

Harrisburg City Council Work Session Minutes for March 18, 2015

The Harrisburg City Council met in a Work Session at the Harrisburg Middle School Gym, located at 201 S. 6th St., at the hour of 7:04PM. Most of the Councilors arrived earlier at 6:30pm, when the Tabletop Workshop was being held, but the meeting itself was not started until 7:04pm. (Please see Addendum No. 1 for the schedule of the work session, along with a water survey that attendees were asked to fill out.) Presiding was Mayor Robert Duncan. Also present were as follows:

- Kimberly Downey
- Robert Boese
- Sarah Puls
- Don Shipley
- John Loshbaugh
- Youth Advisor Bo Kelson
- City Administrator Brian Latta
- City Recorder/Asst. City Administrator Michele Eldridge
- Public Works Director Chuck Scholz
- Finance Officer Tim Gaines
- Utility Billing Clerk Lori Ross
- Public Works Foreman Rick Nelson
- Public Works Utility III Don Costello

Absent this evening were Councilors Mike Caughey, and Sarah Puls.

The matter of Hearing from the Public on the Topic of the City's Water

Staff Report: Latta welcomed the audience, and told them that this topic is something that all of Council is passionate about, and frustrated with as well; we do want to hear public opinion on the topic as well. We've all spent a lot of time in conversations, primarily addressing water. We can make improvements, but in reality, those don't come cheap. They come with a price tag. Our job is to find out what the solutions are, and the price tag. We don't have all the answers right now, but are starting to look at the facts and issues to try to find solutions.

Latta started a PowerPoint presentation; (Please see Addendum No. 2) and spoke of the City's water system. The water is safe to drink; it's regularly tested, and has to meet the State of Oregon's Health Authority guidelines. The water is aesthetically not pleasing, with high levels of iron, manganese, hydrogen sulfides, dissolved solids, and chlorides. Those are the elements that cause taste, odor, discoloration, and other aesthetic issues. While the water issue was one we really wanted to address, we unfortunately had a whole series of issues that has taken up the last decade. Those include the Wastewater Facility Expansion, which was required by the state because of our level of growth, and the Urban Growth Boundary Expansion project, another one that was required by the state. That project alone took over 7 years to complete. We also updated the water master plan, which recommended that we secure water rights to the Willamette River. That has been completed, and we have 20 years in which to use those rights. He went over some of the other Water Master Plan Recommendations; which have to do directly with the water system.

Based on the feedback we receive from our citizens; Public Works and our City Engineer will look at what we can do to fix the problems. We will be very transparent with how much this will cost. We want to provide water that is not only good to use, but that tastes good as well. We had some people who came in earlier today, that couldn't come tonight, some of whom provided emails or letters. (Please see Addendum No. 3) One lady came in earlier, and said that they have only two of them in the household, and they don't drink the water. They buy bottled water, plus they have a water softener, which requires \$13 of salt to be purchased each month. They've replaced 3 sinks in their home, and replaced all the outside faucets. In short, they've spent several thousand over the last few years. She felt her water is ok now, but if she had the ability to increase property taxes, or to pay for it through the water bill, she'd be willing to do that. We don't know what all of you would prefer to see in terms of solutions, but we'd like have you testify, and to let us know what you think.

Marsha Morrill, 400 N. 10th, took out some samples of 'show & tell', which included a glass out of her dishwasher. The cloudiness on the glass is now permanent. Water stains don't come out, and you can scrub until the cows come home. Inside her toilet tank, is an awful black substance coated on the walls. When you remove the lid, it smells horrible.

Councilors asked her if she had replaced any fixtures or appliances; Ms. Morrill said yes, she's replaced her dishwasher twice in the last two years, and she is worried about her washing machine. She takes showers, not baths, and they go through a lot of bleach. She's lived here for 4 years. Mayor Duncan suggested that she try Lemi Shine, which is sold at Bi-Mart. It's safe on appliances. He's replaces 3 water heaters, dishwashers, and washing machines himself.

Monique Pierson Kreitzberg, 845 Burton St., described how Ecowater came and did a presentation at her house, and took a bottle of regular water, and Harrisburg water, and added soap. The regular water was all sudsy, but the Harrisburg water was grey. They explained that the soap has to clean the water before it cleans anything else. That's why all their white clothes are grey. She loves Harrisburg, but wouldn't have bought her home here if she had known

about the water issue. The first bath she ever drew really freaked her out, because it was brown. Her kids all take showers because of that.

Marsha Delanoy, 295 Territorial St. talked about how much labor she's done trying to get things clean. She has to wash her dishes before they go in the dishwasher, and that film is still there. There is staining on the porcelain in her toilets. She agrees with Monique on how annoying it is. She loves the City, and has been here for 40 years. The things that are discolored by the water take a long time to fix. She also uses the Lemi Shine.

Greg Bahler, 750 Crimson Way, showed a picture of his filters. (Please see Addendum No. 4) It shows the filters before he hooks them up to the system, and then after it's been used. His wife and he have lived here for 18 years, and have replaced many appliances. They also get the brown sludge in their hot water tank that he has to flush and drain about every other month.

- Downey said that the City does flush the water lines, but only does so twice a year. Bahler continued, saying that it's more than necessary to clean the water to protect ourselves. We feel like even though it's been deemed safe by the water authority, that there is still something wrong with it. We've noticed brown algae that used to grow on the shower door area. It actually grew, and was really strange. He's concerned about the dissolved solids, which clog the water heater, lines and appliances. He was also quite concerned about the other materials that could be present in the water, such as nitrates, nitrites, matter that comes from animal waste, pesticides and herbicides. The entire Willamette valley seems to filter down into our water here in Harrisburg. The City needs to be more transparent, and we need to understand what is in there.

- Mayor Duncan noted that we are making sure that we have transparency about what we are doing. The water quality needs to be improved.
- Chuck Scholz, the City's Public Works Director, added that the state requires that we test for all the substances that Bahler talked about. The results for the City in terms of what is in the water are all on-line on the states website. That will show you every public water system in the state. It includes an entire list of what we are required to test for. It's on the Oregon Health Authority website.

Charlotte Thomas, 1145 S. 6th St., told Council that she's lived in her current home for 3 years, but they have been in Harrisburg, albeit on the other side of town, for 12 years. She too has the black sludge, and her whites aren't white. They do drink the water, although they have a softener in the home. Their whites aren't bad, and her husband drinks the Harrisburg water, but says you can definitely taste the flavor. She occasionally uses their neighbor's well water. She's a very clean person, so all of the appliances are still great. Her concern is that it's a detriment to Harrisburg's image to have the water like it is, and she would definitely be on board for improving it. We don't want to lose the good members who live in our community. She is willing to take a tax hike in order to get that.

Toby Gutoski, 785 Arrowleaf Ave. said that he and his wife moved here in 2008. They live on the north end of town, and when they first moved here, they noticed the water; it took a bit to get

used to it. Now, he's used to it, and thinks it's good. He drinks it, gives the kids a bath in it, etc. If there is a ring in the toilet or the toilet tank, it comes out with sandpaper or the little green scrubbers, although it does take some good elbow grease. It's just minerals in the water that cause the issues with it. As far as the taste of Harrisburg water, you can compare ours to Florence and Salem. They taste and smell like it's come literally out of a swimming pool. In Christmas Valley, the water tastes like pure sulphur; the smell rolls you out the door. Then you can go over the mountain to Paisley, which has some of the purest water in the world. He's in the middle of the road on rates. He doesn't want to pay any more on the rates, and thinks that the water is fine the way it is. Harrisburg is a small town, so get used to it!

Alan Collison, 790 Arrowleaf Ave., noted that the water sucks; we all know that. We have 20 years to draw the water out of the river, or we lose the chance to keep those water rights. If we have a chance to improve our water, then we should try to do so for the least amount. But river water would be interesting. Basically, he knows we'd be looking at a treatment plant, and that could make a big difference. A water softener will take a lot of those elements we don't like out of it.

Erik Nasshahn, 390 Moore St., said that he lives in town, and having to use bottled water sucks. He agreed with Toby, regarding the water in the newer subdivisions. He's had it at friends homes, and it's not bad; but downtown, it will knock you over. He's been to other communities, and (Harrisburg) water is bad. The color looks ok; it's all white, and you have to wait to let it clear up. It doesn't make any difference to the taste. It smells bad, and the flavor isn't wonderful, but it's not just that....it's the consistency of the water. It's oily, and leaves an aftertaste. It's the nastiest stuff imaginable. He would love to trade his water with Toby and would do it in a heartbeat. With all that being said, we spend .40 cents a bottle at Dari Mart, and they go through 16 gallons a week for a family of 5, so they probably spend around \$20 a month to drink that water. That amount doesn't even touch the wear and tear they have on appliances. If we do something about this, then he thinks it would be a good thing, and he would like to see it. He doesn't want to be put in the poor house because of it, but if we could have decent water, he wouldn't want it to be super expensive. His parents considered moving here to be closer to them, and they couldn't do it, because of the water. We tried the water south of town too, and it was bad. The water is horrible, and something has gotta be done. He doesn't know if we should pull water out of the Willamette, but it's got to taste better than now. Please, please, do something!

Helen Halstead, 105 N. 7th St., has been here for a while. She lived here before we put in the water system, and we had the greatest water in the world! Then, 35 years ago, the federal government made us change it, and it's been awful since then. She looked at the survey, but when she saw 'What I would pay', she decided that it's meaningless. She wasn't just thinking in terms of water they buy to replace the water out of the tap, it's also the gas to drive to get that water, and Lemi Shine, and then worrying about which appliance should she replace this year? The washing machine, dishwasher, washer, pumps, faucets, and pipes; that all adds up to a lot. So personally, if you want her to come up with a fixed sum of money on what she spends, she

isn't sure what the true figure would be. She gets in the shower, and when she gets out, feels like she needs to get back in to get clean. She has literally gone to a friend's house to re-shower. The algae are bad too. It hasn't always been that bad, but she doesn't think that's acceptable. We need to find something better. But everyone needs to be sure that it will address some of the other issues, such as costliness, and the impact on the environment. Gallon jugs aren't the safest place to store water. She would want to look at the hidden costs of a different water system.

- Boese said that he moved here, and didn't live here 35 years ago. You said the system changed; what changed?
- Halstead said she wasn't sure. In 1973, the water was great, and had been for a long time. The water changed because of something that had to do with a federal mandate. Up until then, we didn't have problems, but now, we have different pipes, and now we have a problem, and the water tastes bad. They thought that perhaps the taste would go away, but she stills smells it, and tastes it; she can tell Harrisburg water from other water.
- Mayor Duncan commented that the bane of his existence is Well No. 5. That's such a problem for the City, both when the engineer put it on the wrong piece of land, but also because of what it provides. It's an amazing producer, and produces 300 gallons or more a minute. However, the water is just aesthetically terrible. It's the main producer of the mineral content in our water.
- Halstead said that she wants some numbers to look at. She wants to look at how much fixing the system will cost. She wants to look at repairing the damage. She doesn't feel that our water is good, and she'd like to get it fixed, because it should be.
- Latta said that we know how much you spend on filters, and bottled water. We will move forward with correcting underlying issues, and will play out scenarios on how we can fix that. We will develop how much they will cost. We will take that number, and narrow down how much it will cost for individuals. He doesn't know how much a month it could cost. If we do improvements, we can go through a Bond, through property taxes, or we could raise rates. There will be lots of information. His goals, and Councils goals, are to add up all those examples, and have lots of town hall meetings on this topic. All of the information we get will be available. It's your water, and your choice. We want the best product that will work for our citizens.
- Halstead said that it would be nice not to have to spend the little money she has to do that.

Oliver LeClaire, 1051 Heckart Lane, said that he's lived here since 2004. They had heard about Harrisburg water, when visiting during the 4th of July, and he doesn't know why things are the way they are. It gets worse when we flush. They did have to replace a dishwasher. He now has a water softener on his home, and on his rental. It's easier on his appliances.

- Mayor Duncan asked him how much his system cost him.
- LeClaire told him around \$7,000 for two, plus the filters for them. We buy those once a year for \$100 to \$150. We have salt in one of them, and that comes to about 5 bags a

year. They were using a filter in a water jug, and they decided that they didn't want to deal with that anymore. That's why he added it.

- Mayor Duncan asked for a show of hands for those present who had water systems. Around ten people in the audience currently had them.

Dawne Dougherty, 951 S. 9th St.; wanted to give Council another perspective. She's lived here for 30 years now, and she knows that when Don Shipley was first elected, the first thing she told him is that he had to do something about the water. It's better than it was 30 years ago; she hasn't smelled strong chlorine for a long time. She doesn't drink it plain, but she does use it for her coffee and tea. She uses the Lemi Shine, and she waxes as well, to protect surfaces. That keeps it from building up. One of these days, she'll be too old to do that type of work. She only uses her dishwasher once a month or so and probably only six loads of laundry a month, but that's not reflected in her utility bill. There are about 200 units showing during the winter, and she doesn't think she's using that; it's probably the minimum charge. While she knows that the water can be better on one hand, she's not sure how much she'd be willing to invest in it. That may not be community oriented spirit, but she doesn't know how many years she has left to be concerned. It would be nice to have a program for people who conserve their water use; give them some kind of consideration for not using so much. One of these days, we may not have as much water as we do now, and it would be good to learn how to not use so much.

- Mayor Duncan remarked that most of Council has been doing this for a long time. They are looking way out in the future, and consider that in their long range plans. We look at the quantity of water being used; it's expensive to drill wells. We do have to be proactive in what we do.

Elisabeth Nasshahn, 390 Moore St., said that she's lived here for 15 years. She thought the water does smell like chlorine; she brought a sample of it, and passed it around to Council to smell. Its water she got out of her tap right before the meeting. They live on the corner of Moore St. & 4th. She thinks that when they bought the house, that they wouldn't have, if they knew about the water beforehand. Their home was built in 1888.

Greg Skovbo, 1066 Whittedge; has lived in the town forever, it feels like. He is in the bottled water business; but bottled water should be a choice, not a necessity. There is a gentleman just outside town, who has terrific water. It's some of the best water he knows about, and it's still there; he couldn't believe that people who grew up in the Willamette Valley, in Junction City and Harrisburg, had to drink bottled water at home. About 16 years ago, he lived in town, and he was talked into getting bottled water, he talked about how his family gradually went from drinking the City water, to exclusively bottled water. Plus, they were drinking more soda, and other alternatives to City water. The City has to do something with the water system. He doesn't know the logistics to help the City get good water. That well outside the City, that has terrific water, is only 8 miles outside of town. The well there was built to supply a City type of level of operation, since it operated a water business. So even though we can't find the right well here in town, he does believe that we can find one, and he also believed that it would be cheaper than filtration systems, with how much they cost.

Judith Bellas, 640 Crimson Way; said that she's lived here for 18 years. She's replaced two washers, and 3 dishwashers. She commented that during summer, she sees that when we pull more water, the water starts getting bad.

- Latta told her that usage during the summer is similar to when the City flushes the water line. You'll see more sediment and dissolved solids coming through. You typically see more problems with the water during the summertime because of that.
- Bellas wasn't sure if the City water contributed to her hair stopping to grow. Would the City ever consider sending in tanker trucks so that citizens could bring their own water bottles and fill up?
- Latta told her that there are always possibilities for thinking outside the box. It's expensive, but some other cities do that. It's not out of the realm of possibilities.
- Bellas said that she's had a lot of clothes that have been ruined, because the color is all gone. It would be nice to have better water.

- Mayor Duncan then introduced the members of Council, and went over their backgrounds. They've dedicated themselves to working on these issues. They love where they live, and they love being public servants. He asked if the Council would like to make any statements.
- Loshbaugh said that he's lived here for over 30 years. Appliances used to last much longer. His 25 year old washing machine finally quit last year, and he's had his hot water heater almost 30 years. He's only had to change one element in it. He raised 6 kids there, and didn't tear up too many appliances. There are different areas in town with water issues. Some have them, and some areas don't. Almost everything east of the railroad tracks, are PVC pipes. Most of the west side of town is iron pipes. That's where you have a lot of problems. It's extremely expensive to replace those lines, and some of them are very large, at 16", 18", etc. These are things we can do down the road, that can help to cut back on sediment. Going with a filtration plant would improve the water quality, but it would likely be expensive.
- Boese said that he lives on 7th St., and they've been there since 1992. He's gone through many appliances in his home; at least 3 hot water heaters, 3 dishwashers, and one washing machine. He doesn't drink the water, but he does put it in the coffee maker. He's replaced a few of those too. He only takes showers, but his kids take baths. His toilets are stained, really badly; he's not sure why some are worse than others. His tank has the black stuff caked on the inside as well. He doesn't know that he's cleaned that, and if he even wants to. He does have a well on his property for irrigation, and during the summer, sometimes takes a drink from it. It's only 40' down, and it tastes so much better. The water the City gets from its wells is ancient, it's coming from the depths, and it's been there for a long time. It seems like the shallower wells are better tasting. He's ok with a facility being added, but he's skeptical with whether it will improve what we have. He doesn't want to put money into something that we don't get improvement with. The pipes can be improved. He knows that there

is a way to treat the water that would hopefully help it taste better. He's worried about the price tag of what it would cost to resolve this issue.

- Shipley agreed with Loshbaugh, that the older appliances lasted a lot longer. They moved here around 11 years ago; he does drink the water. He has three filters; and he takes it out of the refrigerator, and makes his coffee with it. He's also had problems with his appliances. He thinks these needs to be resolved, and should have been done a long time ago. He's talked to real estate agents in our area, and they said that it has kept Harrisburg from growing as much as it would have. It needs to be fixed, but it's up to the citizens to agree with that, and how much they'll want to chip in. It will be expensive, regardless of what we choose to do. One of the letters we have here says that if you get rid of all the other things you are doing to make the water usable, then the costs probably won't be that great. He thanked everyone for coming this evening.
- Downey said that she lives in between the railroad tracks; plus she's lived out on S. 11th St. There is a huge difference between those in the middle and the west, as compared to the new developments. She's not happy with the water, and doesn't enjoy it at all. She's had one hot water tank replaced, and the washing machine. She still has spots on her clothes; she had Neilson's come out to look at the washer, and they couldn't find anything wrong, and attributed it to Harrisburg's water. She doesn't drink it straight, but she does brew tea and coffee with it. It is safe; we have lots of experts who have looked at it, and test it, and she believes what they tell her. We hired Chuck Scholz, our new Public Works Director, because of his credentials. He was very adamant during our interviews that he could do something about the water. She believes in him and the City, and she hopes that you'll believe in the City as well. She's concerned about costs as well, and we'll find out together how to find the best solution.
- Kelson is the City's Youth Advisor to the City Council. He's only lived here for 16 years and 8 months.....he's been on Council for only a couple of months. He knows that they replaced a water heater once, and this summer, they replaced the dishwasher. He drinks the water too, especially when playing basketball, when he'll drink anything. He appreciates it, but it is something that needs to be fixed, and it's something we are trying to do something about.
- Bellas asked if the City could tell us how to change out our toilet tanks, or how often should we really clean it.
- Scholz told her that there really wasn't a good way. The black stuff is iron manganese, and it sticks, typically being deposited when the water is stagnant. Elbow grease is the only thing that works. There is no cure on the market, other than that of removing it from the water. It's not going to clean what is already there, but fixing the water would at least stop the accumulation.
- Lori Ross said that she purchases Super Iron Out from Hurds. She thinks it works really well, and helps with that.
- Someone in the audience asked how long will it take to work on fixing the water?
- Latta told them that after this Council meeting, we'll talk about the issues again. Then we'll start working with our contracted City engineers, Branch Engineering. If we start in

the next couple of months, then we should be able to identify solutions, find out about costs, etc., by the end of this calendar year.

- Scholz said that he thought that was a reasonable time frame to get that far.
- Thomas asked if the City gets the water from a different place, then it doesn't fix all the problems. Putting in well's are really expensive.
- Latta said that with the types of iron pipes that we have, there is corrosion because of the minerals that are not filtered out. So we aren't going to take away what is already there. If we treat it, it won't increase the corrosion. We will have some more projects over the next few years, along with pipes we will replace. That's in the Capital Improvement Plan; a phased approach to improve the system as we go forward. Replacing pipes is extremely expensive. We will continue to look at that in the studies we do. You may fix the water with filtration, but that doesn't take care of the corrosion, because the pipes are already corroded.
- Betty Briggs; 945 Heather Turn; said that when you flush the lines, the sediments get pushed to the end of the lines. They live near one of those areas.
- Latta said that's another thing we'll be looking at; the amount of dead end lines that we have, that aren't 'looped'. In a pressurized water system, the water gets pumped in, and water gets pulled out by the users, and gets replaced regularly. The water in the dead ends, just sits there. When we flush, that gets pulled out. To fix that, we can connect the dead ends. We will look at that, and propose the most likely solution to try to connect those dead lines. We'll see how much that costs. We have a few of those, especially in downtown, and in some other areas.
- Downey said that she's learned a lot of answers to questions. She suggested that you check out what we have on-line, and watch what meetings are coming out. Our City Recorder has the minutes online, and you can see some of the information about dead lines and loops. It's very informative to read the minutes anyhow, to find out what's going on.
- Another audience member asked if the City had ever thought about putting a sleeve in the iron pipes?
- Scholz told them that it's very difficult to do in pipes that are less than 8" wide. Most of our pipes are 8" or smaller. There are not very many manufacturers for those.
- Bellas asked what was the best way for them to maintain their own systems after the City flushes the lines.
- Scholz told her that you should start on the outside faucets, which gets what's in the line. Then you can look at your unrestricted lines, and filters, and flush them. He does check appliances too. Your water heaters have drains, and that is what they are for. Most of the manufacturer's say to do that a couple of times a year. Look at your instructions for how often you should do that.

The audience and Scholz had a series of question and answers about the water system, and Latta said that we will look at all the scenarios. That will include filtration, replacing pipes, tying up loose ends. We'll find out what kind of options we have, and what they will cost us. We know it's expensive, but we don't know how much it will cost yet. We will also determine if we

need to fix them all at once or just a few of them at a time. They will hold future town hall meetings, and will announce those to the City for people to attend in the future. He appreciated everyone being there, and sharing their stories with Council. We will definitely use this information we've learned tonight in the future!

With no further information or questions, the work session for the City Council adjourned at the hour of 8:43pm.

Mayor

City Recorder



Welcome to the City of Harrisburg Town Hall Meeting on the current and future expectations of Harrisburg water.

Tonight's gathering is divided in two sessions the Tabletop Workshop and the Town Hall Meeting sessions;

First; in the Tabletop Workshop session, please visit the tables and displays located though the room. At the various tables you will find maps of the Harrisburg water system, a standard water meter installation display and other displays and discussion for Planning to Financials. At each table you will find City staff or members of the Harrisburg City Council who are here to provide you information and to openly discuss our water system.

Second; the Town Hall meeting on Harrisburg's water will be an open forum for the community to discuss the following recommended topics:

- What are the issues, if any, with Harrisburg water
- How is the quality Harrisburg water
- How is the quantity of Harrisburg water
- What do we want from our water system
- What do we expect from our water
- What do we want from our water in the future
- When do we want to implement changes, if any

GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR WATER

Where do we get our water from?

The City gets its water from five (5) deep wells. Water is extracted from the wells and stored in the large tanks located at the south end of town. Water from the tanks is disinfected and then pumped throughout the City as water demand requires.

Is our water safe to drink?

YES, our water is routinely tested at a laboratory in Eugene for contaminants and is found to contain no harmful microorganisms. Our system is staffed by State of Oregon Certified Water operators and the Oregon Health Authority- Drinking Water Services, provides continuous monitoring and oversight of our water distribution system.

Why does my water at times have an odd color and sediment in it?

Our source water from the wells contains heavy minerals and large amounts of suspended solids. After disinfection, once the water has been pumped throughout the City, and while the water sits in the distribution system these suspended solids settle out and eventually make it to your faucets.

What is the City doing about the sediment in the water?

*Without a Water Treatment Facility to filter out the minerals, inorganic materials, and suspended solids, there is nothing the City can do to prevent the sediment from entering our distribution system. **HOWEVER**, the City public works department isolates each block in the City twice a year and flushes large amounts of water from fire hydrants to purge the sediment from our distribution system.*

Harrisburg Municipal Water Survey

This survey will provide the City Council with valuable information from you regarding the city's water. Please answer all of the questions, and place the survey in the drop box.

Please circle ONE only.

- 1. Do you have and use a private well for water? Y / N
- 2. Do you drink the water from your tap? Y / N
- 3. Do you cook with the water from your tap? Y / N
- 4. Do you buy bottled water for drinking? Y / N
- 5. Have you had to replace an appliance because of the water? Y / N
- 6. Have your clothes been stained by the water when doing laundry? Y / N
- 7. Have you installed a home water filtration or similar system? Y / N

Please rate from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest score

- 1. Do you believe the water is safe to drink? 1 2 3 4 5
- 2. How does the water taste? 1 2 3 4 5
- 3. Is the price of city water reasonable? 1 2 3 4 5

Please rate from 1 to 5, with 1 being least likely to support and 5 most likely to support

- 1. The city should build an intake facility and water treatment plant to use Willamette River water only?
1 2 3 4 5
- 2. The City should build a treatment facility and continue to use ground well water only?
1 2 3 4 5
- 3. The City should build a treatment facility and use both ground well and Willamette River water?
1 2 3 4 5
- 4. The City should maintain the status quo and make no improvements?
1 2 3 4 5

Please mark only ONE answer.

How much would you be willing to pay each month to improve the city's water (not sewer)?

- \$0 – \$4.99
- \$5.00 - \$14.99
- \$15.00 - \$24.99
- \$25.00 - \$39.99
- > \$40.00

Please mark only ONE answer.

Please mark how many times a year you notice discoloration in the water?

- 1-2 times
- 3-5 times
- 6-9 times
- > 10 times

Other Comments:

TOWN HALL MEETING

Topic: Municipal Water

March 18, 2015

Existing Water System

- 5 Wells
- 2 Storage Tanks (One 2 mil gal; One 0.5 mil gal)
- Pump Stations
- Distribution System (2" to 14" pipe)



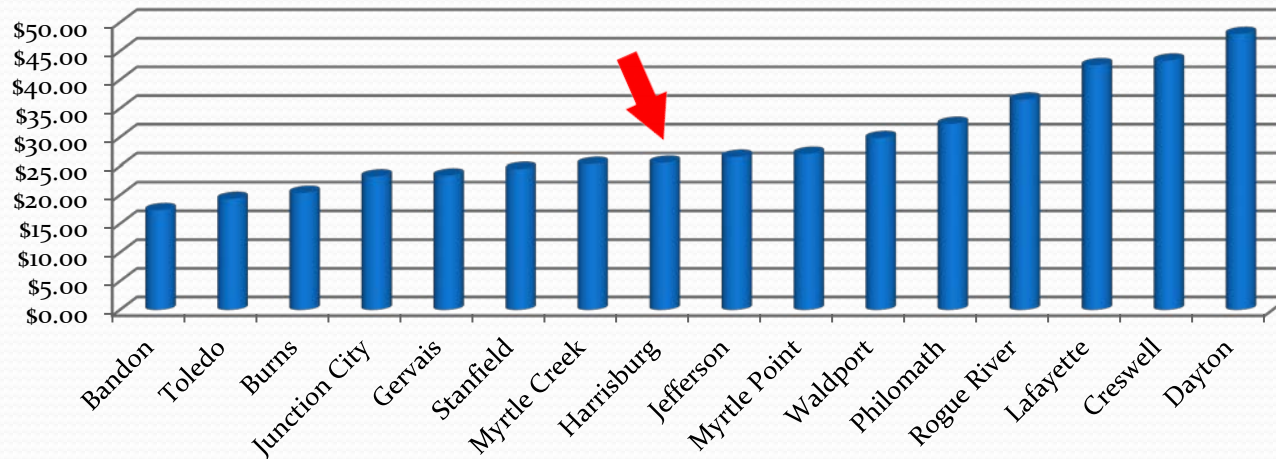
What We Know about Our Water

- It is safe to drink
- It contains high levels of Iron, Manganese, Hydrogen Sulfide, Dissolved Solids, and Chlorides
- These elements can cause taste, odor, discoloration, and other aesthetic issues.



Comparable Rates

Water Rate
2009



- Harrisburg's water rates are very competitive with similar sized cities

Why Now?

- This is not a new issue
- Wastewater facility project
- Urban growth boundary project
- Update of water master plan
- Securing water rights to
Willamette River



Master Plan Recommendations

- Increase water supply
 - Construct raw water intake on River
- Replace 2 mil gal storage tank
- Install water treatment facility
- Upgrade distribution system per Capital Improvement Plan

Next Steps...

- Identify issues citizens want corrected
- Identify solutions
- Decide how to pay for improvements
- Fix the issues



We recently received a letter stating there was to be a Town Hall meeting to discuss the city's water.

No, most people residing in Harrisburg are not satisfied with the quality of water. In fact several of our friends that now retired as we are showed interest in moving here, a lovely, friendly, country atmosphere. Realizing that the water would be an additional expense they would not incur in other small towns they abandoned the idea.

It seems that the city's plan for sustainable water is drill wells. This has not improved the quality in the past and probably will not in the future. The city does have the option of using the water from the river and putting a clarifying system.

I am sure the argument is the cost the clarifying system and the cost of accessing the water. I am sure that there are federal and/or state grants that are available to communities not only providing their citizens with safe but quality water.

I am sure the question is how much will it affect our water rates. No one wants to pay more.

Our current monthly bill averages \$100 per month for two people. Bottled water (because of the quality) \$20 per month. We get two bottles, much less than almost all of our neighbors. Some, with children receive 5 or more.

We had to purchase a water softener and pay approximately \$13.00 per month for the salt.

Yesterday we paid \$830.00 for plumbers to install 3 new sinks, 3 inside faucets, and 2 outside faucets. The sinks and the faucets are not included in the plumbers expense, an additional amount of \$400.00

These expenses are a direct result of corrosion caused by Harrisburg water.

If there an increase in the water cost and all of the above expenses were eliminated there would be a case for water improvement if it was presented to the residents in a positive manner.

Instead of drilling new wells which does not seem like a sustainable solution, look at a really sustainable solution, pumping from the river and clarifying the water.

Mary Casper

From: Annette Casper <Annette_Casper@symantec.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 8:00 PM
To: Brian Latta
Subject: FW: Harrisburg Friday Update

Hi Brian,

I will be unable to attend the meeting on March 18th, but I wanted to take a moment to share with you my hope that the city of Harrisburg will consider constructing a water treatment facility. The poor water quality has been known issue which we have failed to address for far too long. It costs the residents of Harrisburg thousands of dollars each year in water delivery, appliance replacement and in home filters. I for one, would be willing to assume a higher annual tax obligation to fund a bond measure which would bring us drinkable water and preserve my plumbing. Harrisburg is a great town to call home, and we should be able to take pride in all of the services the town offers. Water is the one area where the city is failing it's citizens.

Thank you,
Annette Casper

From: Brian Latta <blatta@ci.harrisburg.or.us>
Date: March 13, 2015 at 3:09:36 PM PDT
Subject: Harrisburg Friday Update

It has been a good week in the City. The City Council met on Wednesday for their city business meeting. The Council approved an ordinance adopting the most recent versions of the Oregon State Building codes. They also authorized the construction of a bathroom facility at Priceboro Park, and discussed next week's Town Hall meeting. Also this week, the city said goodbye to "Sweepy" our old worn out street sweeper and replaced him with a new street sweeper. We are happy to have the new street sweeper and look forward to getting it out on the streets! Kudos go out to our Librarian Cheryl Spangler who was recently nominated for the Gary Westford Community Connection award. This award is presented annually to a community partner who connects with LBCC and carries out important work on diversity, inclusion, social justice and equity. Thank you Cheryl!

TOWN HALL MEETING

Wednesday, March 18th at 6:30, the Mayor and City Council invite you to attend a Town Hall meeting to discuss the city's water. There will be a tabletop workshop from 6:30 to 7:15 where you can learn more about the city's water system and talk with your Mayor, City Council and staff. After the workshop, there will be a formal City Council meeting where you can share with the Mayor and Council your concerns, issues, ideas, and thoughts about the city's water.

The Town Hall meeting will be located in the Harrisburg Middle School gym. We look forward to seeing you there! If you are unable to attend but would like to share your thoughts with the Mayor and City Council, you may send a letter or email to Brian Latta at PO Box 378, Harrisburg OR 97446 or blatta@ci.harrisburg.or.us.

Heart to H.A.R.T. annual fundraiser is tomorrow at 3:00 pm. Come and enjoy a wonderful afternoon with neighbors and friends. There will be food, wine tasting, Italian sodas, live entertainment, door prizes and of course a raffle! Be sure to purchase extra raffle tickets at a chance to take home a cellar full of locally produced wine! Event tickets can be purchased at the door for \$15 and raffle tickets are \$10 or \$5 if you bring a bottle of wine to add to the cellar!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS..."50 Shades of Us" is the Harrisburg Multi-Cultural Celebration honoring the many-faceted traditions of our community. Watch the Chemawa Performing Arts Student Dancers perform Native

