

CITY OF COQUILLE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 19, 2003

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Steve Britton, Councilors: Mollie Anderson, Fran Capehart, Kathy Hagen, Jan Torbeck and Loran Wiese

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Terence O'Connor, Accounting Technician Ruth Graham, Public Works Director John Higgins

PRESS: None

AUDIENCE: A copy of the audience present is on file in the City Recorder's Office.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Britton called the meeting to order at 7:00.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Britton led those assembled in a salute to the flag.

3. DEQ- MUTUAL AGREEMENT AND ORDER

Steve Major , from the Dyer Partnership, explained to Council that this is the last step before the clock starts ticking on the improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This document needs to be in place to qualify for future funding. He stated that this document includes some parameters. For example the number of connections allowed based on certain events, like the level of the flows. This document will protect both DEQ and the City of Coquille from fines and possible issues raised from environmental groups.

Gary Messer and Ruben Kretzschmar from DEQ will discuss the highlights of the MAO.

City Manager O'Connor reported that this meeting is a follow up to a meeting in August when Council discussed the history of the document. This document has already had some changes made to it. It will need to be finalized in order to move on.

Gary Messer from DEQ explained that this "Mutual Agreement and Order" takes the place of the previously received Stipulated and Final Order. He stated that the City has over 1,200 violations that need to be dealt with.

Councilor Wiese expressed his frustrations with the previous goal posts set by DEQ that were changed in mid stream. He questioned how many other ones will be put up in possibly another three years.

Mr. Messer explained that DEQ is the delegated agent for the EPA on TMDL's and they are supposed to be monitoring them every five years. He stated that this agreement also includes a 20 year plan. The City of Coquille is number one on the State list and all of the City's violations need to be addressed. The EPA can over file on DEQ if something is not done. He explained what other entities are doing to lessen their violations. Once the MAO is signed, the City will need to stay on schedule, so there will be no fines assessed.

Steve Major reported on what the City has already done to comply with DEQ regulations. The City has continued to have joint meetings with DEQ and has spent almost three million on improvements to the collection system so far.

Mr Messer talked about the violations that could have been prevented.

It was decided that the Mayor and all Council members should get copies of the violations received from DEQ.

Mayor Britton expressed his concern about the requirement for signage when the City is bypassing to the river. He felt like that would cause citizens some undue alarm. It was decided that there could be a change made to the MAO so signage would only be required when the City is bypassing to the river. There was discussion about notification to citizens downstream when a bypass is being done.

City Manager O'Connor asked about the section in the MAO addressing R.V. Waste. Mr. Messer explained why it could be a problem. He suggested that maybe the R.V. park across from the shop meter their flows to help with the problem.

Council continued to go through the MAO.

City Manager O'Connor asked how the City could get quicker reviews after taking care of a violation. Mr. Messer suggested that he call his supervisor, Kerri Nelson, Western Region Administrator.

Mr. Major talked about the grants that the City has already gotten and the ones that we could qualify for. He said that it is possible to hire lobbyist to try and get more. He also talked about using the wetlands in the new plan for discharge, instead of a lagoon.

There was discussion about a Temperature Management Plan being needed pre TMDL for waste load allocation. Mr. Messer stated that he would see what he could do about this requirement, since the flows would be out of the river in the summer months. Public Works Director Higgins questioned why the MAO gave the City six months for the Temperature Management Plan and he has a letter stating that he needs to have one done in 90 days from the date of his letter. Mr. Kretzschmar from DEQ will look into that.

There was discussion about bringing in a Wastewater Treatment Operations Optimization Consultant in the summer months to look at the operation of the plant and see if any improvements can be made.

Mr. Messer stated that we could have a provision in the MAO to be able to put in laterals for a new development, staying within the EDU limitation, and not do the hookup. Mr. Major stated that EDU's can be eliminated if they find a big inflow area and it is fixed.

The MAO will be on the agenda for the June 2, 2003 Council Meeting as a Public Hearing.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Mayor Britton adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST: _____
City Recorder

