

The City Council for the City of Junction City, met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 680 Greenwood Street, Junction City, Oregon and in a virtual meeting format via internet and phone.

PRESENT: Mayor, Kenneth Wells; Councilors Sandie Thomas, Sidney Washburne, Andrea Ceniga, John P. Gambia (arrived at 6:41 p.m.) and Ken Hancock; Excused Absence: Council President, Karen Leach; City Administrator, Jason Knope; City Attorney, Carrie Connelly; Public Works Superintendent, Jeremy Tracer; Finance Director, Mike Crocker; and City Recorder, Kitty Vodrup.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Wells opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and took roll call.

2. Changes to the Agenda

Remove Item 6 Job Description Resolution.

3. Approval of Minutes – June 13, and 27, 2023

MOTION: Councilor Ceniga made a motion to approve the June 13 and 27, 2023 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Washburne and passed by unanimous vote of the Councilors present: Thomas, Washburne, Ceniga, and Hancock.

4. Public Comment on Items not Listed on the Agenda

A. Follow-up from Staff on Previous Comments. None.

B. New Comments from Public. None.

5. School District Report

Superintendent Troy Stoops distributed hard copies of the School District report and Junction City School District Visioning Plan and reviewed: District Budget was recently passed; he recognized the current School Board of Directors as an amazing group of 7 people who truly had the best interest of the kids at heart; Goals this year focused on equity and improving teaching and learning, facility planning, and district communications; Updated District Policy; Had a number of open positions and shift in administrators moving to different positions within the district; finished bargaining with teachers union, with a salary schedule revision to be more competitive with other districts; Would be seeking input from the community on facilities planning and expected the board to approve a bond to go on the May 2024 ballot; and Approved a 3 year visioning plan and focus areas were culture, learning, and facilities. He looked forward to meeting the new chief and having conversations about the School Resource Officer position. He had been talking with City staff about using the pool for swim team and appreciated the opportunities for continued partnerships with the City.

6. Citizen Appointment for Public Works Committee

Superintendent Tracer stated that one application had been received for a citizen member position on the Public Works Committee.

Councilor Gambia joined the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Mayor Wells appointed Jib Daeges to serve as a citizen member on the Public Works Committee.

7. Citizen Appointment for Community Services and Development Committee

Administrator Knope stated that one application had been received for a citizen member position on the Community Services and Development Committee.

Mayor Wells appointed Jeff Peterson to serve as a citizen member on the Community Services and Development Committee.

8. LCOG Facilities Use Agreement

Administrator Knope reviewed that the City had received a request from LCOG (Lane Council of Governments) to amend the current agreement the City has with LCOG to provide senior meals. The Community Services and Development Committee reviewed on June 7th and recommended approval.

MOTION: Councilor Ceniga made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Lane Council of Governments for facilities usage and authorize the City Administrator to sign the necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hancock and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

9. Committee Reports**Lane Act**

Councilor Washburne reviewed that House Bill 2095 was passed to allow cities to have radar cameras. Funding for the I-5 Bridge was yet to be determined.

10. Staff Reports

Superintendent Tracer reported: Public Works had been working hard on the current water issue, with the City being in an Alert Stage 1 Water Emergency. Ground storage tanks were gaining 6 inches a day and were up to 31 feet. Staff was working with the City Engineer on the water issue and future water treatment facility. Would start crack sealing next week on 6th Street between Ivy and Maple Streets and then do Maple Street to Oaklea Drive after festival. Pool had been very busy with a lot of use and full classes. Busy with parks maintenance to keep everything looking nice.

Councilor Washburne asked if staff knew when some of the stop signs on Ivy Street would be put back up that had been taken down during the ADA project. Superintendent Tracer responded that ODOT had indicated they had this on their list, but he did not know when that would occur.

Councilor Thomas asked about the test wells. Administrator Knope responded that the test wells had been completed and they were talking about next steps to put them into production.

Councilor Hancock asked what the timeframe would be for putting those into production. Administrator Knope responded that a timeframe was hard to predict, as they were waiting on multiple state departments. They were looking at making one into a production well at this time and were waiting on Water Resources for transfer of water rights. The other well would be done at a later time, but the City had requested transfer of water rights for both wells.

Councilor Washburne asked if both wells were equal on gallons per minute for production. Superintendent Tracer responded that the test well off of Bailey Lane produced a higher yield of water than the test well off of Oaklea Drive, and the City would put the well in at the Bailey Lane site first.

Councilor Thomas noted that she had received a lot of questions on why all the apartments and homes were being built if they were not able to keep up with water. Administrator Knope responded that the City did keep up with state requirements, which were to meet average winter production standards. For Junction City, that was 600,000/700,000 million gallons a day, but for operational purposes the City looked at meeting the summer demand, which was around 1.5/1.6 million gallons per day. Staff was working on this issue and would be bringing back information to the Public Works Committee and Council.

Councilor Ceniga asked if the City could do anything about the burned-out building/property at 7th and Ivy, as it seemed to be a public health nuisance with garbage, the building's condition, people squatting there, etc. Superintendent Tracer responded that he would touch base with Director Kaping and they would talk with the new chief and legal counsel.

Councilor Thomas added that there were other concerns in this area, such as tagging and junk in the alley behind Dari Mart and items being stolen at of Murphy's Funeral Home mailbox.

Jack Sumner, 1061 Quince Drive, Junction City, noted that the builder west of town was irrigating newly planted landscape and flowers and wondered if that was City water and if so if they had a contract with the City for that usage. Superintendent Tracer responded that was City water and there was no contract as they were using as part of their monthly usage.

Director Crocker reported: He was still short staffed and behind on some items but had received some extra help. Were in the hiring process, and the audit work would begin soon.

Recorder Vodrup reported: She and Administrative Assistant Tere Andrews attended a free Oregon State Archives tour and records training on June 30th with other recorders from around the state. Was a great opportunity to learn and network with colleagues and State Archives staff.

Administrator Knope reported: He was working with Director Crocker on recruitment of finance staff, and he thanked Public Works for allowing Utility Billing Clerk Lisa Straw to assist Director

Crocker with finance tasks in the interim. Started advertising for the Human Resources Assistant position. New Police Chief Mark Waddell would start on July 31st. Administrator Knope had been working with Public Works staff on the water issues. On Thursday, he and Public Works staff would have another meeting with DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality). Next step would be to start public advertisement of the permit renewal, which would be the first step towards a new Wastewater Treatment Plant. Would also be bringing an updated MAO (Mutual Agreement and Order) to Council at some point; Junction City had the longest running MAO in state history with DEQ. In the next year or so would start putting together financing packages and start the community education process.

Attorney Connelly reported: The legislature had adjourned, and she would be attending a League of Oregon Cities legislative update on July 14th. Some public contracting laws had passed, so she would be preparing updates for cities to adopt the 2023 rules. Per contract, she was to present an annual report to the Council and was working with Administrator Knope to get that on a Council agenda in the next couple of months.

11. Council Agenda Forecaster

Administrator Knope presented the forecaster. Would start seeing more Council goals on future agendas, as they were through the budget process. July Work session would include CC-07 Include Youth in Government.

12. Previous Month's Expenditures. None.

13. Councilor Comments/Questions

Councilor Thomas thanked Director Crocker for his work in finance and everybody for their hard work.

Councilor Washburne noted that he was happy to see the pool fully staffed and really busy. He added that it would soon be time to get ready for the Scandinavian Festival.

Councilor Ceniga thanked Director Crocker for keeping things going in finance and thanked everybody for doing a good job. She was excited about the pool and hoped that this was a sign of maybe expanding the pool someday.

Councilor Gambie stated that this was an important meeting and he appreciated all the good information from the different areas. He thanked Jeff Peterson for applying to serve on the Community Services and Development Committee and looked forward to working with him.

Councilor Hancock stated that it was great that citizens were joining the Committees and that they had moved forward with the first two appointments. He appreciated staff's update on the water situation and wondered if they needed to rethink how they addressed System Development Charges to be able to have funding for needed water projects. He thought that having a plan in place that they could reference to know what was needed and how they would get there would be helpful in moving forward. He noted that if the City did not already have such a plan, Lane Council of Governments could do analytical forecasting.

Administrator Knope responded that the City did have a Water Master Plan which included all the components that Councilor Hancock was referring to, and they could bring in the City's Engineer and review that. He added that the City's Water System Development Charges had not been updated over the 17 years he had been employed with the City, as the Department of Corrections project derailed that plan and it never regained traction to come back for a variety of reasons. He advocated for having plans in place to address water issues, such as replacing the miles of 60 to 70-year-old water lines in town. He noted that Public Works had set up an internal crew and allocated \$80,000 a year for value, hydrant, and water line replacement, but with the high costs of materials, they had not been able to replace too many lines. He added that Public Works staff had done an amazing job in the 17 years he had been here on doing so much with so little funding.

Councilor Ceniga asked if they could put this discussion on their goals list and also look at plans to replace water or sewer lines when redoing a street. Administrator Knope suggested that instead of putting on a goal list to have HBH Engineering attend the August Council Work Session to talk with the Council about this topic; the Council consensus was in favor of that.

14. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Wells stated that they had good conversations tonight. He thought staff did a great job on the press release for the Alert Stage 1 Water notice and letting people know why that had occurred, with power being lost at a well combined with high water usage. He continued that the City was working on getting new wells as fast as the state would allow, and it was important to make sure the citizens knew that the water rights needed to be obtained first before a well could be put into production. He thanked everyone for sharing their thoughts and for working hard to discuss, plan, and solve the issues that came before the City. He added that it took everyone working together, citizens, staff, Council, and others to make things happen and he was proud to be part of this group. Mayor Wells asked if there were any other comments.

Councilor Ceniga noted that around the same time the well station lost electricity, there were two large fires in the area that also drained some of the City's water resources.

Councilor Thomas asked if there were grants available for water and sewer projects. Administrator Knope responded yes, and staff was currently working with the state on a 1-million-dollar grant for source water capacity.

15. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Kitty Vodrup, City Recorder

Kenneth Wells, Mayor