

MINUTES

BUDGET COMMITTEE WORK SESSION
OF
JANUARY 19, 2015
5:30 P.M.

THE DALLES CITY HALL
313 COURT STREET
THE DALLES, OREGON

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Russ Brown, Corliss Marsh, Barbara Pashek, Tim McGlothlin, Linda Miller, Dan Spatz, Mayor Steve Lawrence, Taner Elliott

COMMITTEE ABSENT: Gary Grossman

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Nolan Young, City Attorney Gene Parker, City Clerk Julie Krueger, Police Chief Jay Waterbury, Finance Director Kate Mast, Public Works Director Dave Anderson, Administrative Fellow Daniel Hunter

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting came to order at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Miller and seconded by Brown to approve the December 14, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously, Grossman absent.

DISCUSSION REGARDING WATER AND WASTEWATER FUNDS

Public Works Director Anderson reviewed the staff report regarding the Water Funds, including services provided, staffing, revenue sources, review of capital improvement projects and special needs in the next five years.

Miller asked why ending fund balances didn't always match the next year's beginning fund balances, as indicated on the Water Fund table. It was explained that there were adjustments made for fees and inventory. City Manager Young said the numbers for the inventory were not in the budget, that they were part of the annual audit. Young said he would work on providing the information to the Committee.

Spatz asked how staff determined whether a construction project would be completed in-house or contracted out. Public Works Director Anderson said it largely depended on the number of staff needed for the job, but also equipment and size of a project.

Pashek asked about the status of the Kuck well. Public Works Director Anderson said the City operated the well and system, but it was owned by the County. He said the agreement had stated the City would take over maintenance of the system when the bond was paid off. In response to a question, Anderson said the reservoir would also need to be maintained

There was discussion regarding the water diversion line and the Dog River supply line. Anderson noted the Dog River line sent about half of the water over to the treatment plant for processing.

There was a discussion regarding the use of wells, compared to the water treatment plant. Anderson said it would be more costly to supply water using the wells, due to electric costs and variable chemical and pumping costs. He said the well system could not provide water to all customers. Elliott asked if staff at the treatment plant could be reduced by using the wells in a higher capacity. Anderson said staff could not be reduced, saying the amount of water treated would not change the number of people needed to operate the plant.

Anderson noted the well water was also treated for various issues, depending on well location. In response to a question, Anderson said the City did have water rights to add a second Lone Pine well if it was needed.

Anderson said the City also had a water right to the Columbia River and that if the dam height at the water treatment plant was increased, capacity would not be an issue.

Anderson said the environmental permitting work for the Dog River line had been delayed due to staff changes with the Forest Service, so work had to be started over. He said a decision should be issued in the Fall of 2016.

Anderson reviewed the Wastewater Funds.

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Spatz suggested the City perform a cost analysis for the operation of the wastewater treatment plant prior to the conclusion of the operations agreement with OMI.

OTHER ITEMS

The Committee agreed to schedule another meeting to discuss budget policies, Council goals and priorities.

Elliott asked that the Committee consider franchise fees in funding of the Street Department.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Submitted by/
Julie Krueger, MMC
City Clerk

SIGNED:



Corliss Marsh, Secretary

ATTEST:



Julie Krueger, MMC, City Clerk