

# City of Cosmopolis

Workshop Minutes  
July 20, 2011

Mayor Vickie L Raines presided

Councilmembers Present: Jim Ancich, Carl Sperring, Debbi Moran, Frank Chestnut and Karen Cox

Staff Present: Finance Director Kathy Welch, Attorney Stephen Hyde, Fire Chief Al Burrows and Public Works Director Raines

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Mayor Raines called the workshop to order.

## **Water Rates**

Public Works Director said that the City has had to dip into reserves in the past couple of years. We had proposed a 3 ½% rate increase in our 6 year water plan. Due to the bad economy, we have tried to not increase water rates for our residents. We can no longer absorb these costs. We anticipate that we need a 4 ½% rate increase. We are replacing some of the hydrants as we go along in the Downtown Corridor project. These funds come directly out of the water fund. We have a leaking line on Third Street that we have been replacing piecemeal for the past few years. We need to replace our reserves in case we get a major repair. Currently we charge a base rate of 15.14 for water which is supposed to cover maintenance and debt service costs. We are proposing to increase this to 15.82. This is no longer sufficient to cover these costs. We are proposing a 4 ½% increase in both the base rate and the cubic foot rate which would go from .0337 to .0352 per cubic foot.

Darrin said that Mayor Raines and himself have spoken with HDR regarding the Mill Creek Dam. This company has done work for both the City of Aberdeen and the City of Hoquiam. We will be looking at solutions for our broken dam. There are not many funding options for rebuilding the dam; however, there are some funds available for dam removal and restoration projects. HDR would require \$10,000 to start preliminary studies on our options.

Mayor Raines said that we can ask them to come speak to Council and make a proposal.

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Finance Director

Attest:

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Mayor

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**NEW BUSINESS**



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