

WESTFIR CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING & EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Monday, June 19, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

In person at City Hall and via audio/video teleconference

MINUTES

CALL SPECIAL MEETING TO ORDER:

Mayor D'Lynn Williams called the special meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Councilors Kelly Packard, Katherine Bishop, and Deretta Huey were present in person, as was City Recorder Nicole Tritten. Blair Banker and Nick Gibson of Trans Cascadia Excursions and residents Bob Bishop, Steven Gramlich and Helene Truthstone were present in person. Councilor Edward Johnstone was present via phone. Attorney Gary Darnielle of Lane Council of Governments was present via video.

PROPOSAL TO EXTEND SEWER SYSTEM:

The Mayor recognized Blair Banker of Trans Cascadia Excursions. Mr. Banker proposed an extension of the sewer line across the river at the covered bridge to the Trans Cascadia site at tax lot 119. The project would take advantage of plans by the mill site owners to extend a sewer line the length of the mill site to connect with the existing City sewer line. Mr. Banker said that the line could then be extended to the rest of the City in the future. He stated that it would be beneficial to residents who currently don't have access to the City sewer system. He reported that he had done research with the County, the State Historic Preservation Office and with Laura Engstrom of Business Oregon about funding.

Councilor Huey asked whether connecting to the sewer system would be mandatory for homeowners with septic tanks. Mr. Darnielle stated that the cost of connecting residents to the sewer line could be part of the project expense. Mayor Williams expressed concern about aging septic tanks. Councilor Packard was worried about a line breach over the river. The Mayor opened the floor to public comment. An unidentified resident noted in the meeting chat online that extending the sewer line was part of the Master Plan. The Council approved Mr. Banker pursuing a project analysis with the help of Mr. Darnielle.

Mr. Darnielle, Blair Banker and Nick Gibson left the meeting at around 7:00 p.m.

VICIOUS DOGS INCIDENT (added to agenda):

The Mayor compiled a list of complaints she had received in the past week about vicious and abused dogs in the Hemlock neighborhood, a copy of which was provided to the Council. The Mayor recognized resident Steven Gramlich. Mr. Gramlich described an attack on himself and his dog by three of his neighbor's dogs. He reported that the dogs are aggressive, often running at large, and look starved and sick. He stated that he was going to Lane County Animal Services the next day to file a report, including video evidence. Nicole stated that she would email Lane County Animal Services to inform them that Mr. Gramlich would be making a report and that the City supported action in the case. Trudy Hammond, who does local animal rescue, joined the meeting by video. She described actions she had taken to try to mitigate the situation.

RESOLUTION 534 EMERGENCY FIREWORKS BAN:

Nicole gave an update on her progress writing the resolution, a draft of which was provided to the Council.

CITY HALL SEPTIC SYSTEM INSPECTION:

Nicole stated that she didn't know when the City Hall septic system was last inspected. She said that she

would like to have an inspection done in the current fiscal year while repair and maintenance funds were still available.

CERTIFIED CONSULTANT PROPOSAL:

The Council reviewed a contract from Max Baker to act as the Direct Responsible Charge for the City's water and wastewater systems until City Operator Bobby Archer receives his certifications.

Mayor Williams made a motion to approve the contract for consulting services with Max Baker. Councilor Packard seconded, and the motion carried, 5–0.

AYES: Williams, Packard, Bishop, Huey, Johnstone **NAYS:** 0 **ABSTENTIONS:** 0

RECESS SPECIAL MEETING FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO ORS 192.660(2)(a) and (2)(i):

At 7:41 p.m. Mayor Williams called for an Executive Session to consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent; and to review and evaluate the job performance of a chief executive officer, other officers, employees, and staff.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE MEETING:

Mayor Williams adjourned the Executive Session at 8:19 p.m. and reconvened the special meeting.

HIRING A TEMPORARY RELIEF OPERATOR:

The Council was not prepared to hire a temporary Relief Operator.

PORTABLE TOILETS (added to agenda):

Councilor Huey raised the issue of two portable toilets at Trans Cascadia Excursions that were not allowed under City ordinance. Nick Gibson re-joined the meeting by video and stated that he would be glad to remove the portable toilets.

APPROVE ADDITIONAL EXPENSES IN JUNE (added to agenda):

Councilor Packard made a motion to approve \$1,000 for EMS Special Research. Councilor Huey seconded, and the motion carried, 5–0.

AYES: Williams, Packard, Bishop, Huey, Johnstone **NAYS:** 0 **ABSTENTIONS:** 0

Councilor Johnstone made a motion to approve \$1,075 for inspection and pumping of the City Hall septic tank. Mayor Williams seconded, and the motion carried, 5–0.

AYES: Williams, Packard, Bishop, Huey, Johnstone **NAYS:** 0 **ABSTENTIONS:** 0

ADJOURN MEETING:

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

D'Lynn Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:
Nicole Tritten, City Recorder

DATE