

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
FOR THE CITY OF MAYWOOD PARK
18 February 2019 7:00-8:00 PM

- COUNCIL MEETING -

In Attendance: Mayor Matthew Castor, Council President Art Winslow, Councilor Jim Akers, Councilor Michelle Montross, Councilor Chris Williams.

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Recorder – Bonnie Davey; City Treasurer – Wendy Irwin;
Transcriptionist – Lisa Higgins

Residents present: Susan Hanset, Jeff Steffen, Sherry Torgerson, Alex Craig, Dustin Rotbart, George DuBois, Carrie Culver, Alex Neerman, Suzanne Raymond, Tara Bussema, Kevin Bussema.

The City Council Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 pm.

Approval of the February 04, 2019 City Council minutes. Approved as presented.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Deputy Joe Kaiser: You may see a Fairview patrol car in the neighborhood, that's my car, just so you are aware. It may be re-branded to say Multnomah County in the future. In the past people have called the local deputy directly, and I don't want that to happen. Please call emergency or non-emergency so it is properly logged, in case the incident or suspicious person becomes a big deal. Stats from last month were low. We had someone call in about a safe, and we haven't turned up anything with that and we are still looking for it's owner.

Castor: Can we talk about the best way residents can respond to help the Sheriff, like how to report something or when to or not to engage. I worry about people putting themselves in harm's way.

Kaiser: Yes, I love to talk about that. I've been in that situation myself when I'm not on duty. When I see something, I try to be the best witness possible. Try to get a plate number and a description, that's one of the most important things. Any main features that we can start looking for, and write it down, so you remember. I run the citizen's patrol in Corbett, and we tell them. Don't interact, just stand back and observe and call it in. Also, stay on the phone with the dispatcher when you call, so you can continue to be helpful. Generally, only call 911 when it's a life-threatening situation, or a threat to property. If it's a suspicious person, call non-emergency.

PACIFIC POWER SMART METER PRESENTATION

Castor: I'd like to open up the floor to residents first, to bring your concerns and show us what you have found, and then we will talk with Pacific Power.

Tara Bussema: I'm Tara and this is my husband Kevin. I'm a Nutritional Therapist and I work with a lot of chronically ill people. The first thing I want to talk about is the health impact. As far as I can tell there are no studies proving that smart meters are actually safe, but there are tons of stories of health issues that have occurred after the installation of smart meters, and if and when they are removed those things resolved. Some of the symptoms people have talked about are headaches, insomnia, dizziness, tinnitus, heart and blood pressure issues, digestive issues, child behavior and health issues, the list is very long. Our bodies are electrical, magnetic and thermal, so you can do blood microscopy, and when blood cells are exposed EMF's and RF waves to they actually change shape and clump together and when those waves are removed they go back to normal. It's very interesting. So, a lot of times power companies like to state that smart meters emit less radiation than phones or WIFI, but it seems weird to me because there are so many stories of people that have these things onset after a smart meter is installed. So, a major part is also that smart meters introduce additional frequencies into our electrical wiring in our households. This is especially an issue when we're sleeping, which is when our bodies repair. I recommend my clients turn off WIFI at night or turn off phones and smart meters can't be turned off, and if your neighbor has one, or it's right next to your wall, that can be a problem. According to my research, it seems like smart meters create a network between neighboring houses and ping off the houses around them. PGE says meters only transmit for a few minutes a day, but between 10,000 and 200,000 pulses per day for data transmission and maintenance. It also impacts the wildlife around us. Another concern of mine is cost, the installation is free, but they will also be gleaning information about how and when we use power so they can let us know when we are using more power during peak hours so they can charge us more during those times. I have heard this from other people, including my parents, who have a smart meter, their bill has doubled, there is also a lot of concerns about privacy, hacking, and safety. There is a history of hundreds of thousands of these things being recalled because of explosions and house fires. I know Pacific Power says they are using a different one, and is a tested for safety, but that's still the history. There are more than 45 cities in CA that have opposed or banned smart meters. The Pacific Power website say they have very good cyber security measures in place to protect us, but that to me just shows that there are hacking possibilities. I would love to see smart meters not come into Maywood Park, but individuals can opt out, but it's hard because if I opt out my neighbor still might have one right outside my window. If the City doesn't ban them but a bunch of us opt out it would be really cool if the fee could somehow be lowered, and I know Pacific Power did have a program with a lower fee and a percentage charge based on our previous year of energy usage if I understand correctly. I feel there are a lot of questions without a lot of satisfactory answers. I feel like smart meters benefit power companies, but I don't know if they benefit us, and I feel like there is a lot of risks but I don't know if there are that many benefits. Some people will say its efficiency, and its new technology, but I don't know if there are benefits except for telling us when we are using more energy during peak hours and giving us the opportunity to use less. I love that our city is a small town that exists because people banded together to go against the flow. So, I'm like, hey, we're here, lets talk about this and make a decision that benefits all of us.

Suzanne Raymond: Thank you Tara for doing that research and bring this to our attention.

Castor: Thank you for coming. Did anyone have any questions or responses to Tara? Is there anyone else with research they'd like to share on the topic?

Dustin Rotbart: The research I did comes down to two key points. One, these devices emit radiation and there are a minority of people out there that are electromagnetic sensitive people, approximately 3% of the population is an estimate, and they could have health consequences because of this and I'm here representing 5 other residents that live with me and I'm here to say that it's the duty of this council to represent the interest of the people that live in Maywood Park and those interests are asymmetrical with the power company in this respect. So, I'm here to ask the council to consider passing a motion to prohibit these meters here in Maywood Park. So, there is that externality, the potential for negative health impacts because of the radiation these meters emit. Also, later on down the line is that these meters ultimately create a network, and can network with smart appliances, these could pose a network security loophole. If your smart meter is networked to your refrigerator, which is networked to your WIFI, these devices could give hackers an entry point to steal data and can pose a vulnerability in that respect. There are a lot of unknowns and it seems like the prudent course of action would be to prohibit these things until they are more understood.

Diana Knause: Thank you for your comments and concerns. I brought Cory Esslen, he's our support manager for this, so he'll take technical questions. I'm here to answer some big picture questions, but also the small questions. Pacific Power has been serving communities for over 100 years. You can find info on Pacific Power at Poweringgreatness.com. Somebody touched on the research and development side of things. Pacific Power is a poles and wire company, we don't develop the technologies, we wait until they are fully tested and then we roll them out. We are upgrading 78,000 meters in Multnomah county, we started in January and are about a third of the way through, and should be done by late April. By the end of the year 590,000 for Pacific Power. Half the state already has a smart meter. The only information it can send is the total KWH house usage, no name, no address. The replacement costs you nothing and takes less than 5 minutes. As for cost, residential meters went down 3.8% for February. Corporate tax structure changed for companies, many companies gave that back in bonus, but we gave that back to customers, you'll see a tax credit on your bill. 70 million smart meters are already installed in the United States. Water meters, gas meters, it's helping to keep our costs down. This helps us manage our costs so we don't have a rate raise. We haven't gone in for a general rate raise since 2013. We are installing these to keep your cost down, there are benefits. On our mobile app you can set your own controls. It can forecast your bill amount. It's sending and receiving every hour, and is on the outside of your house, not on the inside of your house. It will instantly alert us when there is an outage. When it's restored it will ping the meter so we know power is back on. We can also send you a text alert if you're out of power. You can access through the website or mobile app your usage by hour, by week, by month, so you are in control of your own usage.

Castor: How real time is your access to the data as a homeowner? If I come home at 3pm and turn on a tv and computer, would I be able to see a spike?

Cory Esslen: For the web you can see the day prior. We aggregate the data and then post it the next day. This is the most transformational project we have done to serve the customers in the 20

years I've worked in this business. For 100 years we have gathered info once a month and sent you a bill. With Smart Meters we will have by hour information, and its whole home information, so when we have a situation where power is used and you weren't home, we can figure out what happened.

Tara Bussema: I guess I'm not as interested in what the meter can do, can we talk about the health issues?

Kevin ??: Are you going to charge more for peak hours? I work from home and I'm interested.

Knause: The Public Utility Commission sets rates.

Cody: There are no open rate cases now to do real time pricing. California has critical peak pricing, due to resource crunches, but we don't experience that in Oregon

Jeff Steffen: Well we have, 30 years ago, when there were power shortages.

Esslen: Things have changed dramatically since then.

Knause: Today we buy and sell ahead, it's evolving quite a bit.

Rotbart: So just to clarify, the price of power doesn't change at all? It's always static.

Esslen: It's a rate case. We have a tiered rate structure based on consumption, not based on the time you use.

Castor: So, you're saying I'm going to pay the same per KWH at 3pm as I would at 2pm or 2am.

Esslen: Yes. But if you go over 1000 or 800 KW, I can't remember which, then you go to the next tier.

Castor: So, it's volume.

Esslen: Yes.

Rotbart: You are going to file a rate case sometime in the future.

Esslen: We have to file one every three years, but the most recent ones have been filed with no cost changes, so we have through operational efficiencies absorbed the costs.

Knause: Half of the US already has them in their homes. Typically, there are multiple WIFI routers in an area. Your meter is on the outside of your home. Your baby monitor has more radio frequency than your smart meter does. We have undergone exhaustive tests on the smart meter. Your garage door opener has more. You could stand next to your smart meter for 365 days and it would be less radio frequency than one 15-minute phone call.

Esslen: The FCC sets the regulations and amount of RF exposure for occupational and non-occupational exposure allowed. The thing with RF is distance. The farther you get away from the energy source, the less exposure you have to it. When you think about the things you are close too and where you spend your time, it's not near a smart meter, and usually the meter is away from a home on the back and you've got siding and insulation and paint in between that absorbs RF, so when we talk about exposure to RF, microwave, cell phone, etcetera is more accessible exposure to RF than the smart meter.

Castor: So, in some of the research I've been doing, I came across an engineer who was looking at different types of smart meters. I think there was a silver spring mesh technology, and the exposure was fairly significant in what it was emitting. It was older and emitting data constantly, they maybe didn't have relay stations that gathered the data and people had to drive by to read them. There was another, maybe Aclara, that they had taken some reading from that that were intermittent and low. What is the technology that you guys are implementing? What brand?

Cody: The meters are built by Aclara, which use to be GE, and they are generation five of a silver spring mesh component.

Knause: Some of the things Tara quoted were ten years ago and smart meters have evolved. We are installing smart meters. People do have an option to opt out and less than 1% of our customers have opted out. There is a monthly fee of \$36 a month if you choose to opt out, you will be paying someone to go out and read your meter. We have 100 years of history to know how much it costs to go site to site. The PUC sets those rates, at it is \$36 a month, but customers can choose to opt out. We do have a fixed bill pilot, it would read your meter once a quarter, and take your 12 months billing and read your meter quarterly, and it would be \$9 a month. This might be implemented as early as March, starting with 200 people and eventually rolling out to everyone. It would read your meter once a quarter, for \$9 a month.

Esslen: We are trying to get more creative for customers who don't want our standard meters, which will be the smart meter.

Castor: So, say there is a significant number or people in Maywood that choose personally to opt out. Is there any threshold for a review of those rates given the efficiency of checking many meters in Maywood?

Esslen: After we install the smart meters we will collect data and are reporting back to the utility commission about what our actual costs are. Idaho doesn't allow opt out. We don't have smart meters anywhere, so we try to take a common activity we do today and report back to the commission about our current cost and then adjust that as things change in the future.

Castor: Will that be based on the entire territory?

Esslen: Yes, we committed to analyzing costs post deployment, and reposting back to the PUC about our costs. They will be an average cost across the state, not territory or franchise based.

Knause: When they come to your house, it will take about 5 minutes to opt out.

Esslen: Dustin, you brought up data security and Tara, you as well. One thing the smart meters don't do is interact with the devices in your home. I have heard of other companies doing this but we didn't think it was prudent or in your best interest. Plus, it brings in security vulnerabilities to our system, since we don't know about your home WIFI network, we don't want that interacting with our network. That isn't a possibility with our smart meter network, to interact with devices inside your home.

All the meters we deploy are tested for accuracy, when we get them, we sample test the meters again to make sure they're accurate. I have heard stories about customers saying bills are doubling and if that's the case, call us. We have had some customers that had an old meter that was slow, and for 20 years they were getting a discount, we install an accurate smart meter and things true up. As for data security, we waited to deploy smart meters to let the products develop and then annually we have another consulting firm come in an attempt to attack our network and pull data off or penetrate the network and do a nefarious thing. That's an annual activity we do to check security.

Williams: Do you guys have any SOC2 compliance?

Esslen: We do. We follow industry standards for security, but we are going through another security audit. I can send you information of documentation of controls, it would be a risk to our data, but also a significant risk to Berkshire Hathaway themselves from a cyber security standpoint. We have the highest standards they have ever encountered from a cyber security standpoint. The FCC sets the standards for RF exposure, and our meters operate at 1.6% of the max limit the FCC has set for exposure.

Williams: And those frequencies are?

Esslen: We operate at 902-928 licensed and a maximum 1-watt radio.

Dustin: What are the implications if a municipality decides to opt out on a municipality wide basis?

Cody: Only individuals decide to opt out, not municipalities. Only customers can opt out, and the City is not our customer.

Rotbart: So, the City couldn't pass an ordinance banning smart meters?

Cody: They certainly could. The Oregon Utility Commission sets our rules and rates, so there is some discussion around that.

Knause: If you choose to opt out it's a simple call to our call center.

Suzanne Raymond: I'd argue that it's not that simple because I think a lot of people have a hard time paying \$36 a month and the pilot program isn't available to everyone.

Knause: It might be available in March.

Raymond: Did you say it's for 200 people.

Knause: Yes, it's just for those people opting out and there aren't that many people choosing that.

Esslen: I think we have had 12 people contact us so far.

Raymond: How many jobs were lost from meter readers?

Knause: Statewide, 100 jobs were affected.

Esslen: We told them 3 years ago that the project was taking place, so we gave them more notice than any industry we have ever heard of, and they are union employees, serviced by Local 125, we went above the contract and offered a severance. Three quarters of the employees have taken other positions in the company since then. That is by far the worst part of the project, is that. It is one of the ways we control costs, this will help us be more efficient.

Rotbart: So are you saying that if the City Council passed an ordinance tonight banning smart meters then Pacific Power would ignore that and install them anyway?

Knause: It's not quite that simple. You're the customer of record. We have a franchise agreement with Maywood Park to serve here, but they are not our customer, you are.

Dustin: That doesn't answer my question, are you saying that if Maywood Park banned smart meters you would come in and install them anyway?

Esslen: If you didn't opt out, then yes. To answer your question without any ambiguity. There is certainly a lot of nuance to it, but generally speaking, if you passed a resolution today to ban smart meters and opt out personally, then we won't install one there, but we will install them everywhere else.

Castor: It is a lot more complicated than just proposing and passing a resolution because of the franchise agreement and the legalities there.

Resident: That pilot program, you mentioned an option where you could do a 12 month where you could pay a standard fee and then re-evaluate annually. Is that available now?

Knause: We hope to have that in place in March. Instead of the meter read every month, it would be read every quarter and your fee would be \$9 per month. We are trying to get that approved as quickly as possible.

Resident: So, what you're saying is once you figure out the quarterly payment its divided by months and they add \$9?

Knause: You take your prior 12 months and figure out what that is per month, plus \$9. And then they have added 7.5% for that to make it as fair as possible. Our hope is to have that approved in March and I can stay in contact and let you know what's happening.

Rotbart: So, to clarify, the franchise agreement prohibits Maywood Park from opting out on a city-wide basis?

Castor: We already have an agreement for what services the franchisee can provide within the city. For us to ban smart meters goes against the legality of that contract, we'd have to take it to court because we'd be in breach of that contract. That's not to say that's not a possibility but that's the course we'd have to take to explore that option.

Knause: Thank you for your time, we'll stick around to talk after the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Castor: Thank you for coming and thank you Tara and Dustin for comments and questions and we'll continue to talk about this. We're going to quickly go through our city agenda so we can wrap this up.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Irwin: Are there any questions on the Treasurer's report?

Castor: The only question I had was about the invoicing from River City doing street sweeping and the quality of the sweeping and the cost of them coming back to fix the problem. We talked with them and they aren't billing us for any of the return visits they made. We'll pay less than we would have, which will show up in the next cycle.

Irwin: I'd like to propose we talk about the audited financial statements at the next meeting?

Castor: Yes, I'd like to have more time. Let's postpone discussing the Comcast franchise agreement as well.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for January 2019 with a final cash balance of \$473,451.19 was approved unanimously as presented.

Castor: AS for PBOT and 102nd update, we are in the final details of approving the IGA with PBOT. No wastewater or franchise updates.

ZONING AND TRANSIT CENTER PATH

Winslow: Still working on commercial ordinance for zoning, in regard to this current property here. Other ordinances being researched are tree trimming ordinance and public records request ordinance. I also attempted to contact appropriate people at Tri-met about the path to the Parkrose transit center.

Castor: I did have a talk with Lt. Lazure at Multnomah county, I'll try that again.

Akers: I have some information on that, I contacted ODOT and currently ODOT and Portland are in this area currently, they said to report to report@pdx.org. They're working in sections on cleanup and removal and they are out near Johnson's creek now. August also said she was unsure about Multnomah County's special unit policy.

Castor: A quick flashback to what we've been discussing; some residents had been having trouble getting to the Parkrose transit center on the path. There had been camping or activities on that path that shouldn't be going on. We are working to address those issues with Tri-met and law enforcement. If you see things going on please report it to 911 or non-emergency and please reach out to the City Council office so we can be made aware of that and communicate it back to the county.

CATCH BASINS

Akers: Catch basin on Shaver I'm still working on, and public works I'm working on a bid with Multnomah County about replacing wood signs.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Montross: Deputy Kaiser touched on almost everything, I talked to him last week one on one and we discussed some of it. We would still like more volunteers for the neighborhood watch program, we can't get everything done with only a few volunteers, so if anyone wants to volunteer get in touch with me.

Castor: Now would be a great time with Kaiser who ran Park Watch for other cities.

Montross: We can do a get together and have him talk and give us more info about what we should and shouldn't do.

Castor: I think coming in to spring we can get him in and hold a safety summit and get park watch going again.

IT and TRAFFIC STUDY

Williams: We still have lights on the tree at the bump out, Christmas lights are being removed, website sitemap is in progress I distributed it to the council, and no updates on codification. I met with someone from Clay Vika's team for where we will put traffic bands for the new traffic count, an additional 7 spots.

Davey: January reconciliation is done; commons lighting update is done; scheduling work session is done and one was added for April 8th, for general business.

Castor: Have we gotten any feedback from residents about the new lights in the commons?

Davey: None.

Steffen: I'm satisfied with it.

Resident: Is that on all night?

Castor: No, its' a motion sensor, it's on low intensity until it detects motion and it goes to full strength.

Irwin: Internal controls will be presented next meeting. Budget officer is completed and budget calendar is completed.

Castor: Any non-agenda items or new business anyone would like to bring up? (No.)

Meeting was adjourned at 8:26pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Higgins.