

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

and

CITY of CLARKSTON COUNCIL

JOINT COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 7, 2022

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City of Clarkston Mayor Monika Lawrence presiding, the Joint Meeting between the Public Utility District No. 1 of Asotin County and the City of Clarkston Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Clarkston City Council Chambers located at 829 5th Street, Clarkston, Washington.

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ROLL CALL and INTRODUCTIONS:

PRESENT:

PUD Commissioners: Greg McCall, Don Nuxoll and Judy Ridge.

PUD Staff: General Manager Tim Simpson, Director of Finance and Administration Bob Sischo, Director of Operations Craig Riehle and Operations Foreman Bob Wimer.

Clarkston City Council: Mayor Monika Lawrence, John Murray, Robin Albers, Pat Holman, Russ Evans, Skate Pierce, David Vinton and Steve Ebert.

City Staff: Clerk Steve Austin, Public Works Director Kevin Poole and Attorney Todd Richardson.

Proposed PUD Management of the City of Clarkston Wastewater System

Mayor Lawrence began the meeting with reading a statement explaining the purpose of the joint PUD and City of Clarkston meeting. She asked the PUD to begin the discussion.

The manager stated that the PUD is uniquely positioned to contract operate the City Wastewater System. He cited contracts and agreements with local governmental agencies and the infrastructure improvements made to these systems. He discussed assumption of ownership of the Port of Wilma water and sewer systems and ownership assumption of the County's wastewater system. He also discussed the PUD's \$9.0 million plus debt-free investment in infrastructure improvement since 2012. The manager also spoke to the agreement that was finalized in 2019 which needs minimal updating before consideration is made by both entities. He also discussed transfer of WWTP staff to the PUD.

Council members asked questions regarding billing, rates and operations. The PUD manager and staff answered those questions. PUD Commissioners asked questions regarding reserves, wastewater system improvements and wastewater treatment plant improvements. Clerk Steve Austin and Public Works Director Kevin Poole answered the questions posed. Mr. Poole also stated that the City's master plan has been updated and approved by the Department of Ecology and a collection system study was completed last year. He stated that capital improvement plans are in place for the next 25 years, which should be a benefit to the PUD if it takes over the system. Mayor Lawrence stated that the city has \$1.5 million in American Relief Plan Act funding that will be used for replacement of the most urgent sewer collection system sewer main needs in 2023.

PUD Commissioners, the Mayor and City Council members all expressed the importance of doing what is in the best interest of the ratepayers.

CONSENSUS:

The City Council, by consensus, directed the city staff and the City Attorney to take the next steps toward the development of an agreement that provides for PUD contact operation of the City's sewer system.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Monika Lawrence at 7:02 p.m.