

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ECHO HELD A WORK SESSION & COUNCIL MEETING ON JULY 6, 2017 AT 11 P.M. AT THE OLD VFW HALL, 210 W. BRIDGE, ECHO, OREGON.
210 W. MAIN,**

Present: Jeanie Hampton, Lou Nakapalau, Jerry Gaunt, Janie Enright. Robert Harris, Karl Jensen.

Absent: Gail Yoder.

Others Present: Diane Berry, Brett Moore, Anderson Perry Engineering; Bill Kuhn, Kuhn Law. Heidi Williams, DEQ, Paul Daniello, DEQ; Darin Tuil, Trevor Morris & Pat Wood.

Mayor Jeanie Hampton started the work session by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. At 11:05 p.m.

Everyone introduced themselves. Diane Berry suggested that we start the meeting out with a basic overview of how the lagoon system works. She said that the lagoon system is a pretty static system that relies on the internal biological processes and external environmental conditions to treat the waste water. There is not a lot of tweeking or adjustment for the operator to “change” or “mess up” as implied in the Madison statements and JUB reports. Brett Moore, city engineer, presented a primer on how the lagoon system works, The first pond is the primary cell where primary treatment occurs. The next two are polishing ponds.

Berry said one of the goals of the meeting was to go through the documents presented by Kent Madison from JUB engineering which she felt were mostly inaccurate regarding the city’s wastewater operations. For instance in the June meeting Kent Madison made a statement to the effect that there would not be an issue with the spawning or Redds bed that were in the river when the mixing zone study was undertaken if the city had not been mixing wastewater from the three cells before discharging instead of from just the final cell. The JUB report claimed that the city had discharged “practically raw(untreated) wastewater in the mixing zone study. Berry had told Madison that is not how we operate the system and he responded that is not what DEQ said, referring to one of his meetings with Heidi Williams and Paul Daniello. Williams assured the city this statement was not true and had nothing to do with the spawning bed concerns. She said the spawning bed and fish were observed by the DEQ personnel while doing the study.

Berry was very concerned that the implication by Madison and JUB was that the city was mismanaging the wastewater system and wanted the council to hear from DEQ and the engineer about how the system works and whether or not any of our

problems are a result of operations and management. She suggested we go through the JUB report item by item.

The 2nd JUB statement regarding the lack of regulatory mixing zone was confusing and not accurate regarding DEQ regulatory requirements.

The comments regarding temperature and TMDLs was also inaccurate. The DEQ has no immediate plans to reopen the TMDL. The city will face temperature restrictions as part of the river TMDLs when the new permit is issued. The permit is expired and the city still operating on it because of the ongoing efforts to upgrade the system and its impact on the new permit.

Williams and Moore also explained the different classes of effluent and there would be no advantage to the city trying to achieve Class A or B effluent. It would be expensive and totally unnecessary for a population of Echo's size now and over the estimated life of our plans.

The statement regarding "properly operating the WWTF ..." is also misleading as it implies that current problems are a result of "poor" operation. The current problems have nothing to do with management or operation of the system but are related to system type and age and changing regulations and calculated Umatilla river loads

The JUB report says that the city's current treatment technology (a facultative lagoon). :if typically operated, should reliably and consistently achieve Class C effluent." This again implies poor operation and doesn't consider sludge build up in cells, summer algae accumulation, differences in limits for discharge between Eastern Oregon and Western Oregon discharge limits or the fact that there is a spawning bed near the discharge point.

The city's permit allows discharge to the river from November thru April, but realistically, the city cannot discharge in November because of lower river water levels and higher temperatures that results in algae that hasn't died and settled to the bottom which can influence TSS and BOD tests. Also if temperatures are climbing too much in the later part of April, the ponds can experience algae growth that effects testing in the spring. With current population and inflow, the city usually only discharges for about 30 days in March and April.

Williams said this can result in over management of the ponds so levels are about 6" higher in the ponds that they should be.

Robert Harris asked several times about the amount of space the lagoons would have to handle growth after the sludge was removed. Sludge removal and access problems to the site were discussed.

Williams and Moore pointed out a number of items in the JUB report that are inaccurate and where they seem to have misunderstood at best Williams and Daniello during their meetings with them.

Madison stated during the last council meeting that the city had permits for land application and for river discharge. Berry asked Williams about this. It is Berry understands that the only land application allowed in our permit is to irrigate the small area around the lagoons for trees and landscaping. Williams confirmed this.

There being no further discussion for the work session Lou Nakapalau moved and Karl Jensen seconded a motion to adjourn. Vote: all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eujeana Hampton, Mayor

Attest:

Diane Berry, City Administrator-Recorder