

**CITY OF HEPPNER
UTILITIES COMMISSION MEETING
HEPPNER CITY HALL – 111 N. MAIN STREET
FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

ATTENDEES:

**Corey Sweeney
Dale Bates
Seth Moses
Josh Coiner
Kraig Cutsforth
Chad Doherty
Tarina Foster**

Absent: Forrest Dyer

Members of the Public: None

1. Call to Order

The February 14, 2023 meeting of the City of Heppner Utilities Commission was called to order at 9:03 AM by Corey Sweeney.

2. Minutes of February 11, 2021 meeting (for information)

3. Elect Chairman and Vice Chairman and Secretary for 2023

Motion to elect Corey Sweeney as Chairman for 2021 by Dale Bates. Seconded by Seth Moses. Motion Carried

Motion to elect Dale Bates as Vice Chairman for 2023 by Corey Sweeney. Seconded by Seth Moses. Motion Carried

Motion to elect Tarina Foster as Secretary for 2023 by Corey Sweeney. Seconded by Josh Coiner. Motion Carried

As most of the Commissioners are new, Chad Doherty provided information the Utilities Commission and what it does.

4. Old Business

A. Street Project Update

The project is 99% done. There is \$20,000 worth of work left. This is for painting crosswalks, stop bars and the center stripe. Due to this, the contract has been held

open. The contract will expire in about a month. Kraig is going through the process to keep it open through ODOT. The council decided against the center stripe but still wants the crosswalks and stop bars completed. The Commission discussed painting versus torch downs. The contract was for painting but torch downs last longer. The city workers could do the torch downs but it will take a lot of time. ODOT will buy the material. The Commission is recommending that the city close the contract and use the \$20,000 for torch downs to do the crosswalks and stop bars.

B. Sewer Lagoon Project

Anderson Perry is still working on it. This will be done in two parts. First, the Sewer Plant will be rebuilt. Second is to construct the retention pond. The estimated total cost is between 5 and 7 million. Business Oregon will help with funding and the city will look for additional grants. The Sewer Fund finally broke even this year due to the rate increases.

C. Water System Update

Anderson Perry will be concentrating on the Water System Master Plan as soon as they have the plans for the Sewer Project completed. The current Water System Master Plan is over 20 years old. This will help get things up to date and catch things that were missed in the 2005-2006 water project.

5. New Business

A. Blinker sign in Residential Area

There have been some issues with GPS directing trucks up Chase Street to get to Willow Creek Road. The maps are showing it as a thru street. When they get to the top there is no place to turn around. There is a sign at the bottom of the hill that says it is not a thru street. It is not possible to open up the area at the top as it belongs to The Corps of Engineers. The drivers are probably following the GPS and not paying attention to the signs. They probably wouldn't pay attention to it even if it was blinking. Should the city update the old sign or install a new blinking sign? The blinking sign will be more visible but will likely disturb the nearby homes. The Commissioners recommend updating the current sign and revisit this if there are any further issues.

B. Frozen Meter Issues

Recently there were 3 incidents with frozen meters. Two were with separate irrigation meters. Those meters were turned off on the customer side but not on the city side, the meter was still full of water and froze. One meter was turned off by the customer so they could turn it back on as needed for remodeling. We didn't know that it was supposed to be off when replacing the meter that froze and broke. The meter was

turned on after replacement and the building had frozen lines and there was some flooding. We may have to pay for the damage in the building. The ordinance states that only the city has authority to operate the controls in the meter box. It is a violation for the customer to operate the meter controls. The City should be notified when the customer shuts their own meter off. Do we need to put an addition in the Ordinance to enforce this? The cost of a new meter is about \$180.00. This will be discussed further as Old Business at the next meeting.

C. County Chip Seal Project

Roads that were redone are in need of maintenance to extend their life. Barratt, Water, Quaid, Elder, South Court, Riverside and Bruce Kelly Way need chip and or crack sealed. Morrow County can do the work. There is a spot on South Court that was too thick and has some bad cracks.

Motion to recommend Morrow County to do the chip/crack sealing project by Dale Bates. Seconded by Josh Coiner. Motion Carried

6. Additional Discussion

A. Fairview Way Speed Sign

A citizen reported that traffic on Fairview Way is too fast. It is marked as 25 mph. A 15 mph speed is recommended for alleys and narrow residential roadways. Chad will order new speed signs and have them installed on Fairview Way.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:59 AM