

MINUTES
Warrenton City Commission
WORK SESSION – September 13, 2016
5:00 p.m.
Warrenton City Hall - Commission Chambers
225 S. Main
Warrenton, Or 97146

Mayor Kujala convened the work session at 5:02 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Mayor Mark Kujala, Henry Balensifer, Pam Ackley and Tom Dyer
Excused: Rick Newton

Staff Present: City Manager Pro tem Linda Engbretson, City Attorney Harold Snow, Public Works Foreman Craig Walter, Finance Director April Clark, Community Development Director Skip Urling, City Engineer Collin Stelzig, Police Chief Mathew Workman and Administrative Assistant Dawne Shaw

Purpose of Work Session – Review of Tide Gate Replacement Program and Update on Levee Certification

City Engineer Collin Stelzig gave a presentation on the tide gate replacement program. He covered what was done this summer and outlined which gates have been replaced to date. They ran into an issue on the Skipanon East tide gates. While talking with ODFW, they said we may need to put in fish passage culverts. Per State law, if 50% is replaced, it will have to be replaced with a fish friendly gate to allow for fish passage. It was noted that Skipanon tide gates 12, 13 & 14 are too high (1-2 ft.) and should be lowered. The discussion continued on the Skipanon East tide gates and Vera Slough. Gary Kobes with the Port of Astoria/airport manager briefly discussed the hydrology reports that have been done in regards to the water table rising around the airport. Mr. Stelzig went on to explain how flooding is calculated in Warrenton. The discussion continued on flood plains, diking districts and sea level rise.

City Engineer Collin Stelzig then gave an update on the Levee Certification - Group Appeal of the FEMA study. The City of Astoria, Port of Astoria, Clatsop County and other Clatsop County diking districts are all involved in the appeal. He proceeded to review the appeal items noting that there are no resolutions from FEMA. Next, there will be a meeting with Coast and Harbor and then a meeting with FEMA on September 28, likely with a rebuttal from Coast and Harbor. Additional study work will be done by FEMA with Coast and Harbor involved. Mr. Stelzig noted that worst case scenario, the city may have to pay for its own modeling. Also discussed was the possibility of needed construction to raise or widen the footprint of the dikes. Mr. Stelzig noted that he attended the National Association of Flood Plain and Storm Water Management Agencies Oregon levee event, with Senator Betsy Johnson and approximately ten diking districts in attendance. Commissioner Balensifer mentioned that he attended a meeting back in March with

Oregon Solutions and there was discussion on how to fix and get levees accredited. He asked staff if a letter had been drafted to Mark Ellsworth in regards to Oregon Regional Solutions funding, per Commission direction. A brief discussion followed and Mayor Kujala stated he will contact Mr. Ellsworth. The discussion continued on the next steps to get funding sources in place to make improvements and for the geo-tech work. Mayor Kujala noted the taxing districts were absorbed into the city of Warrenton. City Manager Pro tem Engbretson confirmed that there is no taxing district/taxing authority. Mayor Kujala inquired if there was a way to reform the taxing district, or if it was even a possibility. Brief discussion followed. He introduced Don Leach from diking district 11. Diking district 11 is outside of city limits but does provide flood protection. Discussion continued on how to move forward, which could involve working with district 11 to get them up to certifiable condition rather than putting in a cross dike. It is in our best interest to try and get district 11 into certifiable condition as well as districts 2 & 3. Discussion followed on bringing back the taxing district and assume district 11 and expand their taxing authority.

There being no further business Mayor Kujala adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mark Kujala, Mayor

ATTEST:



Dawne Shaw, Administrative Assistant