

**City of Lowell, Oregon
City Council
Special Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2023**

The Lowell City Council held a special meeting on December 7, 2023. The meeting took place at City Hall, 70 N. Pioneer St., Lowell, OR 97452. Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

City Councilors present:

Mayor Don Bennett, Gail Harris, Maureen Weathers, Jimmy Murray (via Zoom), Tim Stratis

City Councilors absent:

None

Staff/others present:

City Administrator Jeremy Caudle, Public Works Director Max Baker (via mobile phone)

Approval of the agenda: No changes.

New business:

1. Review "Urgent concerns regarding dam drawdowns in Willamette Basin" letter to U.S. District Judge Hernandez prepared by Representative Jami Cate's office.

City Administrator Caudle explained that during the previous week, a legislative aid with Representative Jami Cate (District 11), inquired about the impact of the dam drawdown on the City of Lowell. Their office was preparing a letter for distribution on the effect of the dam drawdown on various communities in the area. The draft letter was included in the council packet.

City Administrator Caudle then read changes to the letter compared to what was included in the council packet. The changes included additions for updated information on the effect of the dam drawdown on the city.

The City Council asked about the water treatment plant's operating capacity. At that point (6:14 pm), City Administrator Caudle called Public Works Director Max Baker, who then joined the meeting via mobile phone. Baker answered the City Council's questions on typical water usage in winter compared to what the water treatment plant is able to produce with the excess sediment. According to Baker, the water treatment plan typically runs 7 to 8 hours per day in the winter. With the excess turbidity, however, the water treatment is currently running 16 to 18 hours per day.

Councilor Stratis stated that he was recusing himself from a vote due to his employment with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers "on the advice of counsel."

Councilor Harris moved "to authorize the City Administrator to submit our logo to the letter that is being sent to Judge Marco A. Hernandez on behalf of the water drawdowns in the Willamette Valley." Councilor Weathers seconded the motion.

APPROVED: 4 yeases, 0 noes, 1 abstain (Councilor Stratis).

Mayor Bennett adjourned the meeting at 6:29 pm.

APPROVED:



Don Bennett, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jeremy Caudle, City Recorder