

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

**February 28, 2017**

**Adjourned Meeting**

**COUNCILORS PRESENT:**

Ron Lundbom, Mayor  
Paul Smith, Councilor  
David Holland, Councilor  
Lisa Weigum, Councilor  
Steve Schuette, Council President  
Gregg Haberly, Councilor  
Donn Willey, Councilor

**COUNCILORS ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Nicholas Green, City Manager  
Monte Legg, Public Works Director  
Janine Weaver, Secretary  
Valarie Maynard, Emergency Communications Center Manager  
Richard Gray, Chief of Police  
Damond Rand, Police Sergeant

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Rylan Boggs, Blue Mountain Eagle  
Mytchell Mead, Grant County Economic Council

**Agenda Item No. 1 – Open and Note Attendance**

The John Day City Council meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Lundbom noted all councilors were present.

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

The minutes of the February 14, 2017, City Council meeting were included in the agenda packets and were presented for the Council's approval. Councilor Holland noted the minutes should be amended to reflect the correct year of 2017 rather than 2016.

**Councilor Holland moved to adopt the minutes as amended. Councilor Weigum seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item No. 3 – Appearance of Interested Citizens**

Mayor Lundbom welcomed visitors in the audience.

**Agenda Item No. 7 – Annual Public Safety Report**

Mayor Lundbom explained that to ensure there was enough time for the Public Safety Report; the council would be starting at agenda item seven and eight.

City Manager Green stated the Public Safety Report is beginning a baseline to help make more informed decisions on workforce and deployment. The information in the report is for 2016 with the intention of making the Public Safety Report annually. The report is a comprehensive view of how time is exerted as well as challenges and successes the department is facing.

Chief Gray briefed the council on the police department section of the report. Noting the report shows where the department is spending a lot of their time and the drug and animal complaint issues. Page five addresses the ongoing challenges of the department. He stated the dollar amount is an issue but City Manager Green has been great working with the state to find funding for the department. Page seven notes notable arrests made by the department. Many of the arrests do not go to the jury and are plead out with the District Attorney's office instead. The warrants served covers Prairie City and John Day.

Chief Gray pointed out the areas where Grant County was higher than the state average: simple assault was 12% higher, drug law violations was 26% higher, all other behavioral crimes was 26% higher, disorderly conduct was 38% higher, DUII (including drug impaired) was 116% higher and liquor law violations (including over-serves and MIPs) was 138% higher.

Chief Gray explained Sergeant Rand's request to make a drug box. The box is located outside the dispatch door with 24 hour surveillance. The box allows citizens to drop off unwanted medications without having to come inside or the dispatchers having to take prescriptions from citizens. It is a modified newspaper box with a double lock system. The prescriptions are then disposed of. The OPS will take shipments to Salem if someone is going, the DEA will send shipping labels, or the department will burn them when burning other items. 230 pounds of prescriptions were disposed of by the department last year. Chief Gray said they do try to keep liquids and needles out of the box. Chief Gray will process the liquid and needles to take to Blue Mountain Hospital to dispose of. \$221 was used on refurbishing the drop box. New prescription drop boxes cost between \$850 and \$2,500.

Chief Gray went over the final animal complaint numbers for John Day and Prairie City. There were 18 barking complaints, 27 at large only complaints, 7 at large and attacked animal complaints, 6 bit a person complaints, and 11 other complaints for a total of 69 complaints. The police department and Hope 4 Paws met together to partner and become more proactive for citizens and animals that are strays. Chief Gray believes public awareness and citizens knowing they will be held accountable has helped with the animal control situation. Mayor Lundbom has noticed increased owner awareness around the city.

Chief Gray updated the council on social media, noting the City webpage is up and running and the progress of a department Facebook page. City Manager Green said with the website's ability for user feedback, the hope is to have a two way communication platform.

Chief Gray pointed out the total years of service and 2016 training hours per officer. He has been trying to get as much training hosted locally as possible. Not only does this save the department money but it gives other local law enforcement the opportunity to attend. There have been multiple local trainings attended, including active shooter training, CPR, child sex crimes, Kaly's Law training for injured children and many additional trainings. Chief Gray also mentioned each officer's certification level: Chief Gray has Advanced, Sergeant Rand has Intermediate, Officer Durr has Advanced, Officer Moore has Intermediate and Officer Martin has Basic pending Academy and minimum time employed.

The police department's vehicles are getting to be high mileage needing more upkeep and repairs. The shooting range was updated in 2008 and is still being maintained and used. Each officer performed 16 hours of training during 2016 at the shooting range.

City Manager Green updated the council about the costs of police services. He explained that the League of Oregon Cities collects data annually from each municipality. The included table reflects 2015 data for departments in Eastern Oregon with a population less than 10,000 people. The City of John Day has the second highest number of officers per 1,000 residents at 2.3 officers and the costs are fairly consistent with other eastern Oregon departments at 11% above average. Geography, terrain, types of incidents and many other factors go into the cost to provide local services such as proximity of other law enforcement agencies.

Emergency Communications Center Manager (ECCM) Maynard pointed out the 10% increase in total call volume from 2015 to 2016. The ambulance calls have gone up substantially where the rest seem to be in line. The police have responded to many more mental health calls in the past year. She also explained that the total call volume are calls for service, one per event rather than actual number of calls, and the 911 calls are specifically calls to the 9-1-1 phone number.

ECCM Maynard explained that Dispatchers Kowing and Martin have completed their academy and are waiting for their minimum nine months of service.

The state has a 9-1-1 sub account that funds the equipment for the 911 network including phones and mapping system to ensure all Public Safety Answering Points have the same capabilities regardless of local funding. Local funding is used to make up the rest.

Chief Gray showed how all officers are listed on the City website with the ability to email each directly. Joe Hittle has been a reserve for about 8 months but is still working as a jailer.

Councilor Haberly asked why there were two officers riding together this past Sunday morning because he has been getting a lot of heat from the public about the budget. Chief Gray said there were not two officers scheduled but it is possible they were working a case together. He would have to do more research to find out but there have been quite a few cases they are working together. Chief Gray also asked that if there are ever any questions about personnel, to please let him know as soon as possible so he can look into it.

Chief Gray and ECCM Maynard were not shocked by any of the statistics. They already had a good understanding of the department's status. ECCM Maynard pointed out the high increase in ambulance calls but does not feel it was harsh winter related. She did not know if the aging population had any bearing on the number of ambulance calls but thought the access to health care may.

Chief Gray clarified the department's 'holistic interventions' mentioned in the executive summary as visiting Grant Union High School and talking and engaging with the kids. City Manager Green also stated the departments attempt to reduce recidivism by redirecting people who only have drug or alcohol charges without a related crime. City Manager Green is also chairing the Community Health Needs Assessment committee looking at correlating factors that contribute to substance abuse that could eventually spill over to criminal activity. Councilor Weigum was surprised to find this listed as the top public safety priority when as the Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator for Grant County there has been very little collaboration with her. Chief Gray agreed that there should be more collaboration and said that there will be a department presence at the meeting for the Safe Communities Coalition. Chief Gray pointed out that a recent buy bust cost \$849 in funds and 26 man-hours between the county and the city.

Councilor Smith clarified that Table 1 comparing crime rates with the state is for all of Grant County not just John Day. He would like to know if Chief Gray feels the DUIs, liquor law violations and drug law violations are as rampant in John Day. Chief Gray feels that these violations are holding steady but are not as large as we were seeing in the 1990's. Chief Gray believes a large part of this is because of public awareness such as officers giving people rides home from the bar.

Council Weigum asked where MIP with alcohol would be categorized under the other crimes. Chief Gray believes this would be the case but does not remember any from 2016. Sergeant Rand stated that MIP alcohol have gone down. Chief Gray believes the minor drinking is happening outside the city. Chief Gray does feel the marijuana use is more blatant since it has been legalized.

Chief Gray has noticed an increase in larceny, theft. Three people are in prison and another has court next week for larceny. A lot of the larceny crimes have to do with the drug issue, specifically methamphetamine.

Mayor Lundbom and the council feel both Chief Gray and ECCM Maynard did a great job on the report.

### **Agenda Item No. 8 – 9-1-1 Cost Sharing Agreement**

City Manager Green, ECCM Maynard and Mayor Lundbom will be attending the Grant County Court tomorrow and invited Grant County's other city recorders to come. They will be delivering the message that we value local dispatch. Local dispatch is a great service, the highest quality of service is in keeping it local, we are running the most cost efficient center in the state, but we still have to man it 24 hours per day, seven days a week and the tax only covers half of the costs. City Manager Green cannot think of a rational reason for John Day tax payers to fund the cost of dispatch for the rest of the county. The City has been paying because it owns the center but will be telling the other cities there needs to be a cost sharing agreement to keep dispatch local for three years while petitioning for increased state revenue.

City Manager Green will be showing those present the amount of 9-1-1 tax revenue distributed, which is based per capita, compared to the budget deficit per capita. The budget deficit is the amount each city would need to come up with to pay their share of the 9-1-1 costs. Table 1 shows the total deficit as just under \$200,000 for FY17 with an estimated 10% increase for FY18 and another 10% increase in FY19. City Manager Green believes in those three years there will be more money coming from the state but we need a three year plan until then. Councilor Holland clarified that the 9-1-1 tax is credited to each city but is all sent to John Day. The per capita deficit is \$26.88. The current revenue calculated does include payments from the forest service and Blue Mountain Hospital.

Councilor Smith noted that County General paid \$79,000 for the sheriff's office to the City for 9-1-1 services. By collecting fees based of a population bracket we would be taxing unincorporated residents. City Manager Green stated this would actually reduce the county's costs a little bit.

City Manager Green explained the three options available. The fourth option, which is the default, is each city paying their share of the cost. The most optimal option is option one where the state bridge funds the City until the 2019 biennium and then increases the tax. We are not the only organization asking this from the state but we cannot base a budget on hope. Option two is regionalization of the 9-1-1 center. Frontier out of Condon serves four counties currently and Grant County can be added for about the amount currently received from 9-1-1 tax revenue. The cost would be far less than the \$200,000 needed to keep the service local but the trade off is dispatchers with less knowledge of the county, possible delays in response time and losing six local jobs. While City Manager Green does not see this as a preferred option, he is also realistic that costs continue to increase while revenue has not.

The third option is a local option levy. The yearly cost to tax payers would be \$36 per \$100,000 assessed value. The legislation can be written where the amount collected adjusts to only being the amount needed between state revenue and local funding. A sunset provision can also be included so the tax ends as soon as the state increases the 9-1-1 tax. This option would be the most efficient as it reaches the widest possible tax base with the lowest possible rate and is collected as part of the property tax receipts. Instead of John Day pulling \$95,000 from its general fund, we would be asking each property owner to pay the balance. City Manager Green would like to give the voters a chance to vote before talking about outsourcing.

City Manager Green will get the issue on the record at the County Court. He does not know what the outcome will be but will be going back to Salem March 9<sup>th</sup> to testify to the Ways and Means Committee about the issue. This is not a John Day service and the county should feel ownership over the problem as well. The smaller cities have low mill rates and have never had to budget for 9-1-1 services making it harder for them and there is no way for the City of John Day to force anyone to pay. There will also be discussion on the possibility of a cost-sharing program.

EMCC Maynard explained the difficulties with contracting with the Malheur National Forest dispatch. City Manager Green said he will discuss the option of the County taking over dispatch but is more concerned with how to pay for the services rather than who has control of the services. He is focused on finding a three year solution until the state can modify their tax policy. City Manager Green believes there is time to get this on the May ballot.

Councilor Holland asked for clarification on the breakdown of revenue included in the breakdown of costs. City Manager Green noted that the revenue from the hospital and Forest Service fees are included in the current revenue listed.

City Manager Green did not discuss regionalizing with Harney County. Condon's tower is visible from the current tower, which means lower cost in infrastructure to regionalize with Condon. The council agrees that regionalizing is not the best option for 9-1-1 services.

Councilor Haberly brought up community concerns on increasing costs of PERS for operational costs.

EMCC Supervisor Maynard knows of specific instances when having local dispatchers has saved lives. She also noted specific times that the OSP's dispatch and officers have called locally because of quicker information. The routing of 9-1-1 calls is based off GPS and routing towers. However, if you call 9-1-1 you can ask to be transferred to a specific dispatch center.

Councilor Smith asked if the goal with meeting the County Court was to ask for support by putting a levy on the ballot. City Manager Green stated he wants this on the May ballot and to educate the local citizens and allow them to vote to keep the service local. The City cannot put an initiative on the ballot itself; however, a local citizen could collect the needed signatures to get it on the November ballot.

Councilor Haberly questioned how a new initiative will benefit the citizens of John Day when they will be paying more taxes. Councilor Holland noted that even though the John Day citizens will be paying slightly more in taxes, it will allow the City to put the current money into needed investments such as streets, sewer, or local investments rather than only paying for 9-1-1 services. Councilor Smith worries about initiating a levy sending the message to the state saying we can pay for our own services. Mayor Lundbom noted that this is a larger problem than just Grant County and does not see us finding a temporary solution deterring the need for a permanent solution at the state level.

**Agenda Item No. 4 – Proclamation for Bernice McPheeters Burdick**

City Manager Green told the council about Bernice’s family asking if the City would make Bernice’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday “Bernice McPheeters Burdick Day”. He drafted a proclamation for an honorary day. The honorary proclamation tells a little about Bernice McPheeters Burdick and is a one-time declaration in her name. The family would like to surprise her and would like to have someone from the City come read the declaration. The family will be here the week before her birthday for the celebration.

**The Council came to the consensus to declare March 28, 2017, Bernice McPheeters Burdick Day.**

**Agenda Item No. 5 – Letter of Support for Grant County Library**

City Manager Green was asked by Tracie Unterwegner for a letter of support for a new building for the Grant County Library. They are not asking for a financial involvement and City Manager Green believes this building will align well with the City’s plan for growth. City Manager Green would have a letter for the Council to approve in March.

**The Council can to a consensus to write a letter supporting a new building for the Grant County Library.**

**Agenda Item No. 6 – Proposal for a New John Day Bike Park**

City Manager Green has been donating an hour per week with a group of individuals who are trying to create paths around the City of John Day. Currently they are working on establishing a bike park on the hillside above 7<sup>th</sup> Street Complex. The school district owns seven of the acres and Parks and Rec owns four. Mytchell Mead with the Grant County Economic Council has received a transient room tax grant to pay for the enclosed report on the park. The cost for the park after in-kind contributions is \$146,000. City Manager Green believes this is a good test case in how three organizations and a 501(c)(3) can work together to complete a project. If this cannot work, City Manager Green does not see a rec center as being able to complete. City Manager Green cashed out an existing life insurance policy the City has on the previous city manager. The City now has \$7100 in funds not previously expected.

City Manager Green explained that seed funding was needed to apply for the first grant. The entity with the most to gain and ability to invest goes first. Once the first grant is acquired, that money is used to get a larger grant, which is then used to get an even larger grant until reaching the money needed. City Manager Green pointed out the park will be in city limits, our kids will be able to use it, the park is in line with our strategy for growth and it is money we did not know we had and has not been earmarked yet. There would have to be a supplemental budget.

Councilor Smith approves of the project but questions if the \$6000 should be used for pot holes or toward the sewer plant. Councilor Weigum sees a huge opportunity for investment. Councilor Weigum clarified that the group pushing for the bike park is not interested in shutting off motorized access for bikes. Councilor Haberly wants to be careful as to what we bring into our community to be sure we do not cut off existing amenities by adding new ones.

Councilor Weigum said Parks and Rec does support the bike park. City Manager Green believes the school district sees the need to increase student numbers before building a new school and will support projects that will assist in population growth. Councilor Weigum noted there is a large demographic the City is not serving. Students not involved with sports and temporary employees who may look to move here have nothing to do and biking is a desired past time.

Mr. Mead explained the school district is seeing the problems with developing their seven acres as a new school. There are problems with access and egress. Mr. Mead told the council a brief history of the Economic Council beginning with Corner Cup corner and the parking lot next to the old McDonalds. This would be the next step in their evolution. Mr. Mead told the council that silent sports, including bicycling, is one of the fastest growing activities. Mr. Mead has volunteers lined up looking for ways to help the community and this is something they can do. They are also looking into potentially buying easements on private property to be able to put in walking/skiing/bicycle trails close to town. The Forest Service is hiring final termers because families are overlooking John Day.

Mr. Mead explained that park maintenance will be done by volunteers including kids. There will also be a contingency fund for hiring out if needing within the grant. Many councilors stated they have seen vehicles with mountain bikes going through town daily. Mr. Mead said the fastest growing high school event across the country is mountain biking. The course would be set up to be able to host a mountain biking event.

Councilor Smith questioned the use of the \$6,000. Councilor Willey's concern is not about the money but creating safety for children, since it is so large, with the park and the amount of adult use when they could use the woods instead. Councilor Holland does not see a problem with the \$6,000.

Mr. Mead said the track could also be used for cross-country running and the intent is to put in work out stations such as pullup bars. The goal is to have the park done for the eclipse. To meet the timeline it will take everything to go right.

**Councilor Schuette motioned to give the Economic Council \$6000 seed money for the bike park. The motion passed 6 to 1 with Councilor Haberly voting against.**

Councilor Smith asked the motion for \$1180 to Oregon Solutions be voted on separately. He is concerned that the City has to pay for a contractor from the state to tell us what we already know and that in the end the special interest groups may not be able to come together. City Manager Green reasons that the hospital will contribute to the group reducing our cost, anything built will most likely be in John Day city limits and this will allow us to know what the public is willing to pay for. The school has already done a survey where the public has said they do not want to pay for a new school. Councilor Smith believes our number one priority is infrastructure but that the \$1100 will probably be money well spent. Councilor Willey agrees on priorities with Councilor Smith but does feel that investing in the community is necessary as well. That investing and building infrastructure seem tied together.

Councilor Holland and City Manager Green believe that the infrastructure money President Trump is planning on giving will be for shovel ready projects. There is the option of downsizing and pushing through the sewer plant to hope it coincides with federal money and meets all stipulations. But if the project does not meet all the stipulations, the permits could expire before we have our own funding.

Councilor Schuette believes the money is well spent to find out what the community sees as priorities since the council works for them.

**Councilor Schuette motioned to spend the \$1180 for Oregon Solutions. Councilor Weigum seconded and it passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item No. 9 – Other Business and Upcoming Meetings**

1. March 14th is the next City Council Meeting.

2. March 30<sup>th</sup> City Manager Green and Mayor Lundbom will be attending the Region 8 Small Cities Meeting in Ontario.

**Adjourn**

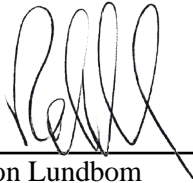
**There being no further business before the Council, Councilor Haberly moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Willey seconded and the session was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicholas Green

City Manager

ACCEPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL MARCH 14, 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Lundbom', is written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Ron Lundbom