

McMinnville Water & Light
Special Commission Meeting
April 11, 2022

The McMinnville Water & Light Commission met in special session at 9:00 am. This meeting was conducted electronically via Zoom. The meeting was live streamed on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_Xa8f4W09mzOp8O3Tfo-5g/live.

Those present were: Mayor Scott Hill, Commissioners Tom Tankersley, Ed Gormley, Jody Christensen, and Kathy Tate.

Absent: None.

Staff present: General Manager John Dietz, General Counsel Sam Justice, Clerk Trena McManus, Water Division Director James Burke, Power Resources Manager Jaime Phillips, Customer Service Manager Jon Spence, Finance Director Mark Dunmire, and IT Manager Thad Woodworth.

Visitors present: None.

There was a discussion regarding the city's budget challenges, the proposed increases to the Payment In-Lieu of Tax (PILOT), and proposed establishment of a water franchise fee.

At 9:14 am, Mayor Hill called for an executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) to consult with legal counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed and asked those not involved in the executive session to leave the room (virtual meeting). It was stated that the commission would return to open session afterward to take action. No press was present to be advised not to report on the subject matter of the executive session.

Mayor Hill reconvened the regular meeting at 9:39 am.

Following discussion in executive session, Counsel Justice summarized the contents of the draft letter to the city council to include the commission's authority under the city charter and state statute, and concerns relating to the establishment of a water franchise fee.

Commissioner Christensen suggested making an amendment to the letter that states MW&L is committed to continuing conversations on these matters. After a discussion, the consensus of the commission was to include the statement in the letter.

It was moved by Commissioner Christensen, seconded by Commissioner Tankersley, and passed (4-ayes, Mayor Hill abstained) to authorize the general manager to send the drafted letter to the McMinnville City Council regarding payments in-lieu of tax (PILOT), establishment of a water franchise fee, and the commission's authority under the city charter and state statute as discussed in executive session, with an amendment to include MW&L's commitment to continued conversations with the city in these matters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 am.

Prepared by:


Trena McManus, Clerk

Presided by:


Mayor & Ex-Officio Member of the
Water and Light Commission