

LA PINE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, April 09, 2013

Regular Meeting – 9:00am

16345 Sixth Street, La Pine, Oregon 97739

A. Regular Session

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Linda Johnston called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

2. Establish Quorum

A quorum was established and the following members were present: Arlo Fertig, Bill Sawders, Linda Johnston, Doug Ward, and Jim Fleming. Tom Weller was absent by prior arrangement. The following staff were present: City Manager Steven Hasson, Public Works Manager Scott Perkins, and Utility Billing Clerk Ashley Williams.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Bill Sawders led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Jim Fleming made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Doug Ward seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion of extending sewer and water into the Cagle neighborhood and also expanding the City's sewer pumping area

Steven Hasson stated that there are two concerns about this issue. One is that the pump station within that area is already failing and that it could not carry the burden currently of adding the lots within the Cagle Subdivision to it. The other problem is that if the City were to pump the tanks within this neighborhood the City would be in competition with private enterprise, as well as have an obligation, because the City is a Public Agency, to report to DEQ and Deschutes County any failing systems that the City encounters.

One of the reason's City Manager Hasson believed that the water and sewer had not already been installed was that the cost was unknown. Citizens would be apprehensive about connecting to the system without knowing what they have to pay at this point for connection. He said that the RFQ for engineering services (Request for Qualification's) are due back to City Hall by April 30, 2013 and he had hoped the Public Works Committee would be involved in the process of selecting an engineering firm. He said that the annexation of Cagle Acres was included in the qualification request.

In a public comment provided by Paul Hatcher, he stated that it may be in the City's best interest to install sewer first, and then install water. He said that installing sewer would probably appease some of the other governing authorities such as DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) and EPA (Environmental Protection Agency).

Jack Ebner and Jim Stone from Cascade Bible Church provided the comments that they are excited to have water and sewer installed in Cagle because they have property there that they would like to develop. Mr. Ebner also stated that the church installed a holding tank in 2006 with anticipation that Water and Sewer would be installed within a short time frame. He said that he would like to see sewer installed because the church spends a significant amount of money to have the tank pumped by a private septic service provider. Mr. Stone stated that he thought that possibly the concern about these failing septic systems is diminishing because there is not a lot of push from outside agencies about getting new systems installed. Linda Johnston stated that she did not think that the interest has declined just that the systems are being repaired piece by piece instead of all at once.

Barbara Gosser, from the Cagle subdivision, stated that she feels like she has been betrayed by the City. She stated that when the incorporation was on the ballot one of the things that were promised to the residents of the Cagle Subdivision were paved roads. Doug Ward stated that those promises were just to get votes and that he is sure that those roads will not be paved anytime soon. Russ Smith, also from the Cagle Subdivision, stated that it would be helpful if this information was posted on the City's website. If it was posted on the website then people with questions would better understand that there is a lot going on and that the City is working to fix things.

City Manager Hasson addressed these comments. He stated that there are loans and grants available when the residents of the Cagle neighborhood are ready to have Water and Sewer installed. He stated that when that happens it would be ideal to have everything installed at once so that the roads would only have to be torn up once. He also stated that the roads would most likely not be paved until after that time. He also noted that to pave the roads in that subdivision would probably also require a bond measure since there is not enough revenue generated by the property taxes.

City Manager Hasson stated that there is also an RFP out for the frontage at City Hall. He said that for the City to use the grant monies it has received for this project it will need to complete the work by September 30, 2013.

6. Other Issues/Concerns

Doug Ward asked a question about maintenance charges for the City of La Pine Water and Sewer. In response Ashley Williams stated that those costs are required to be paid by the homeowner in lieu of paying System Development Charges when they wish to connect to the system.

7. Public Comments

Moved to Section 5.

8. Staff General Comment

None

9. Committee Member General Comments

Doug Ward asked who held the blading and grading contract in the Cagle Subdivision. City Manager Hasson replied that this contract, as well as the contracts for tree removal, mosquito abatement, and the website are all currently out for bid. He also stated that this contract would begin in the spring and be a 3-year contract.

Bill Sawders stated that he has been considering resigning from the committee because it seems like nothing gets done. He stated that it is frustrating. City Manager Hasson stated that while it seems like nothing is getting done, things are, they are just small things that are difficult to notice.

Arlo Fertig and Linda Johnston stated that the communication is very important and that people will be happier if there are publications and open communication with City Residents about what is going on.

City Manager Hasson stated that Deschutes County and ODOT have been working with the City to try and speed up the process of having the stop light installed at 1st Street and Highway 97.

He also stated that there are 13 goals submitted for the 2013-14 year including the ponding issues on Huntington, sidewalk on Finley Butte, and the lift station replacement in Wickiup Junction area.

10. Adjourn

Jim Fleming made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Doug Ward. Motion carried unanimously.



Chairman Tom Weller

Attest



Interim City Manager Rick Allen