

TOWN OF JEROME

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MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JEROME TOWN COUNCIL
VIA ZOOM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020 AT 4:00 PM

ITEM #1: 4:02	<p>CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL</p> <p>Mayor/Chairperson to call meeting to order.</p> <p><i>Mayor Jack Dillenberg called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.</i></p> <p>Town Clerk to call and record the roll.</p> <p><i>Town Manager/Clerk Candace Gallagher called the roll. Present were Mayor Dillenberg, Vice Mayor Mandy Worth, and councilmembers Alex Barber, Sage Harvey, and Jane Moore. Also present were Public Works Director Marty Boland, Town Engineer Krishan Ginige, Wastewater Plant Operator Henry MacVittie and Mike Krebs, Taylor Pierce and Duong Do of PACE Engineering.</i></p> <p>Note: The meeting recording began just following the roll call.</p>
ITEM #2: 4:03 (0:09)	<p>WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT</p> <p>Council will discuss with its engineers options for improvements to the wastewater treatment plant, and options regarding the Town's existing permit with ADEQ, and may take action in this regard.</p> <p><i>Mike Krebs of PACE started the discussion. He mentioned the recent field trip by Council to the wastewater treatment plant and said that during a phone call two days later, ADEQ stated they want to understand the ongoing testing at the plant and the path forward with a compliance date.</i></p> <p><i>He addressed others who were on the call and encouraged them to add any details.</i></p> <p><i>Henry MacVittie spoke about ongoing testing and said the most recent impact ratios had been discussed.</i></p> <p><i>Mayor Dillenberg said everyone knows improvements need to be made and the three issues to deal with are 1) fix the roads to the plant; 2) get the pipes and other equipment needed down to the plant safely and efficiently; and 3) build out the site to meet the needs of Jerome for the next 20 to 25 years. He said he wanted an excellent, secure water system and wants these three issues dealt with together and not gradually. The mayor said it may cost a few million dollars, but he wants to figure out how to get the funds including reaching out to state and federal funding sources.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Krebs said one thing discussed was to use funds available right now (\$30K grant from USDA) to help with the plant evaluation and determination, and that it has been stalled due to the pandemic. Funds could be used to put together a preliminary engineering report to possibly obtain more USDA funding. In that report, they would look at types of treatment plants, costs, capital/operational costs, and a 20-year lifecycle cost. He said the route to the plant will depend on where the plant is located. An evaluation could include possible alternative locations. Mr. Krebs suggested moving forward, submitting an evaluation, and seeing if Jerome could get additional funding from the USDA. He said early spring is good time to get it in as it will fit in with the USDA's funding cycle.</i></p> <p><i>Mayor Dillenberg liked the idea and said having a full plan seemed to be the way to go.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Krebs said that ADEQ would be excited about the plan. He referred to the last page of the agenda packet regarding a compliance plan that could be put together. He also reminded everyone that discussions were had about a collection system as part of this project, which is why they wanted Public Works Director Marty Boland in on the planning.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Boland said getting together with the team and discussing the problems with the system would be a smart step. He also agreed that doing the whole project at once would be a good idea, including putting a trunk line along whatever road is built so they have access to it.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Gallagher asked Mr. Krebs if ADEQ would agree to a tentative plan should the funding not come through.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Krebs said perhaps once the pandemic has passed, they can approach USDA about funding. He said it has been great to work with USDA to help communities like Jerome and that the money is there (\$70 million has been spent in Arizona). He also said that to have this project be successful, they must lean on Mr. Ginige, Mr. MacVittie, Mr. Boland, and Ms. Moore for the necessary information to submit to the USDA.</i></p> <p><i>(15:19)Ms. Moore shared her concern about Jerome being in full compliance by 2022. Ms. Moore said it seemed everyone could agree to move forward but wondered if the work could be done in time to meet ADEQ's requirements.</i></p>

Mr. Krebs confirmed that ADEQ did say 2022, but that Jerome's team had told them it would take two to three years to get the plant project funded, designed, and built and that they seemed alright with that. He added that they need to look at the location options should they decide to relocate the plant.

Ms. Moore asked Mr. Krebs if he had a map of the properties where the current sewer plant sits. Mr. Krebs said he did and that there are two parcels there: one is a 32 -acre parcel and a much smaller one at the top of the hill.

Ms. Gallagher noted that the town still has the option to withdraw from the AZPDES permit and asked Mr. Krebs if there was a downside to doing so. Mr. Krebs said there was always a risk associated with eliminating the permit.

[Long pause due to audio issues.]

(23:27) Krishan Ginige agreed that a new treatment plant as well as the other aspects and challenges of the project need to be looked at together. He said that Ms. Moore had mentioned logistical challenges, and analysis of the project may help find better places to locate the system. Mr. Ginige stated that the project needs to get to a point where everyone is comfortable to move forward and that it was too early to be changing our permit status with ADEQ.

Vice Mayor Worth said she wanted to make sure that everyone on the team understood the direction being given to them.

Mayor Dillenberg added that his understanding was that everyone wants to go forward with using the \$30k to develop a plan to submit to ADEQ, and that the emphasis was on what Council wants to achieve, how to achieve it, and put a plan in place to accomplish it.

Ms. Moore said everyone seems to be on board with wanting to work toward bringing the sewer treatment plant into compliance. She asked if the \$30k would be enough to figure out the logistics to develop a plan for a new treatment plant.

Mr. Krebs said he was confident it was enough funding and that some of the costs could be converted to a preliminary engineering report for USDA. He said an environmental report may also need to be done, but that the locations to be considered would need to be identified first. He encouraged looking at ideas together and "let's do it once and do it right" to get things moving as quickly as possible.

(30:10) Mr. Ginige brought up the logistical components and said the site challenges need to be discussed. Ms. Moore asked if testing will continue as the project progresses.

Taylor Pierce of ADEQ told her yes, the effluent will still need to be tested, although the influent no longer needs to be tested.

Mayor Dillenberg thanked Mr. Pierce for his work. He then commented on the importance of this project.

Ms. Gallagher asked Mr. Krebs if a formal motion was needed from the Council. He said ADEQ would probably appreciate it. He suggested wording for the motion.

Vice Mayor Worth offered to make a motion.

Ms. Moore asked that the motion include a statement about the \$30k. A brief discussion ensued.

Motion to move forward with upgrading the existing wastewater treatment plant with the option to build a new mechanical plant, and that the \$30K will be used to assess the existing plant.

COUNCILMEMBER	MOVED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG			X			
HARVEY	X		X			
MOORE			X			
WORTH		X	X			

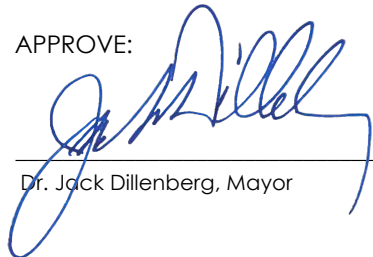
ITEM #3:

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 4:42 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER	MOVED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG			X			
HARVEY	X		X			
MOORE			X			
WORTH		X	X			

APPROVE:



Dr. Jack Dillenberg, Mayor

ATTEST:



Candace B. Gallagher, CMC, Town Manager/Clerk

Date: 01/13/2021