

The City Council for the City of Junction City, met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 25, 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; Council President, Karen Leach; Councilors Sandie Thomas, Sidney Washburne, Andrea Ceniga, John P. Gambee and Ken Hancock; City Administrator, Jason Knope; Public Works Director, Gary Kaping; 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. Council Goal CC-07 Include Youth in Governmental Follow-up

Administrator Knope presented examples of Youth Advisory Councils bylaws from the cities of Cottage Grove and Eugene. He noted that another option could be to create youth positions within the Committee structure. The next step would be to reach out to Superintendent Stoops and work with the school to finalize the rules and then bring that back through the Community Services and Development Committee and Council.

Various Council members expressed their desire to discuss this but to bring this back in the fall, as the City was currently busy addressing the water issue. Councilor Gambee noted that along with including youth in the school district, he thought it would be beneficial to also include other youth such as homeschool groups, Boy Scouts, etc.

Administrator Knope noted that they could put this on the Community Services and Development Committee agenda forecaster, so the Committee could work on it as they had time and then bring back to Council in the fall. The Council consensus was in favor of that.

3. Job Descriptions Resolution

Administrator Knope distributed copies of a Public Works Organizational Chart and presented the resolution to create the position of Public Works Foreman and to update other Public Works job descriptions.

A. Resolution No. 1 – A Resolution to Create the Position of Public Works Foreman and to Update the Position Job Descriptions for the Public Works Superintendent, Maintenance Team Supervisor, Project Team Supervisor, Wastewater Treatment Operator, Water Treatment Operator, Utility Worker II, Utility Worker I, Parks and Open Space Labor, Seasonal Parks Maintenance, Special Programs Coordinator, Treatment Worker, Sanitation Worker, and Public Works Director.

MOTION: Councilor Washburne made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1. The motion was seconded by Councilor Leach and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

4. Water Curtailment Update

Administrator Knope provided an update on the Alert Stage 2 Water Curtailment and distributed graphs on production/usage of wells. Ground storage tanks had been down to 24 feet and were up to 33 feet. (Maximum tank depth 36 feet). Water usage had dropped from 1.3/1.4 million gallons a day, with a peak of 1.6 million gallons per day, down to 900,000 gallons per day. Staff was working with the City Engineer, who would be attending the August 22, 2023 Council meeting, to have an in-depth discussion on the water system.

Administrator Knope provided an update on drilling a new well behind the Reserve Subdivision: The City had completed all of the paperwork for the one million dollar grant application to Rural Development and that should be worked through in the next 30 to 45 days; water rights transfer should be done by the end of August; once grant/water rights were completed, would have the project design out to bid and have results within 2 months; typical construction time was 6 months; so should have a new 600 gallon per minute well in production by February/March of 2024.

Administrator Knope continued that staff was also working with two vendors to address the loss of production capacity at the four wells (There were four wells and one emergency/backup well). The 11th and Elm Well was scheduled to be looked at in mid-October, after demand had decreased and the well could be taken offline.

Administrator Knope referred to the graph handouts and noted that the 3rd and Cedar Well was the emergency/back up well and had normally not been run, until the summer months of 2021,

which was the first year the City did water curtailment. Usage for 3rd and Cedar increased in 2022 over the summer months, and in 2023, they began using the well in May. In 2021, staff began drilling test wells, because they knew using 3rd and Cedar was not a sustainable method going forward and peak demand was growing as well as overall need. Administrator Knope spoke to legal counsel who said the City could enact a building moratorium up to two years, and they could bring back more information on that process if desired by the Council. To enact a moratorium, the City would be required to have a Corrective Action Plan, and Administrator Knope stated that regardless of whether a moratorium was put in place or not, he felt the City should develop such a plan.

Council members expressed the importance of discussing this topic, providing information, answering questions, coming up with solutions, and making a plan that could be followed now and into the future. Mayor Wells noted that they would take public comment at the meeting on August 22, 2023, and he expressed appreciation to the citizens that were in attendance at the meeting.

Administrator Knope noted that another problem was the deferred maintenance to replace the old waterline pipes in town, and they needed to get a better handle on that as well as how to maintain lines and wells in the long run. He added that another thing staff needed to look at was requiring developers at the time of annexation to put forth extra dollars to help offset the impacts to the system.

Discussion followed and the Council consensus was to have the City Attorney bring back more information on a building moratorium.

Administrator Knope added that he would be bringing back information on creating a Public Information Officer position to the next Council meeting.

5. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Kitty Vodrup, City Recorder

Kenneth Wells, Mayor