



Staff Report

November 16, 2020 Council Regular Meeting

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

Presenter: Steve Wall, Public Works Director

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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.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-016

A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Camas, Washington addressing the importance of improving the water quality within the Lacamas Creek Watershed, including Lacamas, Round and Fallen Leaf Lakes, and establishing an ad hoc committee to be known as the “Lacamas Creek Watershed Committee” to investigate and advise on water quality topics.

WHEREAS, RCW 35A.12.120 provides that the council of the non-charter code city has the authority to determine its own rules and order of business and may establish rules for the conduct of council meetings and the maintenance of order; and

WHEREAS, included within the authority set forth within RCW35A12.120 is the ability to establish and operate internal city council committees; and

WHEREAS, Lacamas Lake, Round Lake and Fallen Leaf have rich histories in the community and the Council wishes to take all reasonable measures to protect them as vital resources, in partnership with other local, state and Federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, lakes are of significant importance to the City and region for recreation, our quality of life, and attracting business and new development; and

WHEREAS, water quality within the lakes of the City of Camas, particularly Lacamas Lake, has been noted of concern for some years, with Clark County and State Department of Ecology led efforts to study and improve water quality commencing in the late 1990's; and

WHEREAS, these initial efforts relating to water quality were successful at the time but have not translated into long-term improvements due to changing conditions and circumstances; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, algae blooms were for the first time reported and confirmed in Fallen Leaf Lake and blooms have continued into 2020; and

WHEREAS, the year 2020 has seen algae blooms being presented for the earliest on record in Lacamas and Round Lakes and blooms have continued throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, the deterioration of water quality in our lakes and the causes of poor water quality is a complex issue not solely related to an individual discharge point or recreational use, and involves reviewing a myriad of uses within the entire Lacamas Creek watershed with involvement of multiple local, state and Federal agencies to accurately and meaningfully attempt to resolve; and

WHEREAS, regional partners to the City of Camas all agree that water quality is of concern and a technical staff committee met in early 2020 to discuss these issues; and

WHEREAS, City and County councilors and staff have been coordinating on a form of Interlocal Agreement by which both the agencies pledge agreement in the importance of improving water quality and the dedication of resources and time towards the effort, in collaboration with other available resources; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Ecology has a Lacamas Creek Source Assessment budgeted to begin within an approximate timeframe of 2023 which is expected to follow their completion of a source assessment on Burnt Bridge Creek, all efforts to furthering the understanding of the quality of water coming into the lakes from Lacamas Creek; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to address water quality issues within our lakes to allow for a plan to address immediate restoration of recreational uses and development of long-

term implementation and management plan to improve and maintain water quality in perpetuity;
and

WHEREAS, the water quality of Lacamas Lake, Round Lake, and Fallen Leaf Lake is of utmost concern to the region and the resources need to be improved and protected for future generations; and

WHEREAS, there are a large number of citizens in the community who value and agree with the importance of improving the water quality within the Lakes and have been independently meeting for several months to explore and discuss ideas to improve water quality;
and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to formalize the process outlined in this Resolution, establish goals related to improving the watershed, set expectations of staff and volunteers, and establish a committee to assist the City in these efforts and set forth a termination date for the work of the committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMAS AS FOLLOWS:

I

- A. The City Council hereby designates Lacamas, Round and Fallen Leaf Lakes as vital resources for the community and further indicate that staff time and resources shall be allocated to developing short and long-term plans for

improving water quality to support recreational uses and quality of life in the community.

- B. Staff is directed to develop a 2021 and 2022 biennium budget proposal for council consideration that will aid in the success of the staff and ad hoc advisory committee in developing and submitting to council recommended strategies to meet the short- and long-term needs of the community.
- C. Staff shall continue working with local, state and Federal agencies to obtain guidance and assistance in improving water quality and help find funding for the various strategies and plans to be recommended.
- D. There is hereby established an ad hoc citizens advisory committee to be known as “Lacamas Creek Watershed Committee” with the purpose of advising on lake water quality issues and strategies and provide a structure for a partnership with and accountability to the community. The role and expectations for said Advisory Committee are set forth in general as provided herein. The Advisory Committee shall report to the Council and collaborate with the Public Works Director or designee and perform such duties as may be directed thereto. The Public Works Director or designee, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, shall provide periodic updates to the Council on the activities of the Committee. The names and appointment of members of the Advisory Committee shall be established by

separate motion of the Council. All records of the Advisory Committee shall be maintained as may be needed to comply with applicable public records laws of the State of Washington.

II

Unless otherwise extended by adoption of a motion by the City Council the terms of all members of the committee as herein established shall terminate as of December 31, 2022.

PASSED by the Council and APPROVED by the Mayor this ____ day of _____, 2020.

SIGNED: _____
Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

APPROVED as to form:

City Attorney