

CITY OF GEARHART
Worksession of the City Council
Wednesday, July 12, 2023
6:07 pm On-site and Virtual/Telephonic

A worksession of the Gearhart City Council was held Wednesday, July 12, 2023. Council members, City staff, and the public were able to attend on-site, virtually, or by dialing in on a telephone.

Present were Mayor Kerry Smith, Councilor Reita Fackerell, Councilor Dana Gould, Councilor Preston Devereaux, Councilor Sharon Kloepfer, City Administrator Chad Sweet, Public Works Director Mark McFadden, Water Rate Consultant Steve Donovan, and City Treasurer Justine Hill. A quorum of the Council was present.

Mayor Smith called the worksession of the City Council to order at 6:07 pm. He indicated the topic was to discuss water rates and work towards making the water fund solvent again.


Administrator Sweet went over his staff report which included a brief history, factors contributing to declining operating funds, recommended actions, and goals. City staff recommended a 15% increase in basic and above-basic water rates. He mentioned exploring the option of reviewing rates on an annual basis to stay in line with any fluctuations in rising operational costs. Administrator Sweet distributed a residential rate example of the recommended increases.

There was discussion. Topics included: discontinuing leak reduction credits; implementation timeline; inflationary costs; water system infrastructure; water reserve fund; Town Hall; water conservation strategies; water reservoir; in and out of City water rates; water supply for fire needs; capital improvements; and water rights. A Town Hall should be scheduled within the next two weeks to allow the public to ask questions and participate in the process.

There was consensus amongst Councilors to have City staff bring an ordinance to increase water rates to the August City Council meeting. Mayor Smith felt it was also important to notify the public of the potential rate increases before the August meeting. Councilor Gould thanked Public Works Director McFadden for all of his work and Water Consultant Steve Donovan for providing valuable information.

Mayor Smith adjourned the regular Council meeting at 7:01 pm.


Chad Sweet, City Administrator


Mayor Kerry Smith