

CITY OF SHELLEY  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES

AUGUST 29, 2023

PRESENT: Mayor Stacy Pascoe

Council Members: Jeff Kelley, Kim Westergard (absent), Adam French, and Leif Watson

Public Wks Dir.:	Justin Johnson
Recreation Dir.:	Mikel Anderson
City Clerk/Treasurer:	Sandy Gaydusek
City Building Insp/Plann.:	Jordon Johnson
	Ted Hendricks and Dave Noel

The meeting held at the Shelley Senior Citizens building and was opened at 7:00 p.m. The Public Hearing is being held to consider filing a petition for judicial review for the Water Improvement Project to move forward and look for available funding, scope of work, etc. Mayor Pascoe outlined the procedures of the meeting and turned the time over to Dave Noel, the City Engineer and Ted Hendricks.

Dave discussed the Water Improvement Project and presented Boards that could be reviewed outlining the deficiencies in the city water system, funding the improvements, the EPA mandate to create an inventory list regarding which addresses have lead connections, meters, shortage of water rights, etc. Once those in attendance have some time to review the Boards they may sign up to give public testimony in favor, opposed or neutral comments regarding this issue

Ted Hendricks will be the representative to submit any grant applications and administration of any grants awarded. Ted said the cost of the water meter and installation will be part of the project cost. The only cost the homeowner will bear is if they elect to replace any of the line that is on their private property. Any damage during the project that occurs in the right-of-way will be paid for to be fixed by the city.

The public hearing was opened for comments opposed to the project.

Nicole Hurt, 356 S. Byron Avenue read a letter that her father wrote with his comments. The letter stated that the city has discussed water meters and how costs have went up except wages have not. It stated only politicians would think to raise rates during these times. He said they do not care about the citizens and he would like to address the citizens and send a message to vote these politicians off of the council.

Tammy Rowbury, 257 S. Park Ave. said she is concerned about the cost for many especially those on fixed incomes. She thinks there are other alternatives such as raising the rates each year and saving to do the project. She said they need to stop the growth in the city.

Craig Cutler, 1060 Rimrock Canyon said he is not comfortable. This is bad news and the good news is that he is not sitting in their chairs. He said they have

probably have received information more than the citizens have. Mr. Cutler said other people feel the decision has already been made. He said this community is uncommon with people being responsible. He feels with the right leadership, the community can reduce the usage of water on their own. He said if the Council tells people what to do, they'll do it and they will be surprised at the outcome. Mr. Cutler said they need to give people the chance and have more faith in the them.

Jeremy Siems, 164 S. Emerson Ave. said it is not fun living in the city anymore. He said in 1999 the city bill was \$25, then with the sewer district the bill was \$50 and now it is \$95. He said property taxes have increased as well. Mr. Siems said in his shop he has one toilet and uses about once a day. He said the electric company has five meters on his business and they are raising from \$5 to \$30. Mr. Siems said the city's reason to meter is so they can charge for it and up the rates. He said he is very pissed off. Mr. Siems said not to long ago he had to use a petition and walk around and get his neighbors signature to be able to use his house as a house because the zoning was changed. He said many cannot afford their bills now. Mr. Siems said if there are too many people moving into the city tell them to stay away or they can pay for the improvements.

Richelle Shivley, 340 Quigg Ave. said she does not trust the government and does not trust what they say we have to do.

Peggy Russell withdrew from speaking.

Thayne Shivley, 340 Quigg Ave., said if you don't live in the city limits why are you mandating this...Mayor? The Mayor does live in the city limits. He asked why the government is mandating this. He doesn't trust this. Mr. Shivley said somebody is getting a government kick back. He asked who is going to dictate this. He said he is opposed to this because we don't have all the answers.

John Behm, 345 Meadowlark Dr. said government has special interests they want to give kickbacks to. He said there is a growth chart and it may or may not be wrong. He said we have savings. He said people from out of state are telling us what to do. He said he is opposed because there are no answers. He said let the citizens live the way they have been.

Wyatt McCandless, 321 N. Park Ave. read a quote. He said he believes there are a lot of good points that have been made. Some have a hard time paying for this. Mr. McCandless said he has a hard time believing if we don't take the money we'll lose it. He said EPA mandates and we have to comply or what? He believes nothing will happen. He said he was told meters are a way to secure grants, but if we don't follow EPA we will not need it anyway. He said he believes people are responsible and there are other options for us. He said he is opposed to this because he doesn't think we need the improvements.

Cam Cutler, 179 S. Milton Ave. said he is concerned about the monthly bill; he is raising a family and there are other people on fixed incomes. He said the school also has a levy and a new school bond. He said there are also improvements that need done at the Sewer District. Mr. Cutler said the city bill has increased And the services have decreased. He said the citizens can self regulate and put in city ordinances to control water. He said this will fix it for a little while and push it

down the road. Mr. Cutler said he feels there's a little distrust in the citizens, but they are trustworthy. He said he believes there are other options.

Shelley Wright, 116 S. Hanson Ave. said she came here from west of Nevada because she thought it would be different, but it's worse. She said property taxes are rising, other costs are rising and what do they do. She said she works for the school and the supplemental levy affects her wage. She said there are people on fixed incomes. Mrs. Wright said there are small lots that may not use all of their allotments but it will not be given back. She said she has over an acre to water. She said her husband works out of state so they can afford things. She said she is concerned about developers coming in and putting in a lot of homes. Mrs. Wright said something has to give; we will need more schools, fire depts., etc.

Rich Stangvige, 168 E. Elm St. said what EPA is requiring is an unfunded mandate and he doesn't agree with it. He also feels it is not fun living in Shelley anymore. He said he has the deepest respect for the council, but the water connection fee is outrageously low. He said people moving in need to pay their fair share. He said he trust the council will make the right decision.

There was no other testimony given. None in favor, no neutral comments. Mayor Pascoe closed the public hearing.

Mayor Pascoe said no decision will be made regarding the improvements until more facts are found. He said the soonest a decision can be made on the matter tonight will be September 12, 2023. The matter tonight is whether or not to file a petition for judicial confirmation so the city can move forward with looking for funding options. Mayor Pascoe said we can't control property taxes, the cost of gas, etc. That can has been kicked down the road to many times.

Adjourned: 8:40 p.m.

APPROVE:  ATTEST: 