

**April 11, 2018  
Work Session  
City of Gaston**

**Present:** Mayor Tony **Hall**, Jerry **Spaulding**, David **Meeker**, Don **Richter**, Bill **Martin**, Rod **Hale** and Jon **Wismer**.

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** City Recorder Wenonah **Blanchette**, Public Works Director Brent **Whittaker**, City Clerk Sharon **Bregante-Candau**.

Mayor Tony **Hall** called this meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call: City Recorder **Blanchette** conducted the roll call:

Councilor Jerry **Spaulding**, absent

Councilor David **Meeker**, present

Councilor Bill **Martin**, present

Mayor Tony **Hall**, present

Councilor Jon **Wismer**, present (*arriving at 6:45PM*)

Councilor Rod **Hale** present (*arriving at 6:36PM*)

Councilor Don **Richter** present

**Clean Water Services:** Mayor **Hall** introduced John **VanderPlatt**, representative of Clean Water Services as a water supply project manager. This project began in 2001 with discussion heard on the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) which is a 1,000 km (620 mi) long dipping fault that stretches from Northern Vancouver Island to Cape Mendocino in northern California with some studies suggesting the risk of an earthquake of 8.0 or higher likely to occur within the next 50 years. Scoggins Reservoir is an earth filled damn built in the 1970s by the Bureau of Reclamation and operating and holding water since 1977. Built with an earth core and compressed clay; sustaining the damn is not the issue but in the event of an earthquake, would not withstand such an environmental catastrophe. Scoggins Reservoir is the largest water resource for the City of Hillsboro and most of Washington County with a need to address raising the damn to meet the supply and demand needs and most importantly to fix the damn for seismic reasons. Scoggins Damn is the most seismically challenged damn in Bureau of Reclamation's inventory; it's located close to the Cascadia Subduction Zone and built in the 1970's when earthquake standards were not as strong as they are today. The risk assessment with Stimpson's Mill located below the damn, raises priority to repair the damn as potential lives are at risk. There are three potential options:

- First option is to fix it; modify and strengthen it through the safety of damns program enough to withstand an earthquake but doesn't address need that Washington County has a water shortage and increasing supply and demand. The damn where it sits today is perfectly fit for the water shed it's in providing adequate water and with exception to 2001, fills to capacity each year.
- Second option is to raise the damn by 17 feet; provides about a 1/3 more water. Flow restoration in the river would increase and improve water quality as it goes downstream. Raising the damn 17 feet would provide 21,000 more-acre feet of water
- Third option is a downstream roller compacted concrete damn but Stimpson's Mill would need to be relocated. Through this option, if you raise it to the average level of Hagg

Lake, it provides 50,000-acre feet. Stimpson's Mill will need to be relocated along with the cleanup of the log ponds as well as relocate 23 homes. The goal would be to have public property, not private property adjacent to the reservoir. This option assesses the seismic risk, is a shorter damn, provides additional water, potential cost savings, a proven construction method, twice as much water surface. The cost for this option is potentially less than simply raising the damn but is potentially less reliable because the storing of more water.

Selection of the project will not be made any time before December of 2019. This part of the project is; public outreach, information, hearing comments and testimony, etc. Clean Water Services and the Bureau Reclamation are joint member of the project and the first in the nation to do that which means the federal process will take more time and addressing the safety issue would be funded by federal dollars.

Questions were made amongst the Council of costs associated with reinforcing an earth made damn, safety concerns in the event of an earthquake, additional fault lines in the area, increased traffic and parking concerns, recreation opportunities and flood insurance coverage. Stimpsons Mill's primary comments are safety of his employees and maintaining rural jobs and continuing to operate.

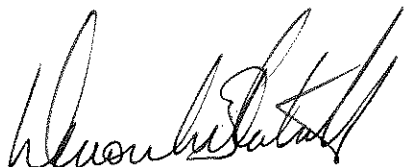
Mayor **Hall** indicated the City is looking to purchase municipal water rights and inquired of the possibility to acquire approximately 2,000-acre feet of water a day. Mr. **VanderPlatt** suggested to continue discussion of this issue, keep talking about it as others may have interest in acquiring water rights too.

#### **Jerry Willey County Commissioner #4 Endorsement**

Jerry **Willey** was present to discuss his run for County Commissioner seat # 4 with Commissioner Bob **Terry** currently holding County Commissioner #4 seat while Commissioner **Terry** is running for Washington County Chair position. **Willey** was previously the Mayor of Hillsboro for eight years and a CPA for 33 years. He explained the City of Gaston has many of the same issues facing other cities; traffic, rural development and, transit services. All the Mayors of Washington County have endorsed him for the county commissioner position. He stated that if there are issues Gaston is facing to speak with him and he see what can be done on the County Commissioner level if he were elected. Mayor **Hall** inquired about ODOT and the installation of a stop light on highway 47 due to the increasing traffic declaring the difficulty in proposing such a light at the intersection of Park Street or E. Main Street.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor **Hall** asked for any further questions, none heard. Work Session adjourned at 7:00PM.

Attest:



City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Tony Hall