

CITY OF ORTING
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES
April 3, 2024 @ 2:30 p.m.

Councilmember Moore called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Elected Officials: Present, Councilmember Moore and Councilmember Koenig.

City Employees: Present, City Administrator Scott Larson, Public Works Director Marshall Maurer, PW Superintendent Ryan McBee, PW Administrative Assistance Laura Hinds, Building Official Tim Lincoln and Executive Assistant Danielle Charchenko; Absent, Finance Director Gretchen Russo, City Clerk Kim Agfalvi, and Capital Projects Manager John Bielka

Professional Representatives: Engineer JC Hungerford, Parametrix

Guests or Public Comment: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

CM Moore motioned to approve the minutes of March 6, 2024, CM Koenig second the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT & PRESENTATIONS:

None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. Administration – Scott Larson

1.1 Utility Rate Study – Staff recommends pushing this to the 2025 budget year. In addition, staff recommends including the new stormwater plan to compliment the other two plans. CA Larson provided two options for rate increase.

1.1.1 In spring of 2025 propose rate increase, CPI

1.1.2 Complete the rate study, and increase in 2026

CM Moore brought up speaking with ‘line staff’ and having access to city employees for comments and recommendations. CA Larson mentioned this is at the discretion of the Mayor as City employees work for the Mayor and not Council. CM Moore is requesting in writing what the parameters for Council to speak with staff are. CM Koenig mentioned meeting with Administrative Staff passes along the needs for the line staff. CM Moore is requesting a different perspective. CA Larson will discuss this further with the Mayor and Public Works Director.

- 1.2 **TBD Funding & Policy** – CA Larson provided some context to examples of street projects where the TBD funded those projects. CA Larson proposed reinstating the TBD Funding source to continue the street projects. CM Moore is requesting another funding alternative to the TBD funding source, such as a Utility Tax and B&O tax. CA Larson mentioned this information was provided at a previous meeting for other funding options. CM Moore and CM Koenig oppose creating a new tax and would like to see if the fee schedule can be adjusted as a funding alternative.
- 1.3 **WSDOT SR 162 E Project Report** – CM Koenig provided WSDOTs project list for SR 162 prior to this meeting. CA Larson spoke on the updates for each location in the SR 162 corridor. Some projects include roundabouts, remove fish barriers at identified streams and right-of-way design & land acquisition. The list includes updates on costs and milestones. See agenda packet on City website for more information.

2. **Engineering Updates – JC Hungerford**

- 2.1 **Kansas St SW** – Working on public outreach associated with ROW acquisition and public meeting. Submitted NEPA. Working with PSRC on the STIP and coordination with WSDOT. Parametrix, PW Director Marshall and Superintendent McBee meet bi-weekly to provide comment on design and progress updates.
- 2.2 **Whitehawk Blvd Bypass** – Formal consultation standstill. PSRC reached out to Engineer Hungerford requesting assistance to create some advocacy for movement on the project.
- 2.3 **WSDOT Fish Passage** – Current coordination with the State includes Card Creek moving forward with design, however Rauch Creek design is still in the works.
- 2.4 **Water System Plan** – Parametrix and City staff continue to work together weekly. Superintendent McBee has provided some scope comments.
- 2.5 **Stormwater Plan** – In review with staff

3. **Project Management Update – Ryan McBee**

- 3.1 **WRRF Design Update** – Wilson Engineering to deliver 30% design in April of 2024, with final design in April 2025. Wilson Engineering and Parametrix will meet on April 4, 2024 in a joint effort to finalize a design that will provide for both liquids and solids upfront. Superintendent McBee mentioned Wilsons design currently does not allow for expansion with the current concept of having equipment stored inside the berm. Having it installed outside the berm provides for expansion and meets flood protection. The idea is to promote for future expansion and avoid going back to Council for more funding for future plant capacity. The meeting will review Parametrix' 90% design, already paid for & under budget, and work with Wilson Engineering in a corroborative effort for best path forward, include telemetry upgrade which will eventually accommodate all utilities & adequately support staff as well.
CM Moore stated that he's spent a lot of time working with Capital Projects Manager John Bielka and is trying to understand why staff would work with Parametrix and Wilson Engineering. Engineer Hungerford (Parametrix) explained that staff was concerned about Wilson's design because there's two capacities to the treatment plant. Hydraulic capacity

which is the water side and then the solids side. Wilson's design is only addressing the solids capacity. JC continued to explain how these processes work and why the importance to address both capacities' now, in order to avoid a possible plant failure.

CM Moore would like to take this discussion to next Council meeting for Executive Session. CM Koenig approves of both engineering firms and city staff working together to complete a design for best interest of the City.

Engineer Hungerford did state that he's currently not billing for his time.

After the meeting they will discuss the General Sewer Plan as well.

4. Public Works – Marshall Maurer & Ryan McBee

- 4.1 Side Sewer Survey & Policy Review** – At previous PW meeting, CM Moore asked staff to look into the cost for an inventory of all side sewer connections within the City. PW Director provided a cost analysis which included for staffing to do the work or a contractor
- Staffing: 2-years specialized training, 8 years of professional-level experience under the supervision of a license land surveyor, equipment and salary
 - Or contract the work.

To conduct a full inventory of all side sewer locations the City could expect an expenditure of \$2,250,000-\$7,500,000.

CM Moore is requesting the policy recognizing side sewers that are identified to having share a property or installed in a manor of which was installed on a property that it doesn't serve, to have the city staff or in some cases a contractor to relocate those side sewers to the property it serves using city funds, but only as those connections are identified and only if needed.

- 4.2 Vehicle Surplus** – Staff identified several vehicles no longer in use by the City, which cost more to maintain and repair then their current value. An Agenda Bill was presented for review and requesting to move this to Study Session on April 17 and adoption on April 24.
- 4.3 iWORQ** – PW Director Marshall mentioned public works staff have routinely expressed a workorder/ asset management system that is more robust, report friendly, provides accountability and has a customer service facing portal. Staff have started viewing several programs such as iWORQ. There are several meetings scheduled to view additional vendors software programs. If a change was to be made, there would be no financial obligation or overlap with current vendor.

5. Finance – Gretchen Russo

- 5.1** No Update

6. Building Department

- 6.1 Building Code Update** – As of March 15, The State of Washington amended the energy codes in Section 10-1-3A, State Building Code, of Orting Municipal Code is to conform with updates to the State Building Code under Chapter 19.27 of the Revised Code of Washington and the Revised Washington State Building Code Act.
- CM Moore is requesting if the City can lower its expectations, or have exceptions for certain energy code where heat pumps are concerned. Bldg. Official Lincoln stated that the Codes are already adopted by the State of Washington. However, CM Moore would

like to see if this exception can be considered and to delay the City adopting the amended code set forth by the State of Washington.

CM Moore asked if plans are digitally available for anyone to see. Bldg. Official Lincoln said with the new Cloud Permit system plans are submitted by the individual who is requesting a permit and those plans will remain attached to that property address. Whereas plans prior to Cloud Permit are store in address files, yet can be accessed upon request, if plans are available. (building codes can only be amended to be more restrictive, not less than)

- 6.2 Monthly building report** was presented to show March permit activity. Bldg. Official Lincoln mentioned that the report is an outline of permit activity and not all encompassing of what is accomplished on a daily basis. Daily activities may include working with city planner, developers, private property owners with permit questions and what they are allowed to build. Other activities include daily inspection requests and assisting code enforcement & public works as needed.


7. Councilmember Comments
No further comments

Round Table:
No further comments


Meeting Summary: (Study Session April 17, 2024)
4.2 Vehicle Surplus

Adjourn: CM Moore motioned to adjourn at 3:45 pm.

Attest:



Administrative Assistant Laura Hinds



Councilmember Moore



Councilmember Koenig