

CITY OF GEARHART
Worksession of the City Council
Tuesday, August 30, 2022
6:30 pm On-site and Virtual/Telephonic

The worksession of the Gearhart City Council was held Tuesday, August 30, 2022. Council members and City staff were able to attend on-site, virtually, or by dialing in on a telephone. The public was able to attend virtually or by dialing in on a telephone.

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Present were Mayor Kerry Smith, Councilor Reita Fackerell, Councilor Dana Gould, Councilor Austin Tomlinson, Councilor Brent Warren, City Administrator Chad Sweet, Division Chief James Hutchinson, and City Treasurer Justine Hill. A quorum of the Council was present.

Mayor Smith opened the discussion on Seismic Resiliency Assessment and Mitigation Plan (SRAMP) and turned the introduction over to Administrator Chad Sweet.

Administrator Sweet explained that the SRAMP came about when the City started looking into updating the Water Master Plan and Water Conservation Plan. The SRAMP's focus is on the City's potable water system's seismic resiliency. Administrator Sweet read the Executive Summary (page 5), which included the introduction, overview, purpose, and need. He went over the seismic risk assessment and mitigation information (page 6). The SRAMP addresses the likely impacts of a medium tsunami. The intent is to identify, assess, and plan to upgrade or relocate existing critical facilities and infrastructure as necessary to supply the City post event with clean drinking water, fire suppression, health care and fire aid, and emergency response. Administrator Sweet briefly covered items in Section 2 (geological and seismic settings, liquefaction, landslides, lateral spread subsidence, tsunami, aftermath, groundwater source, Warrenton and Seaside inter-ties, water treatment plant). He did address one error in the document on page 13 under Section 2.3.1 Water Supply/Sources, Groundwater Sources. He clarified that the City only has eight (8) wells drilled, but can drill up to 14. The SRAMP says "...14 wells drilled...". He read and went over 2.4 Summary Recommendations (page 17-18). Administrator Sweet also went over the conclusions and next steps presented in the SRAMP. He was interested in questions, concerns, and/or ideas that the City Council may have regarding the information in the document.

Councilor Gould asked about the vulnerability of the water supply in terms of any tampering. Administrator Sweet said that it is unlikely due to the design of the water treatment site and the

placement of the holding tanks. There is a camera/alarm system on site; as well as it being a secured location (e.g. fencing).

Councilor Fackerell was interested if Gearhart may be able to access the Warrenton and Seaside tie-in water connections if a major failure occurred. Administrator Sweet said there was the potential, but more exploration would need to be done on the connection pipe types in the tie-in locations.

Councilor Tomlinson asked about breakaway hydrants within the City and communication between Seaside and Warrenton. Division Chief, James Hutchinson, responded that he thought all of Gearhart's hydrants were breakaway, which allows them to break when the hydrant is sheared. Administrator Sweet mentioned that there were some old hydrants and that some need to be replaced. He also stated that there was a lot of communication between the local Cities. He did feel that there has been some transition in many of the other Cities' public works departments and reestablishing the contact lines is something that should be done.

Councilor Gould inquired about potentially linking the Highway 101 Oregon Department of Transportation project with any City of Gearhart water infrastructure projects; as well as, the potential of keeping any infrastructure enhancement needs as a consideration when approving new developments.

Administrator Sweet told the Council members that the SRAMP will come before them in a City Council meeting for approval. The meeting transitioned into the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) discussion.

Administrator Sweet went over how critical the information in this document is for the City of Gearhart. He talked about the background, the changes over the years, and the collaborative effort that it has developed into. He went over the plan organization (page vii). He talked about how important it is to get the Council trained on how to use the EOP. He distributed an Emergency Management and Services declaration. He again stressed how important it is to have an operational plan that is clear, concise, and understood by all the parties involved. Councilor Gould mentioned that EOP documents can also assist in getting grants because it demonstrates preparedness. Councilor Warren felt it was a robust document and that logistics are important in an emergency. He was interested in the procedure if a quorum was not possible due to the severity of the event. Administrator Sweet said that the City would do the best that it could. Staff would follow the EOP.

Councilor Warren requested clarification on language in Section 2.1.1 Governance and Jurisdictional Considerations. He felt the language seemed to be different from the practice. Administrator Sweet explained that the Council may not be in charge of specific staff; however, they do provide overall policy and oversight.

Councilor Fackerell inquired about the declaration of emergency in terms of which agency declares it (local level, County, State). Administrator Sweet explained that it depends upon the size of the event; however, each City would likely implement independently.

Councilor Gould gave a life example from California regarding creating a unified command while working with other outside agencies. She talked about incident response and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Administrator Sweet talked about Section 4.2 City Emergency Program Manager. He went over the roles and responsibilities. Councilor Warren expressed some concern that Administrator Sweet potentially has too heavy of a responsibility load in the EOP and that there may need to be different emergency operations center locations besides City Hall and the Fire Department. Administrator Sweet clarified that the EOP did allow for a succession of role responsibilities and that in an emergency, roles would be delegated as necessary. He also indicated that the EOP does state that the City can designate additional locations for the EOC (page 4-3).

There was discussion on law enforcement's role in the EOP. Councilor Gould felt that law enforcement has a lot of expertise and can often be the primary lead in an emergency event. Sometimes it is essential to designate situations as crime scenes. Administrator Sweet was going to review the law enforcement's roles and responsibilities.

Administrator Sweet went over the tables on pages 5-6 through 5-10. Councilor Tomlinson inquired why the Court Clerk had some of the support roles assigned (e.g., firefighting).

Other areas that were talked about in the EOP were 6.4 Operational Coordination (page 6-4), 7.2 EOC Management, and 8.0 Program Sustainment (8-1). Councilor Smith asked for clarifying information about debris removal, specifically related to animal/wildlife carcasses. There was discussion on removal of debris and health and safety issues. Councilor Smith was also interested in if current documents/paperwork are stored in a safe location in case of emergency events.


Administrator Sweet did indicate that this was an area of concern and that in the event of a major

Tsunami, there would be a lot of documents lost. He also indicated that the EOP should be reviewed every five (5) years.


Administrator Sweet mentioned the Management Services Annex, the Emergency Services Functional Annex, the Health and Human Service Functional Annex, the Infrastructure Service Annex, Appendix, and the Glossary. There was no discussion on these sections; however, it was noted that the page numbers seemed to get confusing in the axillary portions of the EOP document.

Administrator Sweet mentioned the EOP plan needs to be approved by the City Council and that they should have training. He thanked all the departments for their assistance in putting the document together.

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:27 pm.



Chad Sweet, City Administrator



Mayor Kerry Smith