

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
MEETING MINUTES
February 27, 2024

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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.
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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 Greg McCall and seconded by Commissioner Judy Ridge to approve the consent agenda approving the minutes of the February 13, 2024 Regular Meeting and Electronic Payroll Vouchers 7278EFT – 7302EFT in the amount of \$68,623.47 and Electronic Accounts Payable Voucher 24021301, 24022001-24022004, 24022101, 24022301 and 24022602 and Accounts Payable Vouchers 44947 – 44986 in the amount of \$168,036.82. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items presented under Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 24-527 – Setting Water Rates, Charges and Fees

The manager presented Resolution 24-527 which provides for the setting of Water Service Rates, Charges and Fees. He stated that the PUD was notified that the cost of asphalt patching for construction, service repair and new service installation has increased. The minimum cost for a patch is now \$800.00 requiring the amendment of the water rate resolution. In addition, due to the increased cost of asphalt patching, language needed to be added to state that additional fees may be assessed dependent upon the dimension of the street cut for new service installations that are larger than the standard size.

MOTION by Commissioner Judy Ridge and seconded by Commissioner Greg McCall to approve Resolution 24-527 setting the Water Rates, Charges and Fees effective March 1, 2024. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Resolution 24-528 – Setting City of Clarkston Sewer System Rates, Charges and Fees

The manager presented Resolution 24-528 which provides for the setting of City of Clarkston Sewer System Rates, Charges and Fees. Staff discovered an error in the calculation for the Average Monthly Water Consumption for the Commercial Classification. The average water consumption for commercial accounts was set at 10 units and should have been 20 units. This increases the commercial average consumption from \$52.00 to \$104.00. In reviewing the application of these rates, it was discovered that clarification of language for calculating charges for automatic car washes was needed. This language was originally copied from the City rate ordinance and did not detail how the calculations are made.

MOTION by Commissioner Greg McCall and seconded by Commissioner Judy Ridge to approve Resolution 24-528 setting the City of Clarkston Sewer System Rates, Charges and Fees. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Change the Tuesday, March 12, 2023 Regular Meeting Date

Commissioner McCall requested that the Tuesday, March 12, 2024 regular meeting date be changed to Monday, March 11, 2024 due to travel obligations.

MOTION by Commissioner Greg McCall and seconded by Commissioner Judy Ridge to approve changing the Tuesday, March 12, 2024 regular meeting date to Monday, March 11, 2024 at 5:30 pm. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Capital Improvement Activity – The operations crew began work on the replacement of 2,650 feet of steel water main on Libby from 13th to 15th Streets. 1,000 feet of main has been installed to date. Installation of the new pump, column and shaft for Well No. 1 began today and will be completed tomorrow with start up testing of the well.

Development Activity – Staff received the design plans detailing water and sewer services at the proposed Clarkston Havens housing development located at Port Drive near Walmart. Plans are under review and staff will be meeting with the design engineer tomorrow.

City Sewer System Activity – Installation of the cover for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Ultra Violet (UV) light system has been completed. The cover will protect the UV system from the elements and extend the life of the equipment. The sub-zero temperatures in January exposed issues at the WWTP headworks and grit removal area. Substandard heat tape was used to keep equipment warm during the winter when the plant was upgraded. New runs of commercial grade heat tape with visual monitoring will be installed in these locations. Staff is reviewing costs associated with enclosing these areas. The WWTP crew began work last week on point repairs on the sewer collection system. The two internal applicants for the WWTP Supervisor position will be interviewed on Friday, March 1.

City Sewer System Main Replacement Project – Preparation work on the 2023 Sewer System Main Replacement Project began yesterday. Debco Construction is videoing the sewer mains this week and will begin construction next week. They are staging at Potlatch Credit Union on Highland Avenue.

City Sewer System Transfer – The US Army Corp of Engineers responded to the WWTP Easement transfer request stating that the City will need to complete a real estate application and the easement will be assigned to the PUD at the time of the ownership transfer of the sewer system. The term of the lease is indefinite. Northwest Municipal Advisors provided a draft Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for underwriting firms that the PUD will interview for public bond financing for retirement of the City of Clarkston's WWTP Revenue Bonds. Director Sischo and the manager are reviewing the RFQ.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner McCall and Commission Ridge virtually attended the Washington PUD Association (WPUDA) meetings February 14 to February 16. Commissioner Ridge reported that she attended the Energy Committee meeting where staff and lobbyists discussed the legislation affecting PUDs. Many of the bills dropped off at the cut-off for the short legislative session. Low-income energy assistance programs continue to be a hot topic with the state weighing in on how utilities must develop these programs. Staff discussed the appraisal of the WPUDA headquarters and signed leases from tenants. They stated that the building appraised for \$3.6 million and they pay \$33,000 annually in property taxes.

Commissioner McCall reported that he attended the WPUDA Education Roundtable meeting where the group discussed how electric utilities were significantly impacted by the January cold snap. Staff discussed the upcoming election of chairs and vice chairs of committees. The group heard from the Evergreen Rural Water Association of Washington about the “silver tsunami” with pending retirements and their training and apprenticeship programs. He reported that at the Water Committee meeting the group discussed the stalling of the “Foster Fix” legislation, water rights transfers and the lack of funding provided by legislators for culvert relocations. They also heard from lobbyists about the discussion of state funding for low-income assistance programs for water utilities. Staff stated that State Revolving Fund loan funds are available along with an anticipated \$150 million in loans available from the Public Works Trust Fund. At the Board meeting, Commissioner McCall stated that group discuss legislation that has stalled and others that are still in the process. Discussion continued about the secret deal with Tribes and the states of Oregon and Washington regarding the Columbia River System Operation. The group heard a report from Energy Northwest regarding their work on small scale nuclear projects and from the Bonneville Power Administration about the low water year in Canada and the Northwest.

Commissioner McCall virtually attended the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts monthly Board meeting on Monday, February 26. He reported that the Board discussed various legislation affecting water and sewer districts along with the unintended impact of legislation that allows single family residents to be built or located on existing single family home property. Member utilities expressed concern about the increase in water use in areas with limited water rights.

Commissioner Ridge will virtually attend the Public Power Council meeting on Thursday, March 7.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.