

**COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 22, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Solesbee called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Recorder Mindy Roberts called the roll. The following were

PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS: Mayor Candace Solesbee, Councilors Alex Dreher, Greg Ervin, Mike Fleck, Dana Merryday, Chalice Savage and Jon Stinnett

PRESENT VIA ZOOM WEBINAR:

COUNCIL ABSENT:

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE:

STAFF PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS: City Manager Mike Sauerwein, Assistant City Manager Jake Boone, City Recorder Mindy Roberts, Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart, Police Chief Cory Chase and Assistant City Planner Leni Crow

STAFF PRESENT VIA ZOOM WEBINAR: Finance Director Roberta Likens

CITY ATTORNEY: Carrie Connelly

MEDIA PRESENT: KNND, The Chronicle

POLICE OFFICER SWEARING IN

Police Chief Cory Chase introduced newly hired Police Officer Luke Monahan and Dispatcher Jessica Herrera and proceeded with the Swearing-In Ceremony for Officer Luke Monahan.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Solesbee read the Water Safety Month Proclamation aloud and presented it to Pool Supervisor Shane Dye.

PRESENTATION

(a) Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center Report

Pool Supervisor Shane Dye presented the Aquatic Center Annual Report, utilizing a slide deck, attached as Exhibit A. He shared his community, educational and background experiences, statistics regarding pool use, costs and benefits to pool users, and opportunities in aquatics. He acknowledged the importance of City financial support and said in order to maintain the current rates for users, the City will need to increase support to \$90,000.

Councilor Merryday shared a recent positive experience taking his Life Skills class to the pool.

(b) Legislative Update by Representative Charlie Conrad

Representative Charlie Conrad provided Council a summary of the legislative short session including:

- Highlighted his representation of House District 12 and the area it encompasses.
- Shared information regarding committees that he is appointed to.
- Explained the differences of a short legislative session compared to a long session.
- Shared the number of measures and bills submitted and those that passed.
- Explained two house bills that he put forward, HB 4043 and HB 4056, when they were signed by the Governor and what they will accomplish.
- Shared efforts to secure capital funding for projects.
- Explained HB 4002, the projects it will be funding, including \$3 million to Cottage Grove to help with infrastructure for a housing project.
- Explained and answered questions regarding a number of key Senate Bills that were passed and what they will support.

Council asked how to advocate funding for street improvements and projects like a Skate Park.

Representative Conrad shared that there are larger amounts of money for projects related to capital projects such as water, infrastructure, housing and emergency management. He said anytime a project can be linked to one or more of those areas, and the more a project is ready to advance, it makes it easier for him to advocate for.

ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA

None

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

(a) Items not on the Agenda

Michael Garwood said he is in Cottage Grove visiting his mom and that she asked him to express her concern for the conditions of the streets.

Aaron Cochran said although he is not a Cottage Grove resident, he is a VFW member and a retired Oregon National Guardsmen who was once assigned to the Cottage Grove Armory. He said he is interested in volunteering and contributing to the community and added that his specific interest is to create a fitness area in parks.

(b) Action Items on the Agenda

None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) Approval of April 5, 2024 Agenda Session Minutes
- (b) Approval of April 8, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes
- (c) Bike Month Proclamation
- (d) Building Safety Month Proclamation
- (e) Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation
- (f) National Cities, Towns and Villages Month Proclamation
- (g) Resolution Amending the Fee Schedule Adopted by Ordinance No. 2361

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN TO REMOVE ITEM (G) FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND MOVE IT TO ITEM (14) (A).

Mayor Solesbee announced the motion with a second and called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Dreher	Councilor Ervin	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Merryday	Councilor Savage	Councilor Stinnett	Mayor Solesbee
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

Motion carried.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SAVAGE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Mayor Solesbee announced the motion with a second and called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Dreher	Councilor Ervin	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Merryday	Councilor Savage	Councilor Stinnett	Mayor Solesbee
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

(a) Resolution Adopting the 2023 Cottage Grove Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

Assistant City Planner Leni Crow provided Council a three year history of the planning and preparation for the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan and shared the benefits of having the plan. She said the plan has been reviewed by FEMA and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management for compliance and once adopted by Council it would receive final approval.

Councilor Ervin highlighted scrivener’s errors, expressed concern about references to the City having a taxi service and asked if the plan reflects changes made to the new floodplain maps.

Public Works and Development Director said the plan reflects what is currently in place and not necessarily the new floodplain maps. He said at this point changes cannot be made to the approved plan with the exception of minor changes like scrivener’s errors.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO 2133.

Councilor Savage asked clarification regarding the expiration date of the plan.

Assistant City Planner responded that the end date is April 21, 2029.

Councilor Fleck called Point of Order and indicated the motion is being discussed without a second.

COUNCILOR SAVAGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO 2133.

Mayor Solesbee announced the motion with a second and called for discussion.

Seeing none, Mayor Solesbee called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Dreher	Councilor Ervin	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Merryday	Councilor Savage	Councilor Stinnett	Mayor Solesbee
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

Resolution No. 2133 Adopted.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

(a) Award of South R Street Right of Way Improvements Contract

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart explained the bid process, listed the publications used to advertise and shared that nine bids were received ranging from \$618,333.25 to \$828,201.68. He said Pacific Excavation provided the low bid and it is recommended by the City Engineer of Branch Engineering to award them the contract.

He explained the project and added that it would be funded from the collected System Development fees.

Mayor Solesbee announced a Conflict of Interest. She said that her step son-in-law works for Pacific Excavation and she will recuse herself from the discussion and the vote.

Mayor Solesbee left the Council Chambers.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK THAT CITY COUNCIL AWARD THE SOUTH R STREET RIGHT OF WAY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT TO PACIFIC EXCAVATION AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE CONTRACT AND ALL ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS.

Councilor Merryday proceeded to ask a question.

Councilor Fleck called Point of Order.

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart reiterated that after a motion is made there must be a second before discussion can take place.

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SAVAGE.

Councilor Merryday asked if Pacific Excavation had done other projects for the City in the past.

Public Works and Development Director responded that Pacific Excavation had completed approximately five projects for the City and added that they did an excellent job on all of them.

Council President Greg Ervin announced the motion with a second and called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Dreher	Councilor Ervin	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Merryday	Councilor Savage	Councilor Stinnett	Mayor Solesbee
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

Motion carried.

Mayor Solesbee returned to the Council Chambers.

(b) Concerns from Council

Council reports, comments and discussion included:

- Councilor Savage questioned if there were plans to install a fitness park at Bohemia Park, thanked Public Works and Development Director for working to get a basketball hoop located at a park with a concrete slab, shared knowledge of a building vacancy tax in other communities and reminded Council that she will be attending the NLC Board Meeting in June.

Public Works and Development Director responded that different groups had held discussions in the past regarding the creation of fitness parks and he said none of them had progressed past the conceptual phase. He clarified that the basketball hoop being placed on the concrete slab is a portable style at this time.

- Councilor Dreher announced that she attended Municipal Court on Thursday to witness court proceedings, expressed interest in utilizing the County deflection program created in response to Measure 110 reform, and reported on the League of Oregon Cities Government Policy Committee meeting.

Police Chief Cory Chase shared that the deflection program will be defined by the County and added that all Police Chiefs within the county will be involved in the discussions and process.

- Councilor Fleck reported on the Lane Area Commission on Transportation (Lane ACT) and Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) meetings and reminded Council that a motion must be seconded before discussion can be held or the motion dies.
- Councilor Merryday expressed concern that the Homelessness Work Session on May 18, is only scheduled for a half day and expressed interest in locating examples of how other communities address vacant buildings.

City Manager Mike Sauerwein responded that he would like to see examples as to how other cities have handled building vacancies. He added that Staff is prepared to hold a full day Work Session on May 18 if that is what Council desires.

- Councilor Ervin expressed appreciation for meeting with the City Manager and Finance Director to discuss the budget and said he looks forward to reviewing it as a Council. He shared renewed interest in continuing Skate Park discussions and Councilor Merryday proceeded by sharing that the YARG foundation had extended the grant period in order to complete the community input.
- Mayor Solesbee asked if the information being shared at Executive Session ORS 192.660 (2) (f) to Consider Information or Records that are Exempt by Law from Public Inspection had to be done in an Executive Session. She said that she believes there is a benefit for the public to hear the discussions.

City Attorney Carrie Connelly responded that it would be Council's privilege to waive. She suggested that the Executive Session be held to consider the information and then Council could decide if they wanted to waive their privilege.

City Recorder shared that five of the seven Council members had previewed the documents.

Mayor Solesbee suggested that the remaining Council members have an opportunity to preview the documents and then they could make a decision to have an Executive Session or a public meeting.

City Attorney responded that she prefers having a private discussion with Council first and then Council could decide next steps. She added that waiving attorney-client privilege is not something to take lightly and she would want to talk about the options.

Discussion was held to consider holding the scheduled Executive Session or postponing until all Council members had previewed the documents.

Councilor Ervin asked if the documents that were previewed, are considered the Executive Session. He expressed concern that if Council enters an Executive Session meeting, it is restricting them and they cannot discuss things openly. He added that there was freedom to talk about the subject matter prior to the confidential document.

City Attorney clarified that each Councilor had been invited to review a privileged confidential communication from attorney to client. She added that an individual Councilor does not have the right to waive the privilege and the Executive Session was being held to discuss the contents of the document.

Councilor Ervin clarified that the subject matter and the concerns raised are not exclusive to the Executive Session or attorney-client privilege, but the attorney input on the matters is what cannot be discussed.

Discussion continued and Council expressed varying opinions about holding the Executive Session at tonight's meeting as scheduled, reconsidering it for a later time or not having it at all.

Council reached a consensus to extend the meeting by thirty minutes to complete the business of the regular meeting.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

(a) Report from City Manager

City Manager report included:

- Shared his positive experiences of being involved with the creation of two skate parks in other communities.
- Shared the need to evaluate the process for scheduling reservations for City facilities.
- Announced that the Eugene Symphony is scheduled for July 22 and said Council will need to consider rescheduling the Council meeting on that night.
- Announced that the President has signed the Emergency Proclamation regarding the ice storm and that Staff is in the process of submitting the application for assistance.
- Shared the tentative agenda for the May 18 homelessness work session and offered the opportunity for it to be a full day meeting.

Council expressed opinions regarding the desired length of time for the work session.

BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY

(a) Report from City Attorney

City Attorney Carrie Connelly clarified that the Council Rules do not require a motion to remove an item for the Consent Agenda.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Resolution Amending the Fee Schedule Adopted by Ordinance No. 2361

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2134.

Mayor Solesbee announced the motion with a second and called for discussion.

Seeing none she called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Dreher	Councilor Ervin	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Merryday	Councilor Savage	Councilor Stinnett	Mayor Solesbee
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

Resolution No. 2134 adopted.

City Attorney informed Council that resolutions can be on the Consent Agenda but because this resolution involved fees, removing it provided an opportunity for public comment.

Mayor Solesbee announced that Executive Session (b) was cancelled because there was no content to share at this time.

Councilor Ervin asked if Executive Session (a) is necessary. He said the requested information has been received and asked what else there is to do.

City Attorney responded that the Executive Session is not required. She reiterated that the document is a confidential communication from attorney to client and if it is discussed, it would need to be in an Executive Session.

Mayor Solesbee suggested that the remaining Councilors take the opportunity to read the documents and then Council could decide if an Executive Session is needed.

City Attorney suggested that individual Councilors could report their desire to the City Manager.

Mayor Solesbee indicated there was a consensus to provide the remaining Councilors an opportunity to review the documents and then Council would determine if an Executive Session is desired.

Councilor Dreher asked to clarify that Council can read the privileged material but cannot talk about it, regardless if an Executive Session is held, because the material is privileged.

City Attorney said that is correct.

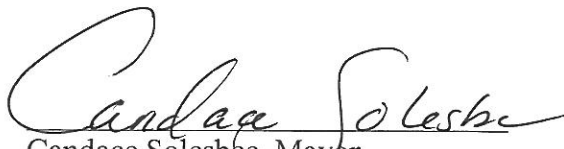
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Solesbee adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 9:26 pm.

The next regular City Council Meeting will be held May 13, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.



Mindy Roberts, City Recorder

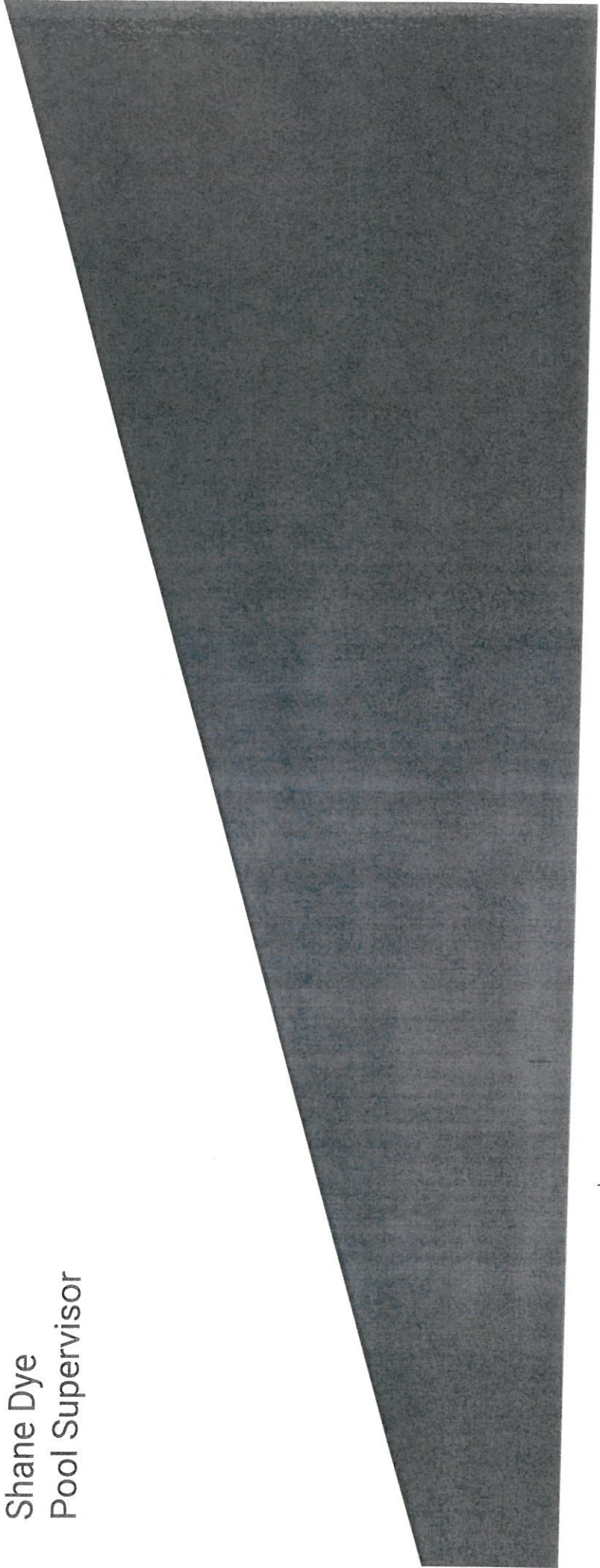


Candace Solesbee, Mayor

Exhibit A

Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center Presentation

Shane Dye
Pool Supervisor



Who am I--

My Background:

- I am a graduate of Cottage Grove HS 82
- 20 year Navy veteran
- Navy Swim instructor during my Navy years
- It has been my life work teaching people to swim and eliminate drowning.
- Certified Pool Operator

As the Aquatic Center Supervisor.

- Manage and Operate the Center
- Coach the varsity water polo and swim team
- Evaluate all of the employees and programs

I have a lot of help doing all of these things from our pool staff made up with students and members of the community. They do a good job.

Community programs at the pool.

- ★ Lap Swim
- ★ Independent work out
- ★ Ai Chi and quiet Ai Chi
- ★ Aquasizers
- ★ Movers and shakers
- ★ Mermaids
- ★ Water Babies
- ★ Walk and Strength
- ★ Recreation Swim
- ★ Community Swim Lessons
- ★ Aqua Aerobics

Community Pool Use

The pool is open to the Community for a total of **47.75** hours each week.

M-5:30 AM-12:00 PM, 5:30-8:30PM

Tu-7:30 AM-12:00 PM, 3-4PM, 6-8:00PM

Wed-5:30AM-1PM, 3-4 PM, 5:30-8:30PM

Th-7:30 AM-12:00 PM, 3-4PM, 6-8 PM

Fr-5:30AM-12:00PM, 6:45-8:30PM

Sat-8:30AM-12:00PM

Pool is available for pool rental Saturday afternoon and some Sundays.

How Many people from the community use the pool every month?

July 2023 - 2,103

August 2023 - 2,037

September 2023 - 1,472

October 2023 - 1,465

November 2023 - 1,571

December 2023 - 2,071

January 2024 - 1,602

February 2024 - 2,023

March 2024 - 2,599

For a grand total of 16, 943 with **3 months to go** in the fiscal year.

For the fiscal year ended 2023 16,671 community members utilized the pool.

Who uses the pool
the most every
month?

Of our Community members, Seniors utilize the pool
by a wide margin-

January 2024- 844 (52% of total for January)

February 2024- 1,129 (55% of total for February)

March 2024- 1,076 (41% of total for March)

Costs-Community Members

For the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year

- The cost per person using the pool is **\$21.58** per visit.
- The City currently funds each person that uses the pool for a community program at a cost of \$4.49 per visit per person.
- The School District funds **\$13.08** for every person that uses the pool.
- The fees charged to individuals at the pool are \$4.00 per visit.
- Without City support, community members would have paid \$8.49 per visit.

Projected costs for 2023-2024

- Increase in personnel costs (minimum wage increase, benefits)
- Chemical and other supply cost increases
- Increased costs in regular maintenance
- Costs to repair/replace physical/mechanical plant

To maintain current rates for Community members, the City will need to increase their support by 17% (\$90,000).

This year we hosted
14 High School
swimming
competitions as well
as the State YMCA
meet

The pool brings people to Cottage Grove.

When teams come to compete they go to local businesses and buy food, fuel or stay overnight.

At the state YMCA meet, 165 swimmers and their families competed in our pool January 27-28.

I went to Pinocchio's after the relay meet December 1, and two full teams were eating and having fun.

All students in Cottage Grove learn how to swim.

The number 1 Water Safety rule is learn how to swim. It is the most important Water Safety Rule.

So far this year fiscal year 1,210 children have taken swimming lessons at the pool. The students have learned quickly!

Swimming helps behavior in young people.

Swimming gives young people in Cottage Grove an opportunity for recreation, fun, and enjoyment in a safe environment.

If we don't give our young people that opportunity, trust me, they will find other things to do. Sometimes not always the right thing.

Benefits of swimming in the pool.

How do you feel after swimming?

It feels the same after taking a shower or a bath. It makes you feel good.

Swimming helps keep a your heart and lungs healthy because it works the entire body. Swimming enhances balance and posture, improves strength and boosts stamina.

Swimming releases endorphins, improves sleep patterns and enhances appetite and coordination.

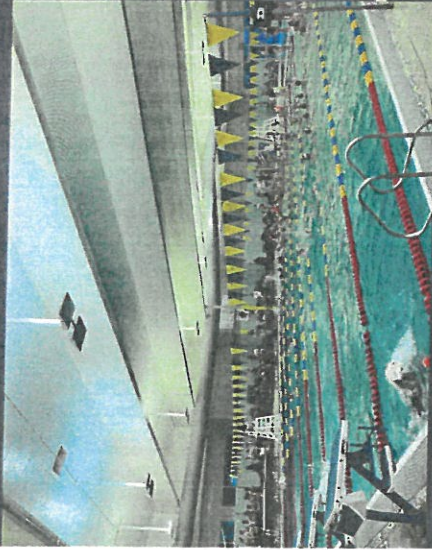
Mental benefits of swimming include improving mood, lowering depression, and boosts self esteem.

There is a lot of opportunity in Aquatics

- ★ Lifeguard certification
- ★ Water safety instructor
- ★ Military opportunity
- ★ Swimming instruction
- ★ Certified pool operator
- ★ Aquatic Management

Our country is at an all time low for certified trained aquatic people.

Thank you!



Thank you for your time.