



CITY OF COBURG • P.O. BOX 8316 • COBURG



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October 27, 2023

Pioneer Valley Estates Resident,

The City of Coburg, through its Mayor, City Administrator and Public Works Director, have recently met with a resident of Pioneer Valley Estates (PVE) who is rightfully interested in engaging in more formal dialogue between the City and PVE residents regarding the existing condition of the water distribution system that serves most of the properties within PVE, which lies well outside of the City limits and is otherwise governed and served by Lane County.

History

The City of Coburg has been responsible for the water system infrastructure and the supply/delivery of water to PVE in a variety of forms since the 1960's, from maintaining the pre-existing well and distribution system to replacing the well with a dedicated transmission line from the City's water system to PVE in 2004. Contractual obligations of the City have been contentiously debated at various points in time, with concerns of adequate level of service from the City and the establishment of "outside city limits" rates to PVE water customers among others.

Current Status

Throughout the time of the City's involvement in providing water to PVE, the distribution system has experienced ongoing maintenance issues (leaks, breaks, etc) and is well past its intended useful life. Lane County is expected to conduct significant pavement overlay work throughout the PVE street system, further necessitating the development of a plan to address the PVE distribution system.

Challenge

The City has a number of water system infrastructure projects currently in process and a number of other projects that must be completed in the very near future to ensure adequate supply, storage and distribution for all customers of the Coburg water system. These projects required the City to obtain highly competitive financing through state and federal funding partners. Additionally, the City incurred debt to construct the transmission line from the City system to PVE to ensure adequate, long term water supply to its PVE customers. Additional debt financing will undoubtedly be necessary to replace the end-of-life PVE water distribution system.

Water system operations, maintenance and debt payments for infrastructure projects all come from one primary source, the customers that receive and utilize water from the City. The ever-increasing costs for infrastructure projects and a limited number of customers paying the bills creates a situation where Council must prioritize projects based on the regulatory, operational and efficiency needs of the overall system.

Next Steps

With an expectation that a number of PVE residents may not have a clear understanding of the history, challenges, disagreements and financial investments made and still required to address the existing distribution system deficiencies, the City is interested in hosting an open house for PVE residents, City staff and the Mayor and Council to begin a dialogue, answer questions, take comments so that all involved are as current as possible on the issues and a plan can then be initiated to address this matter that is clearly of importance to all residents of PVE as well as the City.

Save the Date(s)

Recognizing the challenges of scheduling for 50-60 individuals, the City will be scheduling both an in-person and an online open house.

In Person Open House

December 5, 2023, 5:30-6:30 PM at the Ray Smith City Council Chambers, Coburg City Hall

Online Open House

December 7, 2023 5:30-6:30 PM (Zoom link to be provided on City of Coburg website)

The City is excited to hear from as many individual residents as possible to share thoughts and concerns, answer questions, provide information and gain as much common understanding as possible before developing a formal action plan.

We look forward to meeting and seeing you.

Sincerely,


Adam Hanks
City Administrator


Nancy Bell
Mayor