

**CITY OF JOHN DAY
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
JOHN DAY, OREGON**

August 25, 2015

Adjourned Meeting

COUNCILORS PRESENT:

Ron Lundbom, Mayor
Paul Smith, Councilor
Lisa Weigum, Councilor
Gregg Haberly, Councilor

COUNCILORS ABSENT:

Steve Schuette, Council President
Donn Willey, Councilor
Louis Provencher, Councilor

STAFF PRESENT:

Peggy Gray, City Manager
Lance Woodcock, Public Works Director
Richard Gray, Police Chief

GUESTS PRESENT:

Matt Turner, Canyon City Fire Chief
Phil Gray, KJDY

Agenda Item No. 1 – Open and Note Attendance

The John Day City Council meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Ron Lundbom noted that all Councilors were present with the exception of Councilors Steve Schuette, Donn Willey and Louis Provencher, who were absent and excused.

Agenda Item No. 2 – Approval of City Council Minutes of August 11, 2015

The minutes of the August 11, 2015 adjourned meeting were included in the agenda packets and were presented for the Council's approval.

Councilor Paul Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of August 11, 2015 as presented. Councilor Gregg Haberly seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 3 - Appearance of Interested Citizens

Mayor Lundbom welcomed those in attendance and asked everyone to please sign in.

Agenda Item No. 4 – Canyon City Fire Chief Matt Turner Update on Canyon Creek Complex Fire

Mayor Lundbom welcomed Canyon City Fire Chief Matt Turner, who was present to update the Council on the Canyon Creek Complex Fire as John Day Fire Chief Ron Smith was out of town.

Fire Chief Turner reported the fire was 29% contained as of that morning. Fire Chief Turner passed out fire maps showing the fire line. Fire Chief Turner explained the area in red is still active fire, the black line means they are in the mop up stage. He explained there are a couple of spots on Fall Mountain that are still active. He explained the Fall Mountain area is a critical infrastructure point for our communication in the county and they are very much aware of that and they are working hard on it.

Councilor Paul Smith asked about the major power line that runs through that area. Fire Chief Turner explained there is a 138 kw line that comes up from Burns and when it was down they (OTEC) rerouted power from Baker City from Idaho Power. They (OTEC) also brought in a big generator from Seattle that could be used to run critical services in case the power went down. Fire Chief Turner explained Fall Mountain was very secure as they had two 20 person crews up there for a couple of days.

Fire Chief Turner stated they are working hard on the fire and the north line was very secure. He said unless we get a south or southeast wind, then we're going to have something to worry about. Fire Chief Turner stated Mother Nature is who started it and she will be the one to put it out; it's too big to get in there and put everything out.

Fire Chief Turner stated upper Dog Creek and upper Pine Creek are still at a level III evacuation. Fire Chief Turner stated the State Fire Marshal de-mobilized on Sunday. He stated we had 45 structure engines from around the state as far as task forces from different counties that get together and send. Last night he had to call back the State Fire Marshal and they sent four new task forces back and they are back up there for structure protection. They will probably be here until Thursday and we'll see how things go by then. Weather and winds were discussed with northwesterly winds being predicted later in the week.

Mayor Lundbom asked if they were fighting the fire in the wilderness area. Fire Chief Turner stated no, they are letting it burn as they don't have the resources to fight it. With all the other fires going around the state and in Washington, resources are very limited.

Fire Chief Turner stated the Jerry's Draw fire is contained and the last he heard the Frog Pond fire was at 15 acres and they were working on it. It was noted that archery season opens on Saturday.

Mayor Lundbom asked about flooding mitigation. Fire Chief Turner stated it is being talked about and they have a crew coming to look at possible flooding issues. He also stated they have a national restoration team coming to look at the vegetation. City Manager Gray stated they will also work with the private property to mitigate their lands along with the federal lands. Mayor Lundbom stated we just can't sit here and know this will happen (flooding); we need to make sure that we get it done and to know that it will work. Discussion continued that both the City of John Day and the Town of Canyon City need to be at the table when the flooding mitigation discussions begin and make sure they have input and are heard. Mayor Lundbom stated we need to let people (property owners) know who live along the creek that this is what might happen (referring to possible flooding). Public Works Director Lance Woodcock agreed that would be the best action.

Fire Chief Turner stated he had a conversation with Fire Chief Ron Smith about the bridges over the creek. He was hoping that the City Council would support him as he would like to see the bridges that were burnt during fire, rebuilt to the correct building code and be either concrete or steel deck. Councilor Gregg Haberly stated “there is the problem that is going to ruin John Day and Grant County.” He said he can tell you houses up the creek that won’t get rebuilt because DEQ is going to get involved when they go to the county to get a building permit. He also stated when you get the government involved in this mess; you’re going to lose a bunch of people in this community because they can’t afford to do it. Fire Chief Matt Turner stated we had firefighters getting trapped on the other side of the bridge because they couldn’t get back over them. Fire Chief Turner stated it’s going to come to the point that if anybody has a wood bridge, we’re not fighting their house fire. Mayor Lundbom said he asked what the county was going to do about the bridges that burned up at the Governor’s meeting. Commissioner Chris Labhart stated they had their engineer looking at rebuilding them and had Malheur Lumber building some planks for them. He didn’t know if that was a temporary thing or whether they’re going to try to push for cement ones. Councilor Haberly stated he understood that a fire truck needs to be able to cross the bridges. Fire Chief Turner stated and we don’t want our firefighters stuck on the other side, he stated luckily we didn’t lose any lives. He went on to say we lost a lot of homes, outbuildings and people were displaced which is a tragedy for the community, but thank God we didn’t lose any lives. It really could have been something different the way it came down the canyon.

Mayor Lundbom asked if there were any more questions for Fire Chief Turner and thanked him for coming. Fire Chief Turner stated his department is on standby for anything that shows up for anything outside of the perimeter of the fire (spot fires etc.) and the county resources are responsible for taking care of the spot fires. Fire Chief Turner explained the mutual aid agreements the fire departments have with the cities; we also have a mutual aid agreement with ODF which wraps around and through the federal forest because we can’t have a direct mutual aid agreement with the federal government. Fire Chief Turner stated those mutual aid agreements are invaluable and was proven by the assistance we received during the fire (retardant planes, tankers etc.).

Agenda Item No. 5 – Discuss for Signature Grant Contract with The Oregon Community Foundation

City Manager Gray informed the Council on August 17, 2015 the City of John Day received a \$200,000.00 check from Meyer Memorial Trust Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation to build a community room and kitchen in the City’s new fire station. City Manager Gray asked the Council to allow Mayor Lundbom to sign the grant contract with Oregon Community Foundation.

City Manager Gray also informed the Council that the City has received or has secured the following funds for the community room:

Oregon Community Foundation	\$ 21,000 – Check received
Trust Management Services	\$ 9,170 – Check received
Meyer Memorial Trust	\$200,000 – Check received
Ford Family Trust	\$200,000 – Grant check will be forwarded on September 15, 2015

In addition the City has applied for a \$40,000 grant with The Collins Foundation; they are currently reviewing our application and have contacted City Manager Gray with some follow-up questions. The City is also looking into another grant application with the Joyce Miller Owens Charitable Foundation. This foundation is associated with Azure Farms in Dufur, which is why the Dufur Fire Station received

funding. Mayor Ron Lundbom informed the Council that Azure Farms also owns property in Kimberly and Monument, so the City may have a connection that would provide them an incentive to consider funding in John Day.

Councilor Paul Smith moved the John Day City Council allows Mayor Lundbom to sign Grant Contract #248019 with The Oregon Community Foundation to build a community room and kitchen in the City’s new fire station. Councilor Lisa Weigum seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 5 – Other Business and Upcoming Meetings

1. LOC Bulletins were included in the Council packets. Mayor Lundbom noted that he and City Manager Gray would be attending the Annual LOC Conference in Bend in September.
2. Mayor Lundbom read a letter from Senator Ron Wyden thanking him for his assistance for the July 2015 Town Hall meeting.
3. Mayor Ron Lundbom presented a Certificate of Appreciation award to Phil Gray of KJDY. Mr. Gray has sold the radio station and will be retiring next month and the City of John Day wanted to acknowledge and thank him for his service to our community.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the Council, Councilor Gregg Haberly made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Paul Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Peggy Gray
City Manager

ACCEPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

Mayor Ron Lundbom