

Minutes of the
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, September 19, 2023
Council Chambers

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

Excused:

Staff: 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 9:00 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes from Tuesday, August 15, 2023:

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

Vote: Craner, Weight, Hudson, and Pearce-Mushen voted AYE. The vote was 4:0 in favor and the motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jan Siebert-Wahrmund, PO Box 778: Siebert-Wahrmund asked Mount to provide more information about what was occurring at Whale Park.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Utility Relief Requests/Disputed Utility Billing Fee Waivers

The Committee first considered a request from the Cannon Beach Conference Center at 100 3rd St.

Craner recalled that this request was tabled from the previous month. Hudson said that he had read through the request and that it met the criteria for approval with the repair bill included.

Motion: Craner moved to approve the staff recommendation to approve the utility relief request; Hudson seconded the motion.

Vote: Craner, Hudson, Weight, Fowler, and Pearce-Mushen voted AYE; the vote was 5:0 in favor and the motion carried. The relief request was approved.

Next, the Committee considered a request from Thomas at 3743 Pacific St.

Craner and Pearce-Mushen considered that no repair bill was included but determined that because the account was for new construction it was likely that the contractor(s) involved repaired the leak themselves.

Motion: Craner moved to approve the staff recommendation to approve the utility relief request; Hudson seconded the motion.

Vote: Craner, Hudson, Weight, Fowler, and Pearce-Mushen voted AYE; the vote was 5:0 in favor and the motion carried. The relief request was approved.

Finally, the Committee considered a request from Est Keller at 3631 S Pacific.

Hudson said the relief request was confusing. He recalled a note from Darryl Walker who said there was no wastewater impact. Weight wondered whether the leak was caused by irrigation equipment. Mount responded that it was difficult to determine whether water service lines ran under the customer's driveway. Weight said that, regardless, the leak would not have impacted the wastewater treatment system.

Motion: Weight moved to approve the staff recommendation to approve the utility relief request; Hudson seconded the motion.

Vote: Craner, Hudson, Weight, Fowler, and Pearce-Mushen voted AYE; the vote was 5:0 in favor and the motion carried. The relief request was approved.

5. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Public Works Status

Mount explained that the department was busy digging up several areas throughout town to make repairs. In response to Siebert-Wahrmund's question, he explained that the road and sub-base around Whale Park were being replaced to address damage caused by a water leak years earlier.

He noted that the department planned to replace some asphalt on the walking trail behind the Conference Center and along Ecola Creek to repair damage caused by root intrusion. Mount said that the City would complete a series of asphalt patches throughout the town.

Wilyard said that the Water Division had fixed roughly 50 leaks since May, 36 of which were discovered during the leak detection project earlier in the spring. He explained that other leaks had presented themselves and said that the division was working to address these.

Mount informed the body that the Midway & Siuslaw Pump Station Addition Project had begun. He said that the generators were in the City's possession, and that O'Brien Construction would soon begin construction. Additionally, Mount said, the new generator was officially in place at Ecola Pump Station. He explained that the generator at Main Pump Station had also been replaced and would be started within the following few weeks. Once that was completed, Mount said, the team would no longer need to rely on the temporary generator in storage.

Fowler asked about some asphalt she had noticed near the wastewater lagoons. Mount responded that this was asphalt dug up during the Whale Park project and placed in the area temporarily to allow the team to reopen Hemlock as quickly as possible. He explained that the asphalt would be removed immediately after the rest of the project was completed.

Mount told the Committee that the invasive species consultant had performed manual hand-pulling of invasive species in the Little Pompey Wetland.

B. Water Department on Ecola Creek

Willyard provided the body with an overview of the process used by the Water Division to provide water to customers in Cannon Beach. He explained the gravity system, the use of springs as the primary source for roughly eight months per year, and the effect of different levels of rain on the necessity to draw from supplemental sources and use sand filtering. Willyard answered clarifying questions about flow rates and the water filtration process from Committee members.

Willyard said that he hoped to focus his efforts on further leak repairs with the summer season coming to a close. Mount explained that the slow sand filters were readied every year to be prepared in the event of high consumption or a large fire.

Fowler asked about the status of the City's water supply and whether the community should be specifically asked to conserve water. Willyard responded that he believed the supply was in good shape and that he had observed demand drop significantly after families returned home for school.

Mount recalled that he and the team always mention the goal of conservation to customers they interact with, especially during discussions about Eye On Water.

Fowler asked how much water was stored for use in the event that rainfall decreased. She asked whether the community had seen an increase or decrease in rainfall as a result of climate change. Willyard responded that he had observed good rainfall numbers since 1986 and that he did not see a trending decrease.

Siebert-Wahrmund asked about a letter she and Wes Wahrmund had shared with the City Council asking for specific information about the water system. She said that Knop had also asked for a copy of this information. Pearce-Mushen requested that Siebert-Wahrmund send the letter to Schutt.

The Committee thanked Willyard for his time and Willyard commended Walker and Cole for their efforts.

Mount recalled an item he had not mentioned during the Public Works status update. He explained that the East Harrison Waterline Replacement Project had been awarded to McEwan. Mount said that the project was off to a slow start, with potholing in progress for performing utility locates. He said that the project should be completed by the end of October. Mount explained that the project would upgrade the street's water supply to an 8" HDPE pipe and would allow the installation of a fire hydrant on the corner of E Harrison and Elm, which did not already have fire protection. He said that they would also overlay the rest of the street. Fowler thanked Mount for explaining the project and said she had not received notice of the work, which had been sent to homeowners.

Mount said that one lane of the road would remain open at all times, and that further communication would be proactive.

6. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Hudson informed the body that there would be a safety fair on Thursday at the Main City Park. Pearce-Mushen said there would be music and hot dogs.

7. ADJOURN

Pearce-Mushen adjourned the meeting at 9:31.

Tessa Schutt, Public Works Administrative Assistant