pump station needed new venting and louvers installed, and that the crew had patched and repainted the facility. They explained that the generator's startup date would be on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

## 6. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Fowler said she had two questions. First, she asked about information she had heard regarding a new road going in at the Southwind site for access to the spoil site. La Bonte responded that no new road was being installed at the site and that access was granted through cooperation with Nuveen. She added that there had been discussions about a road in the area, but that this decision would wait until the new Police Department was built at the site.

Next, Fowler asked about an email that went around the community discussing high levels of fecal waste on Cannon Beach beaches. She added that this was obviously from sewer waste leaking onto the beach and that a national report had gone out about this. Fowler asked if there was a reason for these high numbers and if there was a way to better monitor this. La Bonte answered that DEQ tests the beaches and issues advisories. She referred to local algae advisories and requested that Fowler send her the specific article she referred to so she could better answer her questions.

Finally, Fowler recalled Siebert-Wahrmund's earlier question about water usage from Ecola Creek. La Bonte said she would ask Willyard to join a future meeting to explain this routine process.

Hudson recalled that Mount had walked through the creek drawing process well before and that he was not worried because the City only tapped into the creek when necessary.

La Bonte recalled that a third-party consultant had been hired to discuss the matter and present it to Council, as well.

Pearce-Mushen referred to a blood drive on September 12<sup>th</sup> and told the body, "We need your blood,"

## 7. ADJOURN

Weight moved; Fowler seconded. Pearce-Mushen adjourned the meeting at 9:26.

*Tessa Schutt*

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Tessa Schutt, Public Works Administrative Assistant