

LA PINE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE AGENDA

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Regular Meeting – 10:00 am

16345 6th Street

La Pine, OR 97739

A. Regular Session

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Doug Ward opened the meeting at 10:00 am.

2. Establish Quorum

A quorum was established, the following members were present: William Sawders, Arlo Fertig, Doug Ward, and Jim Flemming. Linda Johnston was late, by prior arrangement, and arrived at about 11 am. Tom Weller was absent by prior arrangement.

The following staff was present: City Manager Steven Hasson, Public Works Manager Scott Perkins, and Utility Billing Specialist Ashley Williams.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Jim Flemming led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

*Arlo Fertig made a motion to accept the November 13, 2012 meeting minutes. **Seconded by Jim Flemming, motion carried unanimously.***

5. Presentation by Chris Marko on the City's Water Rate Study

- The presentation will include Discussions on Liquid Asset Video, Budget, and Water usage along with Preliminary Recommendations

City Manager Hasson introduced Chris Marko with RCAC (Rural Community Assistance Corporation) and stated that he had been working on this rate study for a number of months.

Mr. Marko began his presentation by thanking the staff for their efforts in helping him. He then showed a video about Liquid Assets that was composed by Penn State University.

The video pointed on key notes including:

- the three (3) types of systems, water, wastewater and storm water,
- when the first systems were built in the United States and what caused these initial systems to fail,
- discussed the problems with combined systems for wastewater and storm water
- concerns with the quality of water and sewer infrastructure deteriorating due to age

City Manager Hasson expressed his concerns about not only infrastructure and operating costs, but also the need to obtain water rights, which are costly. The City of La Pine needs to obtain .67 cfs of water rights according to the Master Plan.

Mr. Marko stated the customers in the La Pine area use about 65 million gallons annually. He also stated that there is a lot of reserve funds laid out in the budget also. He stated that EDU chart does not tie exactly to use but that the margin of error for commercial buildings is only about 50 customers or 6%. He stated that the average use for a residential home is about 5,000 gallons.

He stated that the operating costs for the District were about \$630,000, and that this cost will increase with inflation. He said that the revenue from rates is consistently between \$500,000- \$600,000. He stated that it is ideal to have the revenue from rates pay for operations.

Mayor Mullenex stated that in his Water District they increased rates to promote water conservation and it seemed to work.

Mr. Marko recommended increasing water rates by \$7 per EDU (equivalent dwelling unit) to achieve the recommended amount of revenue to pay for operations.

Linda Johnston inquired how La Pine compares to other cities in our rate structure. Mr. Marko stated that there is no standard for this, and that each community that he has worked with is different.

6. Joe Bessman and others will be providing a TSP (Transportation Systems Plan) update that includes review of project literature and goals and objectives.

This discussion included what had already been researched. All of the intersections studied were operating within standards. Citizens were encouraged to go to the website (lapinetsp.com) and give their feedback on what the findings were and also draft goals.

An overview of the findings on research of the Highway 97 corridor and the Huntington corridor were discussed. Mr. Kittleson stated that there were no major operational issues with these intersections, but that geometric issues and higher speeds can degrade the sensitivity of analysis.

Some of the other issues that were discussed were:

- Connectivity between the Wickiup Junction area and the down town area
- Limited Public Transit service and ridership statistics for the area
- Connectivity between City and Service Lands (schools, industrial park)
- Access across US Highway 97 for pedestrians and vehicles
- Crash trends and demographics were discussed
- Majority of the population of La Pine is over 55 years old
- The importance of communication and coordination between the City TSP and Deschutes Counties TSP

In response to a question from Mayor Mulenex, the focus of this plan is mostly on Connector and Arterial Streets, rather than recreational pathways.

There was discussion about Darlene Way becoming a connection between downtown and Wickiup and the problems associated with this not limited to state exceptions since the road is not within the UGB (Urban Growth Boundary).

It was discussed that there are many ways to make Highway 97 safer that are relatively inexpensive like the road diet.

There was a request to find out if Huntington Road was capable of accommodating the weight of the log trucks that are using it.

There was discussion about the new safety improvements on Highway 97 (the road diet) and on Huntington (Speed reduction and crosswalks) they have not been in long enough to see a real decrease in accident and safety data, but it is assumed that these should cause significant decrease.

It was discussed to take this dialog to a La Pine Chamber of Commerce Breakfast where there would be a larger, more diverse audience during either January or February. Mr. Fertig recommended to host the breakfast at the new La Pine Parks and Recreation District's Event Center. It was also discussed that it would be good to get this dialog to the principals at the schools.

7. Discussion about Water System Constraints with the La Pine Industrial Park and Possible Strategies for Resolution

The insufficient amount of water at the industrial park was discussed and will be evaluated more thoroughly at the next meeting.

8. Discussion concerning the Deschutes Lodge 2 Development

Commissioner Doug Ward discussed the article in the Bend Bulletin stating that there was a deteriorating relationship with the City of La Pine and Rob Roy with Little Deschutes Lodge. Commissioner Ward discussed the items that were not completed during Phase 1 of Little Deschutes Lodge. He said that the Planning Commission had asked Mr. Roy to discuss this with them, but that he declined the invitation to do so.

Jim Flemming made a motion to recommend to the Council that the City of La Pine issue a letter to Mr. Roy and to the Bend Bulletin stating that the City of La Pine is a friendly community and is always open to new businesses. Seconded by Arlo Fertig, motion carried unanimously.

9. Other Issues/Concerns

City Manager Hasson stated that there will be an expansion to the Wheeler Ranch Subdivision. He said that he would like to see better streets put into this subdivision. Linda Johnston said that she would like to require that some street lights be installed as well.

Commissioner Ward would like to know when the street lights would be installed. City Manager Hasson stated that the work would probably start in the spring.

Arlo Fertig suggested meeting more often since the meetings have been taking so long. This item will be discussed at a later date.

10. Public Comments

Vicki Jackson thanked the committee for addressing the issue with Little Deschutes Lodge and Rob Roy. She said that the article really had a negative effect on the community. Also noted was the tax relief that both the City of La Pine and the La Pine Park and Recreation District have given to the development.

Chris Marko thanked the committee for their time.

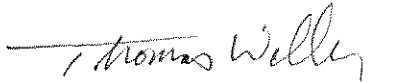
Commissioner Doug Ward stated that he favored a rate system based on usage rather than an EDU system. City Manager Hasson explained the importance of using an EDU system in regards to infrastructure.

11. Staff General Comments

12. Committee Member General Comments

13. Adjourn

Arlo Fertig made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Linda Johnston, motion carried unanimously.



Chair Tom Weller

Attest


Lori Martin, City Recorder/Finance Ofcr