

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 2024

.....
President Don Nuxoll presiding, the Public Utility District No. 1 of Asotin County Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at the PUD Office at 1500 Scenic Way, Clarkston, Washington.
.....

ROLL CALL: PRESENT Commissioners: Don Nuxoll, Judy Ridge and Greg McCall.
Staff: Tim Simpson and Bob Sischo.

MINUTES OF MEETING AND VOUCHER APPROVAL

MOTION by Commissioner Judy Ridge and seconded by Commissioner Greg McCall to approve the consent agenda approving the minutes of the January 23, 2024 Regular Meeting and Payroll Vouchers 2172 – 2174 and Electronic Payroll Vouchers 7253EFT – 7277EFT in the amount of \$80,424.32 and Electronic Accounts Payable Voucher 24020501, 24020601-24020603, 24020701, 24020702 and 24022601 and Accounts Payable Vouchers 44869 – 44946 in the amount of \$647,432.55. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

OLD and NEW BUSINESS

There were no items presented under Old or New Business.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Capital Improvement Activity – The operations crew began replacement of 2,650 feet of steel water main on Libby from 13th to 15th Streets as a part of the capital improvement projects planned for 2024.

Administrative Activity – A Utility Crew Member position was advertised. The position announcement closes tomorrow and 12 applicants have been received to date. Fees for street cuts have increased to \$800. This increase will require a rate resolution update for costs associated with new services.

City Sewer System Activity – Staff met with Clearwater Composting at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to discuss the use of a roll-off cart for collection and hauling of biosolids. Options for this service are currently being evaluated. The cover for the UV light system arrived at the end of January and is currently being installed by WWTP staff. The cover will protect the UV system from the elements and extend the life of the equipment. Avista Utilities honored the Service Territory Agreement and changed the effective date of the transfer of service to January 1, 2024. The WWTP Supervisor position was posted internally and two applications were received from qualified WWTP staff.

City Sewer System Main Replacement Project – Contract documents for the 2023 Sewer System Main Replacement Project were signed by the City of Clarkston Mayor and a pre-construction meeting has been set for tomorrow, February 14. The contractor has set a tentative start date of Monday February 26 with construction completion date of May 24.

City Sewer System Transfer – The manager contacted both the Department of Natural Resources and US Army Corp to begin work on the transfer of easements for the WWTP. Both agencies acknowledged the easement transfer request and will begin working on the process. The manager received a draft Memorandum of Understanding from the Department of Ecology which provides for the transfer of the City’s State Revolving Fund loan to the PUD. The document is currently under review. The manager

reported that he and Director Sischo met with Northwest Municipal Advisors (NWMA) to discuss findings from discussions with banks for private bond financing for the retirement of the City Revenue Bonds. NWMA reported that two banks contacted stated an interest rate of 6.0 to 6.5% and would not go beyond a term of 15 years. Another bank stated an interest rate of 4.6% for a term of 20 years. They stated that public financing rates are between 3.0 to 3.75%. Based on their findings, NWMA recommends public bond financing. The Board directed the manager to move forward with the public bond financing. The next step in the public bond process is to interview and hire an underwriter. NWMA has recommended two firms to interview that have experience working with PUDs.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner McCall virtually attended an Energy Northwest (EN) Board of Directors meeting Wednesday, January 24. He reported that EN has opened a search for an outside director as required by the state. The CEO reported on the work on extending the Columbia Generating Station operating permit for another 20 years and the funding received for electric vehicle charging stations. He provided a report on their work with small scale nuclear development with X-Energy and their work with state legislators on project funding. EN discussed remaining neutral on the Columbia River System Operation (CRSO) settlement. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) discussed their work towards meeting state and federal renewable energy goals by 2045 and 2050.

Commissioner Ridge virtually attended a Public Power Council (PPC) meeting on February 8. She reported that PPC staff discussed the American Public Power Association rally in Washington DC at the end of February and the talking points that will be addressed with members of Congress. They discussed the Residential Exchange Program and how investor-owned and public power utilities need to be aligned on the subject. PPC staff discussed the CRSO settlement and their Ninth Circuit Court filing against BPA due their commitment of \$300 million of funds for fish without consulting public power utilities.

Commissioner McCall and Commission Ridge will virtually join the Washington PUD Association meetings February 14 to February 16.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.