



Where Life is Sweet

Public Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2026

Mayor Primmer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Council Representatives Roberts and McCarthy were present. City staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, Wastewater Superintendent Bill Schmittle, Water Superintendent Roy Bicknell, Environmental Water Quality Compliance Specialist Jesus Perches, and Planning Assistant Heather La Beau. Also present were Anderson Perry engineers Joshua Lott and Alan Davis. Councilor Duron arrived at 6:12PM.

Backflow Prevention Program

Assistant City Manager Morgan, Water Superintendent Bicknell and Environmental Water Quality Compliance Specialist Perches spoke regarding the different types of backflow prevention devices and their purpose. The backflow prevention device prevents water from flowing in reverse. Standing water and pressure changes can cause water to flow back into the main line, potentially contaminating the water source. Water systems with underground sprinklers, pools, hot tubs, and fire suppression are required by Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to have backflow prevention devices installed and tested annually by a state certified inspector. The city is required to keep records of the devices and test results. OHA has set a target goal for a minimum of 70% of known backflow prevention devices located in the city to be inspected annually. Currently, the city has 1,129 backflow prevention devices on file, testing is under 50%. There are over 6,000 utility accounts with an estimated 3,500 accounts affected if the city were to require retro installing devices.

As the city continues to feel the pressure to become more compliant with both the total number of accounts needing devices and the number of devices requiring testing, considerations discussed include:

- cost to install devices range from estimates of \$650 to \$5500
- cost for yearly testing is approximately \$100
- possible utility credit for customers to install device
- code adoption for requirements
- city preferred vendor to possibly reduce customer price
- availability of plumbers/testers to meet compliance requirements
- early public education on the topic

Assistant City Manager Morgan stated staff are currently reviewing other cities' code and drafting language for further discussion. Water Superintendent Bicknell will contact OHA to determine the testing requirements for AVB type devices.

Industrial Pretreatment Program

Staff have been working with Anderson Perry to draft code language detailing what chemicals, oils, etc., industrial users can discharge into the wastewater system. The code language is currently being reviewed by DEQ and is expected to be presented to the council in the spring. The program will affect about 20 to 30 accounts, including dentists, car washes, and industrial users of the wastewater system.

Fats Oils Grease Program One Year Update

Environmental Water Quality Compliance Specialist Perches reported after visiting approximately 170 food service establishments, ~50 places were found to be compliant with regards to their grease interceptors; however, they all lacked the proper records. Over the past year, the number of establishments in compliance has increased to 120. Many restaurants were not aware there was a grease interceptor installed. By the end of the month the FOG fee will be implemented on applicable utility accounts. Wastewater Superintendent



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Schmittle noted that he has seen a difference in the sewer lines with more restaurants cleaning the grease traps.

Ultraviolet Treatment

Assistant City Manager Morgan stated the city is seeking approximately one million dollars in federal funding for this project and will move forward even if the funding is not awarded. The sewer department uses 87 pounds of chlorine a day with an annual chemical budget of \$450,000. Switching to an ultraviolet treatment program will eliminate the chlorine by-product that is in the wastewater after treatment. The cost of installation of the UV treatment is estimated to be between \$3 - \$4 million. While the chemical use decreases, electrical use will increase with this type of treatment program.

Assistant City Manager Morgan provided the following update:

Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR) Phase 1

- The building is erected over the well and the testing has been completed. It is anticipated water will begin being poured in in the spring to begin building up the bubble.

Cooling Water Discharge

- The Hinkle Road line running north from Feedville discharging into the A line canal has been installed. The project is waiting for all the required DEQ permitting.
- Hwy 207 line is in the design process for the sewer main in Feedville to the city near Desert Sky Estates. This line may temporarily take cooling water. Anderson Perry is currently performing an analysis of sewer treatment capacity.

Geer/Harper Intersection

- This project is going to bid in the next 1-2 months with a contract award expected in May for summer construction.

Gettman Road Extension

- ROW acquisition is still in process. Additional depositions were taken last week.

Orchard Ave Water Main

- The water main in W Orchard Ave from SW 7th to SW 11th St and a portion south on SW 9th St is being replaced. Missing sidewalk portions along W Orchard Ave will be installed. Advertising for bids should be within the next several months, with contract awarding in late spring and construction beginning in the summer.

Public Comment

None given.

Adjourn

Mayor Primmer adjourned the meeting at 6:58pm.