



Staff Report

November 16, 2020 Council Regular Meeting

Resolution 20-016 Importance of Improving Water Quality within Lacamas Creek Watershed

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Summary: Staff presented a draft of this Resolution to the City Council at the November 2, 2020 Workshop. Minor updates have been made to the Resolution since that time, which include the following:

- In consultation with the City Attorney, the last recital (Whereas) regarding members of the ad-hoc committee being omitted from the definition of an Officer of the city was removed. Likewise, the similar reference to members of the committee not being deemed officers under Section II of the Resolution has been removed.
- Section I, Item D. of the Resolution has been modified to simply state that membership of the committee will be established by a separate motion of the Council (the reference to the *number* of members has been removed). The separate motion would include both the number of committee members and their names.
- Section II of the Resolution has been changed to state that the terms of all members of the committee shall terminate on December 31, 2022, unless otherwise amended by Council. The Draft Resolution included a date of December 31, 2021; however, staff thought it was more appropriate to line the dates up with the Biennial Budget.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:

- *What are the desired results and outcomes for this agenda item?*
 - Adoption of this Resolution will confirm the City Council's desire to spend staff time and other resources on what will likely be a very long-term effort to improve and manager water quality within the Lakes.
- *What's the data? What does the data tell us?*
 - Presence of continued algal blooms over the past several years has provided information suggesting the water quality within the Lakes continues to decline. Without significant efforts on the part of the City, County and State agencies, water quality will not likely improve on its own.
- *How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?*

- This Resolution prioritizes engagement through the formation and use of an ad-hoc citizen committee to help develop and guide the City in the short and long-term goals of this effort.
- *Who will benefit from, or be burdened by this agenda item?*
 - The citizens of Camas and the broader community as a whole will benefit from improved water quality in the Lakes.
- *What are the strategies to mitigate any unintended consequences?*
 - Use of a citizen ad-hoc committee and regular updates to the City Council to keep the general public informed of the goals, strategies and efforts to improve water quality within the Lakes.
- *Does this agenda item have a differential impact on underserved populations, people living with disabilities, and/or communities of color? Please provide available data to illustrate this impact.*
 - N/A
- *Will this agenda item improve ADA accessibilities for people with disabilities?*
 - N/A
- *What potential hurdles exists in implementing this proposal (include both operational and political)?*
 - This will ultimately be a long-term effort to not only improve water quality in the Watershed, and more specifically the Lakes, but then manage it into perpetuity. There will be substantial hurdles along the way to maintain adequate resources, interest from and participation by citizens, City Council and County, State and Federal agencies.
- *How will you ensure accountabilities, communicate, and evaluate results?*
 - Use of a citizen ad-hoc committee and regular updates to the City Council to keep the general public informed of the goals, strategies and efforts to improve water quality within the Lakes.
- *How does this item support a comprehensive plan goal, policy or other adopted resolution?*
 - Adoption of a Resolution supporting the improvement of water quality of the Lakes is consistent with multiple goals in the City's 2035 Comprehensive Plan, including those identified under 3.4.1 (Environmental Stewardship), 3.4.2 (Critical Areas) and 3.4.3 (Shorelines).

BUDGET IMPACT: As discussed during the November 2, 2020 presentation, Staff has currently proposed \$150,000 per year (\$300,000 total) in the 2021/2022 DRAFT Biennium Budget in support of this effort. These proposed funds would likely be used to support the hiring of a consultant team that can provide the necessary resources to help staff and the ad hoc committee develop a reasonable process for moving the general discussion forward. Staff anticipates additional funds will be needed to support this long-term effort. Council would be kept apprised of any expenditures and/or approve any contracts in accordance with current policies and procedures.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Council adopt Resolution 20-016.