

Public Works / Finance Committee



Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

www.ci.moscow.id.us

208.883.7015

Monday, May 24, 2021

3:00 PM

**Council Chambers
206 E. Third St.**

REGULAR AGENDA

PRESENT: Anne Zabala, Art Bettge, Sandra Kelly

STAFF: Kyle Steele, Bill Belknap, Tyler Palmer, Gary Riedner, Taylor Riedner, Steve Schulte, David Schott (3:40), Megan Cherry (3:45)

OTHERS: Toni Bean, Council Member Gina Taruscio, Mayor Bill Lambert

1. Approval of May 10, 2021 Public Works/Finance Committee Minutes (ACTION ITEM) - Taylor Riedner

The minutes were approved as presented.

2. Airport Grant – Terminal Design and Apron Construction (ACTION ITEM) – Tony Bean, Executive Director Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport

It is desirable to apply for entitlement and discretionary grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program for the purpose of Terminal Design and Apron Construction. The amount of the grant is \$12,000,000 with a local match of \$1,053,338.00 from the Airport's CARES grant. To facilitate the FAA grant, it is appropriate to preauthorize its acceptance. The proposed Resolution has been prepared for that purpose. The Resolution also authorizes the execution of related assurances and certifications.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend adoption of the proposed Resolution preauthorizing the acceptance grant offer AIP 3-53-0051-058 from the FAA Airport Improvement Program, or provide staff further direction.

Bean presented the item by explaining the Terminal Advisory Committee, a brief history of the project, a forecast of air service goals, and a layout of the new terminal. The estimated completion of the project is mid-year of 2023. The same presentation has already been presented to the Pullman City Council. Needing no further discussion, the Committee recommended approval and that it be placed on the Council regular agenda.

3. FY2022 Proposed Stormwater User Fee (ACTION ITEM) - Tyler Palmer

As the Council is aware, the City of Moscow was issued a Phase II Stormwater Permit from the US Environmental Protection Agency that became effective October 1, 2019. The Permit requires the City to develop and implement a comprehensive stormwater management program in an effort to reduce pollutants to the City's Stormwater Control System and improve watershed health. Earlier this year, the Council adopted Title 5, Chapter 19 of Moscow City Code which provides for the establishment of a system of stormwater user fees and requires that the fees collected are set aside and designated solely for use for the maintenance, operations, improvements, regulatory requirements, and program costs of the City's Stormwater Control System. The code requires that the fee shall be reasonably determined based on the volume of runoff from a customer's property (as reflected in the extent of impermeable surface) into the City Stormwater Control System.

The City has been working over the last several years toward the development of: (1) stormwater user fees based on impervious surface area (ISA) measurements for properties of select customer classes

(e.g., residential and commercial) within the City, and (2) a final stormwater user fee billing database. The majority of stormwater service providers charge fees based on ISA derived billing units called Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs) or Equivalent Service Units (ESU). The City of Moscow has adopted the ESU billing unit approach. One ESU is defined as the average amount of ISA on residential properties, which is determined by measuring ISA on a sample of residential properties. The number of billing units, or ESUs, for a non-residential customer is calculated by dividing the measured amount of ISA on the property by the average amount of ISA on residential properties.

Staff is in the final stages of finalizing the customer billing database and final ESU count, Financial Plan, and proposed user fee of \$7.92 per ESU to draft the Fiscal Year 2022 budget in anticipation of an October 1, 2021 roll-out of user fee assessments.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval of the proposed stormwater user fee rate for FY2022, or provide staff further direction.

Palmer introduced the item as written above and reflected on presentations previously given at committee and council meetings. Steele reviewed Phase II MS4 Permit requirements and explained that ESUs are an average amount of impervious surface (driveways, roofs, etc.), and one ESU measures 3,340 square feet. Most homes measure one ESU and are categorized as low, medium, or high residencies. Last month, Council approved a Credits and Waivers Policy, and an Appeals Policy is currently being finalized. The initial ESU proposal in 2019 was \$12.50, was reduced in 2020 to \$9.40, and the final proposal is \$7.92 per ESU, a 37% reduction. Mailings, notices on the City's website, and a social media video was published earlier this year to give early notice of the charges. This fee accounts for residencies that will be using the waiver and appeals program if modifications are made. The American Rescue Plan is being reviewed to determine if funds could be used for the City's infrastructure and equipment needs, which could reduce ESU fees in the future. Riedner reflected on a similar permit previously issued to the City and the repercussions of not meeting the Federal requirements. Many surrounding cities have already received an MS4 permit, and most feedback from the public is understanding.

Dan Schoenberg (Palouse Properties, Moscow) explained difficulties projecting future rental rates and fairly distributing fee responsibilities. Additional concerns include waiting until the appeals process to ask the right questions or overwhelming the tenants with information. Palmer said he would follow up with Schoenberg regarding calculating ESU impact with different properties.

The Committee recommended approval and that it be placed on the Council regular agenda.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:48pm

