



Harrisburg City Council Work Session Minutes August 24, 2016

The Harrisburg City Council met in a regular work session on this date at City Hall, located at 120 Smith St., at the hour of 6:30pm. Presiding was Council President Mike Caughey. Also present were as follows:

- Kimberly Downey
- Robert Boese
- Sarah Puls (Arrived at 6:33pm)
- John Loshbaugh
- Adam Keaton
- City Recorder/Asst. City Administrator Michele Eldridge
- Public Work Director Chuck Scholz
- Finance Officer Tim Gaines

Absent this evening were Mayor Robert Duncan, and City Administrator Brian Latta.

Concerned Citizens: Everyone present was here for items on the agenda.

The matter of a Progress Report on Strategic Plan Objectives and Actions

Staff Report: Eldridge first reviewed the priority objectives for Council. Leading the priority list was Objective #23, in relation to Water Treatment Facilities.

Scholz reported what had been done by our consultant so far on testing water samples. Caughey asked if there was a timeframe on the return of the study, but Scholz told him that there is no report right now. The consultant knows it's our priority, and it is for him too. Caughey asked about the water quality that was poor about 3 or 4 weeks ago. He had asked Latta about it, but he said that nobody knew what happened to cause muddy water. Scholz said that somebody opened up a hydrant, and pulled water, and didn't tell us. The water flushing from that affected more than a third of the town. He thinks that there may have been a small fire on Priceboro. The aquifer has also dropped, due to the dry weather. Nobody could give us a report as to who was pulling/flushing water. He is in the process of educating people; that if they see that, they should call us right away; or the emergency number if on evenings or the weekend.

Eldridge summarized the rest of the priority objectives. At code enforcement, Eldridge commented that Scholz had a huge amount of complaints this week. Scholz said that he's at 117 this week. Most of them are cars in the right-of-way, trailers, grass, and sidewalk damage.

Eldridge added that the one she's been working on has taken over four hours this week, and hasn't yet been resolved. Keaton asked if these were follow-up nuisances, from people complaining. Scholz told him some are not complaints. Some of them are caused because of responding to complaints, and then finding violations from other places in the same vicinity.

The Tree City Designation was being worked on; the application will be submitted in September. Eldridge told them that she had been contacted by the state forestry department, and had forwarded it to Scholz. Scholz thought the process would move along quickly now. Caughey was looking forward to getting some of those cool Tree-City signs.

Eldridge continued on the objectives listed on pg. 6, summarizing work that had been done on them. Scholz said that on the conservation issue, he was working with the H.A.R.T. Center to do something there. He has been unable to interest the school in having anyone come to the classroom and give a presentation on water conservation. Eldridge informed the Council what she was doing in relation to the CRS (Community Rating System) for FEMA. Loshbaugh suggested that she check in with the fire department before starting the work. When talking about Municipal Court, Gaines talked about the relationship with the new Judge, and how the first court session went. Scholz went over the work he was doing in relation to 24 through 26, for Inflow, and Infiltration (I&I), replacing storm water pipes, and implementing critical infrastructure back-up. The Kesling St project used a huge chunk out of the budget. They are steadily replacing equipment, etc., that is requiring heavier maintenance, and talked about how they would use generators to power pump stations, and sewer lift stations in town if electricity was down for a while. He also talked about adding in Natural Gas generators where we could, because it's cheaper than diesel.

Scholz talked about the Urban Renewal dollars in relation to the Moore St. project; they were going to re-bid the project in January. Council asked questions about the process. Caughey wanted to know if the state would allow us to use the \$50,000 SCA grant for other projects, and Scholz told him no, unfortunately, it's only for the stated project on the grant application. Loshbaugh asked if they could do any of the underground work to get it out of the way, but Scholz told him they couldn't do that outside the normal bidding process. The local businesses are receptive to having the project being done in spring. Loshbaugh asked about the meters that were being worked on. Scholz told him that they will complete the meter replacements in the spring 2017.

Under 38a; Certifications, Caughey asked about when Don Costello will be retiring. Scholz told him it depends on the day you ask. Caughey asked if we had a plan in place for how to cover him for certifications when he leaves. Scholz told him that actually, Don is one of the lowest certified operators we have. Nelson & Scholz are both higher certified operators. We have everything we need to cover all the state requirements when the retirement happens.

As the discussion and summary concluded, Council thanked staff for the synopsis of the work we had done in relation to the Strategic Plan.

The matter of a Possible Discussion Re: 4th Street Railroad Project

Staff Report: Eldridge told the Council that we had been prepared to share information from the attorney in relation to the 4th Street Railroad Project, but after talking with the City Attorney, we had decided that it would be better to cover the information in a future Executive Session. Latta will want to be a part of that.

- Caughey said that it was extremely important to get our ducks in a line before talking to the railroad. We don't want to have different views coming out. We need a united stand on this, and having a meeting with the City Attorney, City Engineer, Public Works Director, and City Administrator is something we need so that we know what our rights are.
- Keaton asked if we are keeping up with our end of the franchise agreement.
- Eldridge apologized that she didn't check in with Latta about that before he left to know for certain. She also relayed to the City Council that the attorney had said that we should be re-sending the non-compliance letter to BNSF (Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad), and note the continued non-compliance. That way we keep both Public & Western Railroad and BNSF in the loop.

Council recessed from 7:36pm to 7:39pm

The matter of Training from the League of Oregon Cities (via LOC-TV) on the Topics of Gifts and Conflicts of Interest

Staff was able to bring up the training videos for Council, but the sound wasn't working well enough for them all to hear it. Puls said that she and Mike Caughey had seen them already anyhow, at previous training sessions. Staff noted that we would try to show these again in the future.

OTHERS:

- Eldridge told the Council that she had been contacted that afternoon about a drug take-back event in town, but unfortunately, it was on the same day as the Sesquicentennial Celebration. (October 22nd) She was going to check to see if we could do it on a different day, or at a different location.
- Eldridge also told the City Council that today was Chuck's birthday, and everyone sang Happy Birthday to him.
- Downey said that there were some questions that came up in relation to the City Administrator contract, so it was being brought back to the Personnel Committee.
- Keaton said that the Parks Committee met last night; Vesta Craiger would like to be appointed to the Tree Committee in the future, since the Mayor is not here tonight to do that.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at the hour of 7:55PM.

Mayor

City Recorder