

**MINUTES
DAYTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION
January 17, 2025**

PRESENT: Mayor Annette Frank
Council President Drew Hildebrandt
Councilor Kitty Mackin
Councilor Robin Pederson
Councilor Chris Teichroew (arrived at 6:32pm)
Council Luke Wildhaber

ABSENT: Councilor Jim Maguire

STAFF: Jeremy Caudle, City Manager
Rocio Vargas, City Recorder
Dave Rucklos, Tourism & Economic Development Director
Don Cutler, Public Works Supervisor
Denny Muchmore, City Engineer

A. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Annette Frank called the meeting to order at 6:03pm and all those present gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

Mayor Frank noted that councilors Hildebrandt, Mackin, Pederson, and Wildhaber were present in person. Councilor Teichroew joined via zoom. Councilor Maguire was absent.

C. APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

None.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

E. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Presentation and Discussion on Water Production Issues and Stage 2 Water Curtailment Implementation.

Mayor Frank introduced Don Cutler, Public Works Supervisor who presented the current water issue.

Don stated that about three days ago, the well that had been pushing air into the water began to only push air and had to be turned off for three days and is now running 40-50 gallons per minute.

Councilor Wildhaber inquired about the normal rate the well pumps water at.

Don stated that it is the normal rate, however the well had just filled up and by activating the well the water levels dropped dramatically. He stated that this is the similar situation at the wellfield since this summer, and this is making meeting demand difficult.

Councilor Pederson inquired if demand has gone up.

Don stated that demand has gone up a few gallons per minute from about 325-350 to about 415-450 which is not a concerning increase. He stated the issue is getting water out of the ground.

Mayor Frank inquired if part of the issue could be due to having too many wells on the same aquifer.

Denny Muchmore, City Engineer, stated that there aren't that many or more, the aquifer the City has rights to is at a different level from the one used by the farmers that fills faster than the one the City has rights to. He stated that the water levels have been dropping over the years and given the climate change levels have gone down significantly this year. As a result of the wellfield running low, the McDougall wells at the watershed are being overworked to keep up with demand.

Councilor Mackin stated that it has been a while since she has had to drive to a meeting because of the rain. She inquired if no rain is part of the issue.

Don stated that the well service provider mentioned that other communities are suffering from the same issue due to high heat summers.

Denny stated that the common issue with ground water wells is that the highest production will be when it has first been drilled after that decline will decline overtime.

There was a discussion about the wellfield.

Councilor Mackin inquired if there is anything that can be done in this case considering it is only winter when water use is lower than in the summer.

Councilor Wildhaber inquired if with the issue of meeting demand is the City still maintaining fire flow.

It was confirmed that fire flow is being maintained in the reservoir, however meeting demand and filling up the reservoir all the way is the challenge.

Councilor Wildhaber inquired if there are any leaks.

Denny stated that there aren't any unknown leaks and the only way to know is in the summer.

There was a conversation about the leaks in the City.

Council President Hildebrandt presented some questions that have been asked in the community, regarding new construction affecting water availability.

Denny stated that there isn't any immediate construction that will be affecting the current issue.

Mayor Frank stated that another common question from the community is why not pull water from the Yamhill River.

Denny stated that to pull water from a body of water; water rights are required that will allow to pull water from a specific location for a specific amount of water, and water rights are based on seniority.

Water rights were discussed.

Denny explained that other possibilities are being explored to find a solution. One option is to connect to Mac Water and Light using the same booster pump station as Lafayette. He stated that it could be physically possible to connect to this station and be able to fill the reservoir.

There was discussion about the Mac Water and Light possibility, the possible costs, timeline, and the future sustainability.

Council President Hildebrandt inquired about the plans for Fisher Farms wells, what is the possibility of connecting those wells to the system.

Denny stated that the water rights on the property originally were for agricultural use only, but there was an intent to change the water rights to municipal, but it is unknown if the process is completed. He added that the water from Fisher Farms has methane that will need to be stripped before it makes it to the treatment plant, so this is not an immediate solution to the water issue the City is facing today.

There was a discussion about sustainable long-term solutions, and the pros and cons of wells and groundwater.

Mayor Frank inquired if connecting to the Lafayette transmission line is the only physical option.

Denny stated that Mac Water through the Lafayette transmission line is the quickest solution.

Mayor Frank inquired if any action needed to be taken at this time, and if the water curtailment would be in effect indefinitely.

Jeremy Caudle, City Manager stated that this is an informational discussion, so Council understands what the issue is and what the plan is moving forward. He stated that the intent is to keep water curtailment procedures in effect a short-term solution is found, however the Council can amend or change this as necessary.

Council President Hildebrandt stated that the water curtailment is very outdoor focused and inquired what is the next step.

Jeremy stated that the emergency level curtailment could allow for shutting off locations with known leaks, so they will be addressed.

Councilor Mackin stated that water curtailment procedures have been implemented before and inquired if there is a plan for water rationing.

Jeremy stated that it would be a lot of data monitoring and would like to focus on a solution first, before considering alternatives.

Mayor Frank inquired if the City needs a Water Master Plan before it can start working on water projects.

Denny stated that it's not necessarily true. The Water Master Plan did recommend a regional water system; and to obtain water rights to the Willamette River, however this was something the City could not afford, and Mac Water did take advantage of this opportunity.

Council President Hildebrandt inquired if there would be a way to only use Mac Water when necessary and be able to turn it off when not.

Denny stated that is the intent to be able to valve water as necessary.

Councilor Teichroew inquired how long it would take to go this the proposed direction.

Denny stated that an intertie with Mac Water and Light would depend on how long it takes to complete an agreement and to build out the remaining system to connect to Dayton. A regional system could take 20-30 years to complete.

Councilor Mackin inquired if there is an idea of how much buying water from Mac Water and Light would increase water bills.

Jeremy stated that there is more research that needs to be done.

There was a discussion on proposed short-term plan connecting to Mac Water and Light, and the way it could be implemented. Other options and emergency measures were discussed.

The production and distribution from the springs was discussed and how it is being impacted with the low production of the wellfield.

Mayor Frank inquired how long it would take to fill-up a reservoir.

Jake Taijala, Public Works, stated it would take two days to fill a reservoir.

Council President inquired about the possibility of expanding the reservoirs at the springs and the pipeline.

Denny stated that expansion of the reservoirs is not part of the plan until the tanks expire. He stated that building a larger tank wouldn't help considering that there is a limit of about 70 gallons per minute allowed per water rights at the springs. The current plan is to replace transmission line from the watershed, and this would help meet fire flow requirements, but not the source and demand issue.

Staff will return to Council with more information.

F. COUNCILOR COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Councilor Mackin inquired about a \$5 increase in sewer.

Rocio Vargas, City Recorder stated that it would be a stormwater fee added to save to maintain the stormwater infrastructure.

Councilor Mackin stated that she would like to be registered for the LOC Conference.

G. ADJOURN

There being no further discussion meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.

Respectfully submitted:

By:

Rocio Vargas, City Recorder

APPROVED BY COUNCIL on **March 3, 2025.**

☐ As Written

☒ As Amended

Annette Frank, Mayor