Yearly Budget And Argonaut Mine Clean Up Top JCC Meeting

The Jackson City Council has adopted a city budget for the year and heard plans to clean up the Argonaut Mine tailings site. The city’s budget has been delayed and battered by COVID-19. Uncertainty caused by the pandemic has delayed the adoption of the budget by several months, and the city projects significant hits to its sales tax and transient occupancy tax due to the virus and associated containment measures. The council also heard a presentation by the representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency on plans for the long term clean-up of the Argonaut Mine tailings. In recent years state and federal authorities completed efforts to reinforce the Sutter Street Dam containing the remains of years of gold mining and processing, which contained dangerous heavy metals such as arsenic and mercury. The EPA plans on doing some work this fall, including new fencing for the site and removal of soil near some historic buildings. Also proposed is a large-scale project for summer 2021, in which large amounts of soil will be removed and the site will be covered with a plastic liner and then clean soil brought in to cover the site.

