

MINUTES
CITY OF STEVENSON COUNCIL MEETING
November 14, 2019
6:00 PM, City Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

- PRESENT
Councilmember Amy Weissfeld
Councilmember Paul Hendricks
Councilmember Matthew Knudsen
- ABSENT
Councilmember Robert Muth
Councilmember Jenny Taylor
- City Staff Present: City Administrator Leana Kinley; Public Works Director Karl Russell.
- Others present: Annie McHale, newly elected City Councilmember

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a) **6:15 - Commercial Wastewater Moratorium** - City Administrator Leana Kinley presented resolution 2019-349 adopting the findings of fact related to the moratorium extension and ordinance 2019-1149 extending a wastewater moratorium on commercial sewer connections with discharge above residential strength for public comment and council consideration.

The public hearing on the Wastewater Moratorium Extension was opened at 6:15 p.m. by Mayor Anderson.

Councilmembers received a report from City Administrator Kinley on the history of past moratoriums and the reason for the current extension of the moratorium on commercial sewer connections with discharge above residential strength.

Public Works Director Russell provided updates on the efforts Public Works is making towards finding answers to the problem of frequent discharge violations.

Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing at 6:22 p.m. No public comment was received.

MOTION: To approve resolution 2019-349 adopting the findings of fact related to the extension of the wastewater moratorium on commercial connections.

Motion made by Councilmember Knudsen, Seconded by Councilmember Hendricks.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Weissfeld, Councilmember Hendricks, Councilmember Knudsen

MOTION: To approve ordinance 2019-1149 extending the wastewater moratorium on commercial connections with discharge above residential strength.

Motion made by Councilmember Knudsen, Seconded by Councilmember Hendricks.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Weissfeld, Councilmember Hendricks, Councilmember Knudsen

3. COUNCIL BUSINESS:

- a) **2020 Budget Discussion** - City Administrator Kinley presented Councilmembers with a revised 2020 budget proposal for the City of Stevenson. She provided details on a number of items contained in the proposal, explained revenue and expense projections and answered questions from the Council on the different funds that make up the budget.

Additional items discussed included more funds for plantings at the Waterfront Project and possible support for the 2020 Forest Youth Success program. Providing funds for homeless housing and domestic violence services was addressed following a prior request from Councilmember Knudsen. Councilmembers noted the strategic plan called for housing support and agreed to provide funds to support these services.

Capital Projects, including streets and roads, the Stevenson Fire Hall building and the Waste Water Treatment Plant were discussed at length. Funds for smart meters and support for the Stevenson Pool were also considered. Aligning road works, sewer and utility projects was encouraged in order to reduce re-paving and excavation costs. Forecasting of future development and annexations was noted to be difficult but important for planning purposes.

Administrator Kinley explained a number of funding options available to the City, including grants, loans, bonds, use of reserves, fees, utility and sewer charges and tax revenue. Reducing expenditures to save money was also highlighted. She detailed how taxes are assessed and the laws in place that limit increases in property taxes. Mayor Anderson noted the upcoming legislative session is a good time to encourage legislators to consider budget amendments that support municipalities.

PWD Russell provided information on the Public Works Department. Most equipment appears to be in good shape, so no vehicles are expected to be replaced. A suggestion to purchase a tanker truck and have a city employee with a CDL endorsement drive WWTP solids to Hood River is being explored as a way to save trucking costs. He also shared information on technical assistance opportunities through USDA and the Department of Ecology that Public Works is making use of. Potential training for current employees of

the WWTP could lead to Public Works being able to operate the WWTP independently. Significant cost savings could be achieved by the City if solutions are found. City Administrator Kinley noted that with the cost reductions taking place at Public Works the likely sewer rate increase would be 37%, not 70% as previously projected.

Councilmember Weissfeld requested if results are positive that the good news be highlighted in the local newspaper.

Councilmembers expressed their appreciation for the work Administrator Kinley and PWD Russell were doing to find creative ways to reduce the city budget and balance expenses with revenue, and for the materials presented in the budget packet. They were reminded of an upcoming special council meeting with Fire District 2 members set for November 20th.

4. ADJOURNMENT - Mayor Anderson adjourned the special meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Approved _____; Approved with revisions _____

Name _____ Date _____

Minutes by Johanna Roe