

Mayor

Layne Harris

Clerk

Sharon Kropf

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City Council

Greg Garner

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WESTON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL INFORMATION MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016

7:00 P.M.

WESTON LDS CHURCH

MAYOR: LAYNE HARRIS

COUNCIL PRESENT: GREG GARNER, MARK KOLLER, GALENE ROBINSON, SCOTT VAHSHOLTZ

CLERK: SHARON KROPF

PRAYER: GALENE ROBINSON

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Harris welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said that a brief overview of the water project would be presented followed by a question and answer period where questions would be limited to 3 minutes.

Greg Garner told the crowd that a bond election was coming up and he encouraged everyone to vote one way or another. He said the council wanted everyone to know the facts and that was the purpose of the meeting. He directed anyone that wanted to know more or that would like to request a copy of the water facility plan to contact the clerk. He invited everyone to be involved in the process and that the council wanted to do the will of the people.

Scott Archibald presented information about the water facility plan. Highlights of his presentation:

-How did we get to where we are today? There was concern among the city council about a drop off in flow of the springs and the wells. If the pump house goes down, our tanks only hold enough water for 8 hours worth of water before the town is out of water. There are recurring problems with the lower pump house and that results in increased operation costs.

-Why was a facility plan done? In order to apply for grant money, a new facility plan needed to be done.

-Sunrise looked at our water sources, water storage, distribution pipeline, water rights, water treatment, and they did an environmental document. Their findings that our biggest concerns were that we needed an additional source of water and an additional 200,000 gallons of storage. The distribution pipeline could be improved in a few places but it's not the biggest concern.

-The options that Sunrise presented were 1) Do nothing, 2) Drill a well and build a 400,000 gallon storage tank abandoning our old tanks, 3) Drill a well and build a 200,000 gallon tank.

-The facility plan is good for five years

Susan Lorenz presented funding scenarios. She is going after a Community Block Grant, DEQ loans/grants, and USDA loans/grants. The scenarios were as follows:

- 1) Block grant and DEQ loan and grant that would increase rates to \$58.07
- 2) Block grant and DEQ loan/grant and USDA loan/grant that would increase rates to \$74
- 3) Block grant and DEQ loan and grant that would increase rates to \$86.75



4) Block grant and rural development loan and grant that would increase rate to \$80
If the bond passes, then Susan can proceed to go after these funding packages. If a funding package is granted that is not favorable to the city council, they can table moving forward and try to apply next year for a better package. They can try for up to five years. If the bond doesn't pass, then no money can be applied for and the project can't proceed.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

Mike Hornberger:

- Asked about the terms of the loan (Susan said 20-30 years for DEQ and 30-40 years for USDA and that rates were fixed between about 1.85% and 2%)
- He asked if water got shut off would the base rate still have to be paid? (yes)
- He felt like a base rate of \$80 if no one is using the water was high
- He asked about the cost of putting the tank up higher on the knoll
- He asked about the cost of the tank in relation to the cost of the wells and the project as a whole
- He asked if any other options had been looked at for loans like local investments or other bank loans or municipal bonds (Grant money is dependent on accepting loans and bank loans still need to have bonds passed to go after them)

Weston Mott:

- Asked how many cities were in the running for the grants/loans. (Susan said that in southeast Idaho there were two water projects and a medical service facility. Preston and Weston were water projects and Preston didn't want DEQ money.)
- He asked Susan her success rate in closing deals (She has been working for SICOG for 16 years and she has only had one or two times she didn't get the package she wanted and had to apply a second year)
- He asked what the plan was if land owners didn't want to give easements or sell land (Scott A. said that the city may have to offer greater compensation or see what the council wanted to do if that happens)
- He asked if the city council had experience negotiating land deals (Greg Garner said that our city attorney would have to be involved in the process and help guide them through proper procedures)

Kent Aston:

- Asked if we accept DEQ money would we have to give up our springs? (Scott A. said his understanding was that we wouldn't. Susan said that years ago DEQ didn't want to have any springs but they have backed off of hating springs like they used to)
- Kent said 2.9 million is a lot of money and asked if there were any other scenarios put forth. (Susan said that the 2.9 million was the full cost of the project but their intent was to use less and not use all of that)

Resident said that \$52 was really high and if the funding couldn't keep the water bill at around \$60 would the council reject the funding. (Scott V. said that he was hoping for \$58 and he wouldn't feel great about going over that)

Greg Garner:

- Said that we would know in April what our funding package would be if the bond passes.

Clint Aston:

- Asked how much the spring was dropping (Glen Kirkbride said it used to be 220 gallons a minute at this time of year and now it's at 135 gallons/minute and in the winter last year it dropped to 70 gallons/minute. The wells are 200 gallons/minute together)
- Clint said Weston has as much water as Hyde Park but they have a 1.5 million gallon storage tank
- Said there's lots of ~~shallow~~ wells up the canyon and Weston can't drill another one because there wouldn't be enough water to go around
- Said city should look into secondary water (Scott A. said that new piping would have to be run and it's not cost efficient)
- Said that it's chlorinated water watering the park and church and secondary water would be appropriate to water park and church

Van Woodward:

- Said that we need more storage even if we don't drill another well
- Said he would like to pass the bond and then see what kind of grants we could get. We spent \$30,000 on the water study and he doesn't want to see if wasted. He would like to try for grant money now so we don't have to do this all over again

Camille Larsen:

- Feels like Weston has enough water
- Weston needs more storage
- Repairs will raise rates
- She proposed raising rates and setting that extra money to the side until enough is built up in 4-5 years to build more storage without borrowing money
- Asked if SICOG fees would be charged if they have to apply for different funding package next year (Susan said no)
- Asked how much money SICOG gets to administer the Block Grant (Susan said \$50,000 and if we go with DEQ about \$100,000 would go to them to administer the DEQ grant)
- Camille applauded the engineers
- She said it looks like rates will need to be raised to make repairs or rates will need to be raised to improve the whole system

Brent Webb:

- Said that costs of cement have gone up from \$80 yard to \$110 yard in the last two years and costs will keep going up.
- Said that for fire protection we needed more water storage

Greg Garner encouraged everyone to vote and thanked everyone for coming. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.