

City of Port Orford

City Council Workshop In the Gable Chambers

Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 2:00 P.M.

Mayor and Council	Present	City Staff	Present
<i>Gary Burns</i>	X	<i>Terrie Richards, City Admin/Recorder</i>	X
<i>Tim Pogwizd, Mayor</i>	X		
<i>Pat Cox, President</i>	X		
<i>Travis Williams</i>	Excused		
<i>James Garratt</i>	Excused		
<i>Carolyn LaRoche</i>	X		
<i>Vacant</i>			

Media Present:

Others Present:

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pogwizd called to order this workshop of the Common Council in the City of Port Orford Gable Chambers on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 2:02 p.m.

2. Filling Retirement Vacancies

Time for advertising, interviews, and vetting new applicants will have to be accounted for. The mayor and Mr. Johnson agree it will take approximately one to two months to train a new employee. Budget will need to be made prior to retirement to accommodate hiring and training.

- a. Mayor Pogwizd and councilors agree that one of the two trainees in public works needs to immediately begin shadowing the water superintendent.
- b. The water superintendent will need to be confident that the trainees can take over duties, which will determine new hire. Finding new employees in this industry is a challenge.
- c. It takes about five years for water certification. One current employee hopes to be certified by the end of this year. A second certified employee is desired. Job descriptions might have to be changed to accommodate the new employee. Consideration for eliminating superintendent and adding a lead was discussed.

3. Water/Sewer

Councilor Williams, CA Richards, and Mayor Pogwizd had a phone conversation with a company that privatized water, sewer and parks. They will perform all duties including maintenance to the extent the city wants. The company will come to Port Orford and tour the facilities and give their opinion on future direction. There will be a workshop in March to address privatizing. Mayor Pogwizd requested councilors research other cities that have privatized water and/or sewer, ascertain at what capacity, and get their opinions of the choice they made and how it affected cost. CA Richards suggested inviting Brookings' previous city

manager, Gary Milliman, to speak on his experience of privatizing utilities so he can share the issues he was confronted with.

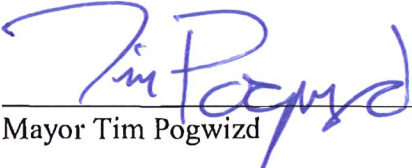
- a. Privatizing to a company will put the challenge of finding good employees and covering all the sifts onto the private company. Mayor Pogwizd is proud of the city's public works crew and the job they have done. Councilors agree but admit their job is to be fiscally responsible to the citizens.
- b. Mayor Pogwizd suggested to meet with the water/sewer private company to obtain numbers, contract term and suggested options; and then meet with Gary Milliman for suggestions and advice based on his experience.
- c. The private company spoken with commonly prefers to use the city equipment and trucks. This is factored into cost.
- d. If the city were to hire a company to run water and sewer, the city will still have to run bonds to present to citizens for vote to cover the cost of projects recommended by the company. The city is still responsible for the repair and replacement projects.

4. Review Current Water/sewer Projects

- a. Councilor Cox requested an update on PLC. CA Richards advised PLC is installed and being used. The PLC use should save budget money currently used for overtime and time expenses. CA Richards has not seen a budget report for this yet. Employees have a program on their phone to monitor rather than driving to the water plant. This saves numerous hours.
- b. Councilor Cox requested an update on grinder and sewer plant. CA Richards advised that Aaron with Dyer Partnership is in contact with Jacob for information. Roto Rooter can be used in an urgent situation, which would be an expense and would necessitate the plant being shut down for a day.
- c. Hubbard Creek Dredge: There is a grant available approximately April of next year. Watershed has offered to apply for the grant. Council would like to get a valve replacement bid from the company who is going to dredge; however, that work will be done prior to the grant. Finance will be contacted.
- d. Council suggested relooking at electronic meters on main lines. The city needs the map of meter location updated.

5. Adjourned

There being no further business, President Cox adjourned the workshop at 3:15 p.m.



Mayor Tim Pogwizd

Attest:



City Recorder, Terrie Richards