

**PAROWAN CITY CULINARY WATER BOARD MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY – MAY 16, 2023**

**6:00 P.M. – 35 EAST 100 NORTH – PAROWAN CITY OFFICES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jim Shurtleff (Council Representative), Sam Halterman, Tom Gurr, Coy Stowell

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Carolyn Ray, Doug Fox

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:** Kelly Stones (Public Works Superintendent), Dan Jessen (City Manager/Zoning Officer), Mollie Halterman (Mayor), Heather Shurtleff (Deputy Recorder/Water Board Secretary)

Jim Shurtleff moved to appoint Sam Halterman the Chair Pro Tem. Tom Seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

**CALL TO ORDER:** called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

**DO MEMBERS HAVE ANY CONFLICTS TO DECLARE?** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Tom Gurr moved to approve the minutes of March 8, 2023. Jim Shurtleff seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried. The minutes were approved.

**DISCUSSION ON RECHARGE PROJECT:** Dan Jessen had a meeting with Jason Bradshaw and the pumpers yesterday. Mr. Jessen discussed recharge options and identified the break water for the number one option for recharge. However, we talked about phase 2 (or B) would be to install pipeline to the gravel pit. Mr. Jessen met with the county engineer and the engineer hired Steve Woolsey with his drone, to get very accurate information. Mr. Jessen said this spring has been a really good reason why it might be a problem, it has been very muddy. The break water would be a good place to recharge, except when the water is really dirty. Mr. Jessen showed the board slides of the different plan options.

Coy Stowell arrived at 6:08.

Dan Jessen went through a slide presentation with the Water Board. (see attached) The gravel pit was cleaned out at one time, by people asking to get gravel. The gravel pit has since been filled back in with gravel brought down by flood waters. The gravel pit needs to dry out first, in order to clean it out again.

While going through the slide presentation, the following points were discussed briefly:

- Needing to install a recharge pipeline

- Letting the dirty flood water flow into the break water, then divert the water back into the gravel pit, to let things dry out again
- Original thought was to mine out the Iron County gravel pit
- Moving the diversion 100 yards gains almost nothing, it is already discharging water out to the side.
- The farmers won't be losing any water
- No excess water should be going out to the Little Salt Lake
- Not feasible to put all of the water in a pipe – very expensive
- We already have an expensive diversion, redesign it for the farmers to take their water first, then the City could capture the rest in a pipe
- There have been no specific percolation studies done at this time
- The recharge for Parowan City would be better, closer to the mouth of the canyon-less clay, more rocks. Tom Gurr thinks the gravel pit would be a great place
- Understanding that there are a lot of utilities in the roadway – potentially having to cross a UDOT right of way – HWY 143
- Possible MOU with UDOT
- This recharge would benefit the whole valley, not just Parowan City
- Because of the alluvial fan, it would help everyone with ground water.
- Fault lines may be an issue
- Will be important that there is enough pressure
- Portions of the project could need to be open-ditched
- The proposed Alex Meisner subdivision may need to be taken into account with the recharge project in form of a retention basin, although Mr. Jessen hasn't spoken with Mr. Meisner about this; whether the subdivision is in the City or the county
- 2,700 ft of pipe estimated for project

Dan Jessen said between a grant from the pumpers and a grant through the city, we have \$500,000. The total cost for the recharge project has been estimated at \$750,000 by Jason Bradshaw.

Dan Jessen discussed two possible options for the recharge project:

Option 1 – Pipe the water around the Valentine Peak Park, into the newly dug pit on the north side of the road, and into Linda Smith's property, where there is already a canal.

Option 2 – Mine out the Iron County gravel pit on 300 East; it shouldn't ever fill, because of the slope. The City would need to have an MOU with Iron County for this option. It would take a good chunk of time for this project.

Dan Jessen and the board discussed possibilities and thoughts about the project at length; nothing was decided. It was mentioned that Harold Mitchell would assure that the Parowan

Reservoir Company's rights were preserved. Mr. Jessen would like to get some numbers and estimates together to bring to the Water Board and the City Council.

**DISCUSSION ON WATER TIER RATE FEE SCHEDULE:** Dan Jessen has been noticing something alarming – the water revenues are falling from our current tier rate. Usage hasn't gone down, it's higher than last year, but there is an issue with the new rates. Dan shared some charts with the board. (see attached) There has been 10 months of data since the new rates were implemented. Mr. Jessen discussed taking the base rate back down to 0 – 5,000 gallons, instead of 0 – 8,000 gallons, which is the current rate. The rate changes were made to give the lower water users a break, and hold those abusing the system accountable, but it isn't working. Mr. Jessen estimated that the water fund will go from \$848,000 in 2022 to \$773,000 in 2023. Everything the City uses above what the spring produces has to be pumped; so it's not just the revenue side that needs to be looked at, it's also the expense side.

Kelly Stones thought we didn't need to necessarily change the rate, just change the amount back to 0-5,000 gallons; Dan Jessen said that could be tried.

Dan Jessen talked about using the top tier as punitive, and using the money collected from that tier to purchase water rights. Jim Shurtleff thought that punitive tier was already in place. Mr. Jessen said the money is sitting there for the water company, but it needs to be reserved specifically for purchasing water rights. Mr. Jessen talked about needing the City Council to approve setting those funds aside for purchasing water rights older than 1949. Mr. Jessen said he has a gut feeling that changing the amount back down to 0-5,000 should help a lot.

Sam Halterman asked how urgent these changes were. Dan Jessen said the need is urgent, but it isn't going to bankrupt the water company, but it's not doing any good either. It will probably cost the City \$100,000.

Jim Shurtleff and the board talked about conservation being the impetus for the tier update, and it's disheartening to hear that it didn't work. Dan Jessen and the board talked about it, and changed can be made to rectify the situation. Kelly Stones talked with Judy Schiers, Parowan City Treasurer, and \$3.45 less is coming in each month per connection, and it adds up. Mr. Jessen said the money is needed for maintenance without bonding for it. The board talked about getting the change to the base rate amount ready for July, and the new fee schedule.

**ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING:** None

**STAFF AND MEMBER COMMENTS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**ADJOURN:** Tom Gurr moved to adjourn. Jim Shurtleff seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 P.M.

**PAROWAN CITY PRESSURIZED IRRIGATION BOARD MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY – MAY 16, 2023**

**6:00 P.M. – 35 EAST 100 NORTH – PAROWAN CITY OFFICES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jim Shurtleff (Council Representative), Sam Halterman, Tom Gurr, Coy Stowell

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Doug Fox, Carolyn Ray

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:** Kelly Stones (Public Works Superintendent), Dan Jessen (City Manager/Zoning Officer), Mollie Halterman (Mayor), Heather Shurtleff (Deputy Recorder/Water Board Secretary)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Sam Halterman called the meeting to order at 7:17 P.M.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Tom Gurr moved to approve the minutes of March 8, 2023. Jim Shurtleff seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried. The minutes were approved.

**DO MEMBERS HAVE ANY CONFLICTS TO DECLARE?** None

**PRESSURIZED IRRIGATION SYSTEM – KELLY STONES:** Kelly Stones said the pressurized irrigation (PI) is working out well so far. The irrigation got off to a bit of a late start due to installing the new Pressure Reducing Valves (PRVs) and fixing the flood channel. The water going through the PI system is really dirty right now. Mr. Stones is having to clean out the forebay screen a lot every day. The water picked up a lot over the last couple of days. Mr. Stones commented that it is strange to have so much water this year, opposed to so little water last year. Mr. Stones showed the board pictures on his cell phone of the dirty water spilling over the Forebay. 2200 West is closed, due to water running over the road.

**ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING:** None

**STAFF AND MEMBER COMMENTS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**ADJOURN:** Jim Shurtleff moved to adjourn. Coy Stowell seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 P.M.

8/9/2023

**Date of approval**