



TOWN HALL MEETING MINUTES ~ APPROVED

RE: PROPERTY AUCTION THAT INCLUDES SILTCOOS AND TAHKENITCH DAMS

NOVEMBER 1, 2022 AT 6:00 PM

City Hall ~ 82877 Spruce St., Westlake, OR

The proceedings of this Town Hall meeting were recorded and are on file at Dunes City Hall.
Upon approval by the City Council, these minutes will be available online at www.DunesCity.com

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sheldon Meyer called to order the Monday, November 1, 2022 Town Hall meeting.

Present: Mayor Sheldon Meyer, Council President Susan Snow, Councilor Rory Hammond, Councilor Robert Orr, Councilor Duke Wells, Councilor Melissa Stinson, City Administrator/Recorder Jamie Mills, and public attendees.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All who wished to participate joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 3.** Mayor Meyer stated he spoke with John Rosenthal, the gentleman in charge of the auction company and was informed that parties which have expressed interest in acquiring these properties have not indicated a goal of removing the dam. He added that any proposed changes in the water use require State of Oregon review and approval, and possibly review and approval by Federal agencies.

Mayor Meyer explained the purpose of the dams is to keep water in Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes.

City Administrator/Recorder Mills stated that if a purchaser decides to use the water, which is reasonable, those Dunes City residents who use Siltcoos Lake as a water source might notice a change, as the owner of this property has not used their Water Right to draw water from the Siltcoos River. She reported that the State engineer's office assured her that the manner in which the dam is operated will not change, according to the 2004 Order, which is different from the 1966 Order which Dunes City has been using. She added that it appears the City was not notified of the 2004 Order, and does not yet know the specifics of what changed with the 2004 Order. City Administrator/Recorder Mills stated that Siltcoos Lake level is mandated by State Order, overseen by Susan Douthit, Oregon Watermaster for this area.

Councilors, staff, and attendees discussed some history of the lakes, blue-green algae and lake levels, the dam on Siltcoos River, and effects on area residents that use Siltcoos Lake as a water source.

City Administrator/Recorder Mills reported that Dunes City was previously assigned to the Central Coast Region and that Watermaster, later reassigned to the South Coast Region, with Watermaster Susan Douthit, and now is back to the Central Coast Region with a new Watermaster Assistant, who works with Susan.

An attendee asked if the City could request that lake level be maintained at a specific level. City Administrator/Recorder Mills answered that the City, a group of citizens, or anyone, could make that request, which involves costs. She added that the current level is three (3) feet.

One speaker stated that most people fishing want a low level, and most kayakers want a high level.

Mayor Meyer thanked everyone who attended the Town Hall meeting. He extended an open invitation for anyone to attend the regularly scheduled monthly City Council meetings, stating that the City Council welcomes citizen input on any and all matters.

Councilor Hammond asked for community input regarding current, and especially future dam operations. City Administrator/Recorder Mills agreed with Councilor Hammond's request, repeating that the City needs to know what the community envisions for the future of the lakes, river, and the dam. She asked the community to tell the City where its limited resources should be applied to this particular activity.

A suggestion was made for creating a liaison with the new owner(s) and request annual meetings with community members.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Hammond made a motion for adjournment.

Councilor Orr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Meyer adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

[Signed Copy Available at City Hall]

Sheldon Meyer, Mayor

ATTEST:

[Signed Copy Available at City Hall_____]

Jamie Mills, City Administrator/Recorder