

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

February 8, 2019

**COUCILORS PRESENT:**

Ron Lundbom, Mayor  
Brandon Smith, Council President  
Gregg Haberly, Councilor  
Steve Schuette, Councilor  
David Holland, Councilor  
Paul Smith, Councilor  
Shannon Adair, Councilor

**COUNCILORS ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Nicholas Green, City Manager

Aaron Lieuallen, Senior Project Manager

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Lisa Weigum, JD/CC Parks & Recreation District  
Crystal Culley, JD/CC Parks & Recreation District

Art Thunnell, JD/CC Parks & Recreation District  
RC Huerta, JD/CC Parks & Recreation District

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

Mayor Lundbom called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm, noting everyone was present.

**Agenda Item No. 2—Appearance of Interested Citizens**

Mayor Lundbom welcomed the audience.

**Agenda Item No. 3—Top-Level Review of Strategy For Growth & Key Questions**

City Manager Green noted the city council will have a broader work session, but the Parks and Recreation District board and staff were present to discuss some recreation components but wanted to give an overview. Green reviewed the key questions included in his agenda memo, noting they would check back in to make sure they have touched on each.

**Agenda Item No. 4—Recreation Component of Strategy for Growth**

City Manager Green briefly provided a restatement of the information included in the agenda memo. He touched on current discussions regarding the potential Davis Creek area development, redevelopment of the treatment plant area (once the new structure is operational), the new Hill Family City Park, and transportation connections between the various recreation areas. Green provided updates on the progress the city has achieved through grant funding on the included recreation projects but noted the issue lies in the budget constraints—lack of development flatlines the tax income for both the city and recreation district.

There was discussion about interagency cooperation and realizing greater gains for the community through effective communication and cohesive planning. There was discussion about the options for helping the district with funding sustainability and utilizing passionate residents who are willing to be creative and help achieve these goals. It was suggested that the next move may be to provide a joint presentation to the County Court, demonstrating the work the city has done, how the district is prepared to support, and the resulting shortfall. It was noted that the timeline is also an important factor for the county's potential involvement, such as with a district expansion. The district expressed significant concerns about even considering impacts of a pool, and potentially recreation center, when they cannot even maintain their current programs with their budget. City Manager Green reviewed the timelines for funding include in the memo. It was suggested, that for the next two months the collaborative approach would be towards gapping the current operations deficit, so the District can be in a better position to discuss what their role could be regarding the new pool. Green noted that only the County Court can submit a bond county-wide to voters, so their early involvement is integral.

There was discussion about the importance of a recreation center because it provides year-round service to the community, whereas, an outdoor pool will likely only see a 10-week operation, due to weather in Grant County. The number of activities possible within the center are significantly more than a pool and there is better cost recovery for the operation. \* Parks and Recreation Board leaves. \*

Council and city staff discussed ways to more accurately measure growth, identifying that the goal was not to grow like central Oregon but rather aim for an increase in the census population of 500 over the next ten years. Green noted he had spoken with Oregon Telephone and they think they can have fiber to every home in John Day within the next three years.

#### **Agenda Item No. 5—Innovation Gateway – Review of Technical Memoranda**

City Council and city staff discussed the information presented in technical memo #3, including funding, affect on timelines, and transportation regarding river restoration. It was suggested that some mitigation and slight meandering may be more suited considering the nearby projects. The decommission and clean-up of the percolation ponds and current treatment plant provide a good opportunity to redevelop the area in conjunction with Davis Creek and the Hill Family Parks. Council discussed various impacts on the surrounding area if they were to alter the course of the river. There was additional discussion about the potential housing impact from addressing current floodplain placement issues in the mobile home park, as part of the river restoration project. There was a consensus to have the city staff move forward with looking into what is possible within the available funding to rehabilitate the riverfront. Green noted it would be important to approach the rehabilitation with a couple stipulations: it will not decrease the surrounding buildable land (out of the floodplain), it will preserve the water rights for the Luce Long Ditch Company, any impacts to the trailer park be discussed with a plan to mitigate early in the process, and there has to be a path for the extension of Seventh Street without bridges to Patterson Bridge Road.

There was a consensus to have Walker Macy further pursue planning for residential redevelopment or other improvements in the current wastewater treatment area and to submit those plans for review.

#### **Agenda Item No. 6—Future Work Sessions**

There was discussion about what nights are best to have work sessions and approaching county court.


**Adjourn**

**There being no further business before the council, Councilor Paul Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:03PM. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicholas Green  
City Manager

ACCEPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON MARCH 26th, 2019

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

Ron Lundbom, Mayor