

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CITY OF ROGUE RIVER, JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON

CALL TO ORDER The Special Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Pam VanArsdale at 9:50 a.m.

QUORUM **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Pam VanArsdale
City Councilor Sharie Davis
City Councilor Grace Howell
City Councilor Rick Kempa
City Councilor Barb Hilty
City Councilor Sherrie Moss
City Councilor Barb Gregory

ALSO PRESENT:

Ryan Nolan, City Administrator
Carol Weir, City Recorder
Michael Bollweg, Public Works Director
Stephanie Madtson, Deputy Recorder

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

NEW BUSINESS:

AGENDA ITEM 1 **Agreement:** An Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Medford through its Regional Water Reclamation Facility and the City of Rogue River to accept aerobically digested sewage sludge from Rogue River's wastewater treatment facility for processing and disposal.

MOVED (GREGORY), SECONDED (HILTY) TO APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MEDFORD THROUGH ITS REGIONAL WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY AND THE CITY OF ROGUE RIVER TO ACCEPT AEROBICALLY DIGESTED SEWAGE SLUDGE FROM ROGUE RIVER'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY FOR PROCESSING AND DISPOSAL.

Public Works Director Michael Bollweg told the City Council that he had previously spoken about a shared waste program between the City and Clear Industries to take the City's bio-solids for composting. What happened was the Department of Environmental Quality regulatory end of it and it was his opinion they were no longer a compliance agency, they were an enforcement agency. And as they changed hands it had become increasingly difficult to move these projects forward. And to the point that Clear Water had actually stopped doing business. None the less staff was trying to get a site approval for a land application done but had run into some

challenges but City Administrator Ryan Nolan had found some historical information and they reached out to the Paul Kennedy who retired by the Department of Environmental Quality who specialized in bio-solids and he was assisting staff through that process of getting rid of the bio-solids that the City had accumulated over the years but in the interim it needed to be removed from the waste water treatment plant and entering into an agreement with the City of Medford who had a huge drying bed to facilitate the amount of what was on hand.

City Councilor asked staff what the difference was between Clear Industries and the City of Medford.

Public Works Director Michael Bollweg replied that Clear Industries was a private company and the City of Medford a government agency and most of their bio-solids go to a landfill after their dried and air-raided. And in the end all of the city's bio-solids will be ending up in the landfill.

City Councilor Barb Gregory asked if the Department of Environmental Quality was okay with that solution.

Public Works Director Michael Bollweg explained that in a town the size of Rogue River it would a full time job for one person to manage bio-solids so if you transfer it to another facility to be added to there supply and all those regulations become mute.

City Councilor Barb Gregory asked how the product would be transported.

Public Works Director Michael Bollweg replied that it would be transported by tanker to their facility.

City Administrator Ryan Nolan commented that this was giving the city the opportunity to get rid of the bio-solids on hand and give staff time to develop a plan to dispose the product somewhere close to the City.

Public Works Director Michael Bollweg commented that they would be getting the bio-solids from the solar drying bed that was partly treated and what was on hand know was probably twenty-years old.

City Councilor Barb Hilty asked if the cost was covered by the current budget or did some money needed to be moved around.

City Administrator Ryan Nolan commented that this had always been a budgeted item and it was well under the current amount allotted.

City Councilor Barb Hilty asked if the agreement could be terminated sooner if a program was in put into place or were they locked into June 2026.

Public Works Director Michael Bollweg said they were doing it as a general courtesy to the City and what they were charging the City was very minimal. He suggested that the City keep the agreement and updated it every couple of years in case something happened to our waste water facility.

City Councilor Grace Howell asked if the City would receive any income from the property owner who was allowing the bio-solids to be placed on their property.

Public Works Director Michael Bollweg replied no, it would belong to the property owner with the option of doing what they want with it. The benefit for the City was to get rid of it.

AFTER A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN THE MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the City Council and upon motion duly made (MOSS), seconded (HOWELL) and carried, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

ATTEST:



Carol J. Weir, MMC
City Recorder