

North Powder City Council Special Meeting
January 12, 2021
6:30PM City Hall

Attendance: Mayor Mike Wisdom, Councilors Mike Morse (Big Mike), Logan McCrae, Joyce Lawyer, Vicki Townsend, Jeff Grende and Justin Wright, City Recorder Beth Wendt, Public Works Director Rick Lawyer.

Mayor Mike called the meeting to order. There were two items on the agenda. The first was to discuss a replacement for Jim Hebert as the Certified Water and Wastewater manager. Ralph Riomondo, from Union, has a history of working with Jimmy and knows North Powder's system. There is also an individual from Joseph who would be willing to help us but he wants more than what we paid Jimmy. Rick talked to numerous people with water and sewer certifications, but not many were willing to help. He reiterated that Ralph has a lot of history with North Powder and he would accept \$250 per month with the understanding that there may be some added charges when he has to spend extra time here. Ralph is willing to help Rick get his certifications. Beth asked if \$250 was per system or for both water and sewer. Rick and Mayor Mike thought it was for both. Rick said Ralph thought he (Rick) should be able to have signatory status for the DMRs under Ralph's certifications. We could also set up the Mayor or City Recorder as a backup signature. Mayor Mike commented that we need good, quality consistent help for the Public Works Department. Ralph has been around enough to know what is going on. Mayor Mike also noted it has been suggested that we split the part time position and have 2 people instead of one. Rick noted that Ralph is ready to move and would immediately be in touch with the DEQ. He knows how to work with people and has good communication skills. He is knowledgeable about our MAO and that the DEQ has been heavily monitoring us. Rick added that our MSO is an agreement to go above average on numbers at the lagoons and over the past several months we have exceeded those amounts numerous times so there will be fines coming. The new treatments take time to work but keeping the lagoons full has helped. Jeff made a motion to hire Ralph for up to \$500 per month. Big Mike seconded and all were in favor. Rick or Beth will contact Ralph to get him set up as an employee. Mayor Mike will get in touch with the DEQ representative to talk about the violations. Beth remarked that the DEQ rep said she would recommend that they go easy on the City regarding fines.

The second item on the agenda was the option for construction of the new playground. In order to use the Oregon Recreation and Parks Association Maintenance and Construction Section (MACS) someone has to belong to the organization. Beth noted that the fee is \$175 per year for an individual or \$500 and up for an agency-wide membership. Jeff suggested George Marston would be the logical person as he has knowledge of the project. However, we should first find out if there are other expectations that come with being a member. Beth noted that George felt it should be either herself or the Mayor. Logan made a motion to appropriate \$175 for membership for somebody to represent the City of North Powder. Big Mike seconded. All were in favor. Beth will check on other expectations and talk to George.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Beth Wendt
City Recorder