



## Harrisburg City Council Minutes January 28, 2015

The Harrisburg City Council met on this date at City Hall, located at 120 Smith St., at the hour of 6:30p.m. Presiding was Mayor Robert Duncan. Also present were the following:

- Kimberly Downey
- Don Shipley
- Mike Caughey
- Sarah Puls
- John Loshbaugh
- City Administrator Brian Latta
- City Recorder/Asst. City Administrator Michele Eldridge
- Public Works Director Chuck Scholz

Absent were Councilor Robert Boese, and Youth Advisor Bo Kelson.

### Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation Appointment

- **Loshbaugh offered to be the main appointment to the CWACT**, since Don Shipley wanted to step down from being the main attendee from City Council. **Shipley then became the alternate for the CWACT.**
- **Loshbaugh also volunteered to be the alternate on the CWCOG Board.** (Sarah Puls is the main appointee for the CWCOG Board for Harrisburg.)

### The matter of meeting the new Cascades West Council of Governments (CWCOG) Director and Staff, and Discussing Services Provided by the CWCOG

**Director Report:** Fred Abousleman, Executive Director of the CWCOG, introduced himself and the Deputy Director, Lydia George, also here this evening. He had previously served 17 years in Washington DC, in the US Department of Transportation, and then in serving COG's around the country. He thanked Sarah Puls for being on the board, and Don Shipley for being on the CWACT in the past. Their CWACT is one of the most active in the state. CWCOG provides services to 20 cities, 3 counties, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and the Port of Newport. They help to serve communities, and provide services and regional counsel. They can also provide a neutral partner in cases of cross-jurisdictional cooperation.

Services that CWCOG provides were described to the Council:

#### Senior and Disability Services:

- Long-Term Care Coordination
- Aging & Disability Resources Connections (ADRC)
- Adult Protective Services (APS)
- Veterans Services
- Healthy Aging Programs
- RSVP of Lincoln County
- Meals on Wheels Programs

Transportation Services:

- Regional Transportation Planning and Priority Setting
- Cascade West RideLine
- Transportation Demand Management (TDM Program)
- Linn County Special Transportation

Community & Economic Development

- Economic Development
- Business Lending
- Planning Services and Facilities Development

Technology and Administrative Services

- Abousleman talked about where the most needs are, with senior and medical services being some of the top areas that had ballooned in need lately. They especially need assistance with the Meals on Wheels program.

Council asked about the H.A.R.T. Family Resource Center, and assumed that the CWCOG probably works with them in-depth. However, Abousleman said that the types of services that they provide are more suited to the Community Services Consortium (CSC). The CWCOG is more suited to Medicaid, plus they deal with a lot of federal agencies, etc. They do have some programs that might help with their support. Mayor Duncan asked about provision of veterans services. Abousleman said that Benton County generally covers veteran's services. Linn County has their own program, but they also work with Benton County to help with that. He also talked about their industrial ready lands in the state. They have a list of properties that are industrial ready; meaning that they had already done mitigation work on them. They keep a list of the properties; there are currently 19 areas that are some of the worst in the state. The mitigation is in relation to drainage, endangered species review, archeology review, wetlands review, etc. The Council was enthused about that process, but Abousleman reluctantly told them that the mitigation process has to be repeated every five years, since that's how long the mitigation is for. They have to sell some of those sites in order to open up new ones.

Council thanked them for coming to visit us, and for providing the types of services that they do.

The matter of Expanding the Poplar Tree Water Reuse Area by 29 Acres and Approving Resolution No. 1097, “**A RESOLUTION ADDING THE POPLAR PLANT PLANTATION EXPANSION PROJECT TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)**”

**Staff Report:** Latta said that this was a familiar project, especially to all the Public Works Committee members. We all know that the plantation needs to be cut down and replanted. The agenda bill has a technical memorandum from our engineers, which shows that we must expand the facility by at least 29 acres. The agenda bill says the estimated cost is \$100,000, but it’s actually \$200,000. In order to balance the CIP and not affect SDC rates, we had to lower a cost elsewhere in sanitary sewer projects by \$200,000. The Riverbank Protection Improvements project is quite a long way off, so we felt comfortable pulling it from there. We should be looking at SDC’s and the overall CIP program over the next couple of years.

- Loshbaugh, as a recent Public Works Employee for Harrisburg, told the Council about his experiences working with the poplar tree plantation. He was the main employee assigned to working in there. He recommended that with a couple of the variety of trees, that you don’t have to remove the stumps. Cut down the trees, allow them to re-sprout, and then spray out what you don’t want. You don’t have the expense of removing the stump, or of replanting the tree. He also talked about the varieties of trees and that there were a couple of them that we want to replace with different varieties. His research lately shows him that poplar trees are back to being worth a lot of money.
- Mayor Duncan asked if that was to buy, or to sell?
- Loshbaugh stated that it was to sell. He added that with the irrigation system by the outfall not having been used for ten years, that they might need some work. He stated that the younger trees take up more water, and shared his experience with them ponding as they grew.
- Latta remarked that we have to plant them now, because the DEQ doesn’t count them for water uptake for a year. If we only use the existing area of trees, then we can’t use any of the SDC’s. By expanding the plantation, we can use the SDC’s. We will need to take out all the mature trees over the next three years. This gives us some leeway with the funds we have, and we’ll have better rotations of the trees, spread out over a couple of years. Loshbaugh is correct, that the irrigation isn’t laid out like in the existing plantations. In fact, that is where a lot of the costs currently are for this project.
- Scholz said that we’ll need to pressure test the water line, and run an irrigation line.
- Mayor Duncan wanted to make sure that we weren’t replanting just because it’s on the schedule. He only wanted to do the work if we absolutely need to.
- Latta told him that unfortunately, there is a reason that we have to do this. We have to get rid of trees every twelve years, or they are considered forest land. It’s ridiculous, because the trees are good, and they are taking up water. However, if they become a forest, you must have a forest management plan; there are different requirements for maintenance, and different taxation. There are a ton of issues. We’ve done our homework, because we didn’t want to have to do this if we didn’t have to.
- Caughey would like to get more information on the re-sprouting concept.

When Shipley asked how much area that the bad variety of trees were in, he was told by Loshbaugh that it’s about half of the plantation. Scholz said that he’s heard the rumor about re-

sprouting, but he hasn't found any municipalities that are doing that. The worse variety of trees is in the center of the plantation. It would be interesting if this practice works correctly, and we don't have to replant sections. But, we also have to change the uptake range. Mathematically, by adding 29 acres, it takes a portion of the uptake rates of water in the 1<sup>st</sup> year, which isn't counted by the DEQ. We can't cut until the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and then we can replant, by putting in a good variety. Right now, mathematically, we don't have enough trees. Loshbaugh and Scholz talked about how often the pumps are running. We have to be careful to not draw down the lagoon too far, because then they don't work the way they are supposed to. Scholz added that for the state, it's all mathematical. In reality, we know the trees will take it, and that it works, but we aren't allowed to do that. Latta said that if we plant 29 acres now, then we can remove some trees, and then start rotations. We will always have a mix of mature and young trees.

The City Council then talked about selling rates for the trees. Scholz said that the market was flooded a few years ago, but now, the market is coming back. Loshbaugh really wanted them to just harvest the ones we could let regrow, and not plant the new. We could harvest the ones that are getting a good price, and let them re-sprout. Latta however, told them that the DEQ won't allow that. If we cut it down without having 29 acres replanted, the DEQ will find us in noncompliance. We have to plant now, in order to be in compliance with the timing. Caughey added that if this plan had been implemented in a more timely fashion, then we would have less of a problem now. He likes the idea of not having to physically replant the trees to replace the ones that are cut down. Loshbaugh asked on the effluent rate on trees, what is our evaporation rate off of the ponds? If we don't hold enough water at the end of winter for the summer, will we run out of water to irrigate the trees? Scholz told him that was a tough question. It's hard to come up with that factor, because it also depends on temperature and humidity. In the long term, we won't run out of water. We have two separate treatment systems. We would be able to take it below the 5' level.

After more discussion by Council members, Loshbaugh still was concerned that we are getting too many trees by planting the north acreage. Caughey agreed, and said we are; and if it wasn't for the requirement to cut a certain number of trees over a period of time, we would have had time to do it with less trees. Shipley said that it should have been addressed a few years ago. Scholz agreed, and said that we are overplanting initially. If we had kept up, it would have been ok. Now we need to have a large cut to keep from entering the forest management requirements. Loshbaugh said that we will still need buffers. Latta said that's correct, we'll plan for that. He added that if we are rotating, then we won't have twelve year trees out there. There will be trees harvested at 7 to 9 years old.

- **Shipley moved to accept the recommendation from the Public Works Committee, and to approve Resolution No. 1097, "A RESOLUTION ADDING THE POPLAR PLANTATION EXPANSION PROJECT TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)". He was seconded by Caughey. The City Council then voted unanimously to approve Resolution No. 1097, and thereby adding the poplar tree expansion to the CIP.**

The matter of discussing and reviewing some of the League of Oregon Cities online services

**Staff Report:** Latta went online and showed the Council how to navigate through the LOC website ([www.orcities.org](http://www.orcities.org)), and showed them what kind of resources they have available. Two of our councilors actually went to their training today, and we're sure that they brought home resources from that. (Caughey and Puls went to the training session.) He asked if Council was interested in having the video's that are available shown during Council Sessions, or if they would rather access the information themselves.

After discussion, the *Councilors decided that they would rather do this together during a work session.* Latta suggested bringing them a list of topics, and we can schedule them for the year. Downey liked that idea!

#### **OTHERS:**

##### If I were Mayor Contest

- Latta said that this contest was really fun last year, so we are planning on holding it again. He's already contacted the schools, and had a buy-in from the principals. He asked Council if they would allow cash prizes for the contest again.
- *Consensus was yes, Council would allow cash prizes for the "If I were Mayor" contest for Harrisburg school children.*

##### Go-Brite and the Reader Board

- Latta noted that the litigation was finished, and we have a judgment in our favor. As part of the judgment, we have to auction the sign to recover it. Go Brite has told him that they are out of business. We will do the auction, and we will likely be the only bidder; although we are required to send notice to the seller. By doing this, we will actually purchase it, and make it ours. The auction can be a public or a private auction.
- Shipley asked how much we were out on this right now.
- Latta told him \$5,500 for the deposit was paid, and the attorney fees are between \$1,000 to \$2,000. Altogether, it's about \$6,500 or so for the sign that was supposed to cost us \$12,000.

##### Harrisburg Boat Ramp

- Loshbaugh asked about improving the boat ramp, and the permits we used to have. Are those still viable?
- Latta told him no. Right now, DSL, among others, is being very difficult about removing the gravel bar. What is possible to do, is to replace the old boat ramp with a new one in a different location. When we purchase the property south of us, there are access points that can get to the river. There should be an appropriate place for a boat ramp there.
- Loshbaugh asked if we would have to remove this boat ramp if we do that.
- Latta felt that they would require that.

**With no further business to discuss, the City Council adjourned at the hour of 7:54PM.**

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Mayor

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City Recorder