

A special meeting of the Astoria Common Council was held at the above place at the hour of 1:00 pm.

Councilors Present: Herzig, Warr, Price, Nemlowill (via telephone), and Mayor LaMear

Councilors Excused: None

Staff Present: City Manager Estes, Community Development Director Cronin, Public Works Director Cook, and City Support Engineer Cindy Moore. The meeting is recorded and will be transcribed by ABC Transcription Services, Inc.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Item 3(a): 16th Street CSO Separation Project – Pay Adjustment No. 2 (Public Works)

City Manager Estes said several pay adjustments were going to be proposed at the next regular City Council meeting on August 17, 2015. However, one item had to be reviewed by Council as soon as possible so that staff could let the contractor know whether to proceed. These pay adjustments total \$83,063.46. On Pages 1 and 2 of the memorandum, Items 1 through 5 are the items that were to be proposed at Council's regular meeting, but were being presented now to make the process smoother.

Item 6 is the item that needs to be considered in a timely manner. This item is for replacing 290 feet of 10-inch water line on 15th Street. When the contractor was working within the 15th Street right-of-way, the contractor found that the water line had deteriorated far more than initially expected. The replacement would cost \$58,070. Staff would like Council to approve this pay adjustment so that materials can be purchased and work can be completed quickly.

Director Cook added that when the cast iron water line was manufactured, air bubbles got into the cast and made a bunch of voids. The problem was unknown because the pipe is in an area of town with low water pressure. However, breaks in the pipe occurred when machines began to work in the intersection. The street cannot be put back together and prepared for paving without breaking the water line.

City Manager Estes said staff could answer questions about the other line items. Staff recommended City Council authorize a pay adjustment for \$83,063.46, bringing the project's contingency balance to 85 percent.

Councilor Herzig said he was glad this issue was discovered before the road was paved.

City Council Action: Motion made by Councilor Price, seconded by Councilor Warr to authorize Pay Adjustment Number 2 for \$83,063.46 for the 16th Street CSO Separation Project. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors Price, Warr, Herzig, Nemlowill, and Mayor LaMear; Nays: None.

Councilor Price asked for an update on 16th Street. City Manager Estes said staff could provide updates on 16th Street, water service, and answer Council's questions.

Councilor Herzig said people have expressed a lot of interest in the water conservation tips. He asked if staff could find better ways to get the tips out to the public and suggested the tips be printed and placed at the front desk during the Fire Department's open house. It would be up to the Finance Department to decide if the tips should be included with the water bills. He was unsure if the full list of tips were published in the newspaper. He had previously asked staff how Astoria's water storage capacity could be increased in case the dry weather continued. He was told this would be cost prohibitive; however, it would be possible to install pumps to tap into ground water. He wanted Council to direct staff to do some research on pumping ground water.

Councilor Warr understood that under normal circumstances, Astoria had two or three times the water needed in any given year. Being cautious is good, but he did not believe it was absolutely necessary at the moment. He did not believe Astoria would need more storage capacity.

Councilor Herzig believed the dry weather could be the new normal for Astoria's climate and the city could experience climate extremes in the future. It would be good to have at least one possible solution researched to see if Astoria could increase its pumping ability in the watershed. Director Cook explained that he would begin research by talking to the Knappa Water District because their entire district is fed by wells. He would also consider talking to Gearhart because they just installed a well system for their drinking water. He believed it would be easy to present Council with some concept costs. However, a detailed plan would take a lot of work. A basic concept would include estimates of how many gallons per minute and capacity.

Councilor Price appreciated that Councilor Herzig and staff were thinking about pumping ground water in case dry weather continues.

Mayor LaMear was concerned about pulling out all of the ground water. In some places, aquifers are now dry. Director Cook said water would be pumped from the lower part of the watershed because much of the upper part of the watershed feeds the creeks. However, a lot of water bypasses the creeks and flows under the dam. Mayor LaMear said if doing some research was not a very onerous task, she would appreciate the information. Director Cook said normally, water storage capacity is not an issue. However, a series of dry summers would result in less water in the creeks.

Councilor Warr believed that when Astoria's water system was developed, the canneries were running full bore. Therefore, the system was developed to enable about seven or eight million gallons per day. He confirmed with staff that average water use is currently three and a half million gallons per day, which is less than half of the initial build capacity. He asked how long it had been since Astoria has anticipated a water shortage. Director Cook said water shortages have been anticipated twice, in 1976 when the canneries were still operating and in 1989. No one can predict what the climate will be. However, several consecutive years of dry summers will cause problems.

Councilor Herzig said in anticipation of an El Nino and excessive rainfall this winter, he spoke to staff about Astoria's semi-active landslide areas. Director Cook added that staff has considered a project in the area of Valley and Skyline where trees have blown down. All of the storm water flows through a ditch in the center of the area and is piped out to the Columbia River. The City could collect more of the water that seeps into the soil. A geologist suggested much of this area could have cause the slide on Bond Street.

Councilor Herzig asked if Council would direct staff to do some preliminary research on increasing drainage capacity in the area near Valley and Skyline. Director Cook explained that the area does have some drainage in the center; however, drainage branching off of the center could prevent even more water from seeping into the soil. The geotechnical engineer said increased drainage would be a benefit. There may be Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds available for this pre-hazard mitigation project. He estimated the costs would be about \$150,000 to \$200,000. This project was on the Public Works spreadsheet presented during the budget process for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

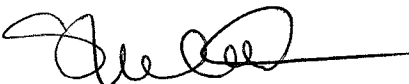
City Manager Estes understood there was a consensus from City Council and confirmed he would direct staff to research pumping ground water and increasing drainage in the area near Valley and Skyline.

Councilor Price asked for an update on 16th Street. City Manager Estes said since the pay adjustment was just approved, staff would provide a complete update at the regular City Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

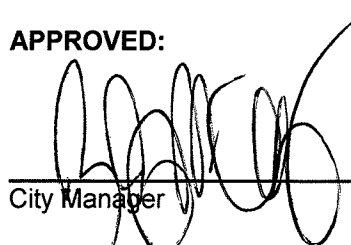
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm to convene the Astoria Development Commission meeting.

ATTEST:



Finance Director

APPROVED:



City Manager