

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

February 14, 2017

Adjourned Meeting

COUNCILORS PRESENT:

Ron Lundbom, Mayor
Paul Smith, Councilor
David Holland, Councilor
Lisa Weigum, Councilor

COUNCILORS ABSENT:

Steve Schuette, Council President
Gregg Haberly, Councilor
Donn Willey, Councilor

STAFF PRESENT:

Nicholas Green, City Manager
Monte Legg, Public Works Director
Janine Weaver, Secretary

GUESTS PRESENT:

Larry Maplesden, John Day
Bonnie Maplesden, John Day
Rylan Boggs, Blue Mountain Eagle

Agenda Item No. 1 – Open and Note Attendance

The John Day City Council meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Lundbom noted Councilor Schuette, Councilor Haberly and Councilor Willey were absent and excused.

Agenda Item No. 2 – Approval of City Council Minutes of January 14, 2017

The minutes of the January 24, 2017 City Council meeting were included in the agenda packets and were presented for the Council's approval.

Councilor Holland moved to adopt the minutes. Councilor Smith seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 3 – Appearance of Interested Citizens

Mayor Lundbom welcomed visitors in the audience.

Agenda Item No. 4 – Report on City Manager's Trip to Salem

City Manager Green said his trip to Salem was over all good. He met with Wendy Johnson, the Inter-Governmental Affairs Coordinator for bills dealing with taxation and finance, about language around the 911 tax. City Manager Green had speeches and meetings with the Speaker of the House; the Senate Minority Leader, Senator Ferrioli; Governor Brown and a handful of other people. Each spoke for 10 to 15 minutes on the legislative priorities for the general assembly on the second day of the trip. On the

third day, City Manager Green lobbied with Representative Bentz and Senator Ferrioli, attended a public hearing and worked the halls about 911 funding and the City's broadband request.

The broadband is looking positive. City Manager Green thinks the City will receive public money to help fund the broadband. The plan was discussed in general terms and City Manager Green provided a rough dollar figure. City Manager Green said we are making progress and everyone has been very hopeful.

The 911 tax reform process is ineffectual. There are many competing interests: large dispatch centers vs. small dispatch centers, rural vs. metro, should the tax be raised vs. not. The representatives acknowledged the redistribution proposed has not been considered before and they have never looked at a county's ability to pay. They have only looked at population and percentage being funded. City Manager Green is trying to reframe the conversation. It is not that the tax is funding 50% of our costs and only 19% of Portland's; it is that the 50% we have to make up is a huge portion of our tax base while 50% of Portland's is small enough to be much less noticeable. City Manager Green is trying to get them to understand they are not funding 911; they are funding half of 911 for the smallest dispatch centers. City Manager Green does not believe it was ever the legislature's intent for us to reduce our police force to fund 911 services. This would mean no one would be available to respond to calls when they do come in. Representative Bentz committed that if City Manager Green would do the work with Representative Bentz's staff, Rep. Bentz would walk the hall with it.

Councilor Smith reiterated that we are not looking for an increase in taxes but a more equitable distribution of the current tax dollars. Even though we have a small dispatch center, it covers a large geographical area. Representative Bentz asked City Manager Green if 911 could be funded locally through property tax. City Manager Green said he would be interested in hearing ideas for local funding but does not see this as a real option. City Manager Green pointed out that the people with the least ability to pay are being asked to spend the highest percentage of their tax base on the essential 911 service that anyone can use. It is not restricted to Oregon residents or the county.

City Manager Green believes another trip to Salem in a month or two will be likely to present a concrete proposal that at least has to be considered. Councilor Smith asked if City Manager Green got the impression that the state deficit was a part of the problem. City Manager Green pointed out that the democrats feel there is a deficit while the republicans are saying there is only a deficit if all the current programs are chosen to be funded again with the standard increase. City Manager Green said the transportation package is dominating everything. There is around 1,800 bills and the majority of them will go nowhere. The 911 tax is an uphill battle but City Manager Green will continue to reframe the discussion to at least get a public hearing stating our position. City Manager Green will show who would win and who would lose with a 2% redistribution across the board as well as a 2% in rural communities and 1% in the others. City Manager Green will also explain that the Moro decision will take us 12 years to get back to breaking even on our unfunded liability.

City Manager Green is asking the legislature to address the 911 tax this year. City Manager Green, Valerie Maynard and Anna Bass have been working on a backup plan where each city would pay per resident the same rate and the county pays for the unincorporated residents. Councilor Holland pointed out there is no way to enforce this. City Manager Green thinks he can persuade the cities knowing the consequences of cutting services due to lack of funding.

Agenda Item No. 5 – Annual Public Safety Reports (Draft)

Mayor Lundbom pointed out that the public safety report presentation has been postponed until the next meeting but a draft is included for councilors to preview and prepare questions.

Agenda Item No. 6 – A Resolution of the John Day City Council Recommending Restoring Recreational Immunity

City Manager Green said this is one of the League's four main priorities. It was not on our radar but the League has asked each municipality to pass a resolution that we are in favor of immunity for all public employees. The decision made by the Supreme Court creates a liability for cities. Although the decision provides immunity for the cities, it does not provide immunity for the city employees or private land owner employees. The resolution is in support of the state changing the statute.

Councilor Holland moved to adopt Resolution 17-766-02. Councilor Weigum seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 7 – Public Hearing for Sale of Old Fire Hall

City Manager Green explained that under Oregon law after approving a seller, a public hearing must be held. Last council meeting, the council approved the Maplesdens to purchase the Old Fire Hall and this is the public hearing. The City decided to sell the Old Fire Hall because it is no longer needed. The Council agreed the Maplesdens reason for purchasing were valid.

Mayor Lundbom asked if there was anyone present who would like to protest the sale of the Old Fire Hall to the Maplesdens. There was no public testimony.

City Manager Green gave the Maplesdens the Purchase and Sale Agreement. Councilor Smith has heard nothing but positive remarks about the sale of the property. Mr. Larry Maplesden asked if a company check could replace a cashier's check for the remainder of the purchase price. City Manager Green believes the agreement can be amended for the company check. City Manager confirmed the City will be paying closing costs. City Manager Green said the City will look at the heating to see if more fuel is needed.

Council Holland moved to approve the Purchase and Sale Agreement pending agreement of the purchasers. Councilor Weigum seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 8 – Other Business and Upcoming Meetings

1. February 23rd, 11 AM GIS interview with Anderson Perry to talk with staff
2. February 28th is the next City Council Meeting.
3. March 30th is Elected Essentials Training in Ontario. City Manager Green and Mayor Lundbom will discuss attending the Region 8 Small Cities Meeting.

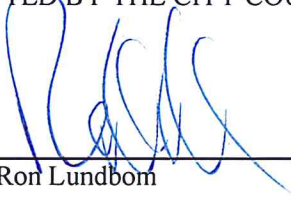
Adjourn

There being no further business before the Council, Councilor Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Holland seconded and the session was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicholas Green
City Manager

ACCEPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FEBRUARY 28TH, 2017



Mayor Ron Lundbom