

# Minutes of the Veneta City Council Work Session September 12, 2016

Present: Sandra Larson, Tim Brooker, Thomas Cotter, (arrived at 5:38 p.m.) Laura Ruff

Absent: Thomas Laing

Others: Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Kyle Schauer, Public Works Director; Darci Henneman, City Recorder; Julie Reid, Emergency Management Specialist; Linda Cook, Emergency Manager, Lane County Sheriff's Office

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER THE VENETA CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Mayor Larson called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

## 2. LANE COUNTY PRESENTATION OF THE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Ingham introduced Linda Cook, Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Emergency Program Manager.

Ms. Cook said there are various degrees of understanding emergency management. She said tonight she doesn't want the Council to feel lost or that she's talking about something that isn't familiar. She encouraged questions.

Ms. Cook said Lane County is working with Veneta on two plans - the Emergency Operations and Hazard Mitigation Plan. She said tonight we'll be talking about the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The 2017 Lane County Multi Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan sanctioned by OEM and FEMA is the first for which the City of Veneta, has been a formal participant. Formal participants in an approved Multi Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan are eligible for Hazard Mitigation Grants; Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants and Flood Mitigation Assistance grants.

Lane County's Mitigation Plan was first developed in the 1990's with Linn and Benton Counties. In 2000 hazard mitigation law was passed and in 2002 Lane County adopted its first Plan with a five year update lifecycle. Currently they are working on the 2017 update which included a request for funding for small, surrounding incorporated cities. Veneta's plan is focused on things that are unique to Veneta but separate from Lane County.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ms. Cook said the plan is designed to provide guidance for any kind of natural disaster; flood, fire, wind storm, etc. She said for example, instead of implementing a long term capital plan to deal with specific disasters we should design a plan that provides guidance for anything from drought to a tsunami.

Ingham said in January 2016 Greg Wobbe, Lane County's Consultant, met with Chief Ney of Lane Fire Authority, Kyle Schauer and himself toured the City and discussed potential mitigation projects.

Ms. Cook said eventually the City will be asked to adopt the plan as a guide to follow. She said adopting the plan does not imply that funding needs to be committed to any projects, however, vetting out and pin pointing actual project costs could also be an action item of the Plan. Also, the plan is non-binding but expresses to FEMA we are aware of the hazards and committed to mitigation to the extent of practicality. She said if we had the projects defined when funding is available, we may get the project funded.

Laura Ruff said the plan is really more like examples of what can be done but give us some flexibility.

Ms. Cook suggested listing the updates to the Jeans Rd. lift station as a completed project to show that we're already working on a mitigation plan.

In response to a question from Ingham, Ms. Cook said FEMA grants don't cover the cost to purchase equipment like brush hogs but Homeland Security grants would be a likely funding source.

In response to a question from Laura Ruff, Schauer said replacement of the Dogwood Reservoir would be 2 to 2.5 million dollars. He said the Wastewater Master Plan calls for a redundant reservoir at the same elevation which would be built to seismic standards.

In response to a question from Tim Brooker, Ingham said building a redundant tank would not likely be considered a Capital Improvement Project but it's up to the Council to decide how forward thinking we want to be. He said if it's on the work plan to locate a site for the new water tank that meets seismic activity, it would eliminate the need to retrofit the existing tank.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Schauer said we don't really know how the pipeline will be effected, it just depends on the level of activity.

Ms. Cook said anything we can do to be more resilient should be listed in the plan. She brought this to the Council for review, as a draft document, but they also want the community's input by conducting a survey asking residents about the hazards that most interest them, if the City's goals are on target in terms of guidance, and what additional goals or projects should be considered. She said Veneta's project will be absorbed through the County's goals but the wrap up page will ask where residents live so they can provide input for the area they live in.

Laura Ruff said she would like to see included on the list of potential projects is some kind of tree assessment be conducted throughout the City to identify sick or dying trees to be removed for limbed. She said every time we get hit with any kind of high wind, limbs and trees are affected which affects property.

Ms. Cook said Lane County created an inventory of diseased and ageing trees and a schedule to remove or limb potential dangerous trees.

In response to a question from Reid, Ms. Cook said the five public owned utilities will be implemented in the future plan update.

Ms. Cook said continuity planning would include identifying critical public services and services that can be temporarily suspended for minimal hours. She said the next step is to locate an alternate facility where we could perform those functions. She said many cities contract with Agility, Inc., to provide modular mobile spaces as an alternate facility. She said it's a matter of identifying essential functions and having a plan to implement if disaster strikes. She said economic development of a community also needs to be considered. She said local government managers or coordinators should reach out to local business to make sure they have continuity plans in place and if not, make connections with local businesses; checking in after a disaster to make sure everyone is okay and pass that information on to the county who will then notify the federal government.

Ms. Cook said the plan adoption timeline will be as follows: the document goes to state level, local jurisdictions adopt the Plan and then County Commissioners adopt it. She said the massive adoption process has been pushed out four weeks from October 1<sup>st</sup> to allow for community input. From there it goes to Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) and then to FEMA. She said March 26, 2017 is the deadline but finalization will take place in April, 2017.

In response to a question from Ingham, Ms. Cook said the City and County Plan adoption process will likely be simultaneous.

Mayor Larson thanked Ms. Cook for explaining how the City will implement its own program.

3. **ADJOURN**

Mayor Larson adjourned the Veneta City Council at 6:33 p.m.

  
Sandra H. Larson, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Darci Henneman, City Recorder  
(Minutes prepared by DHenneman)