

CITY OF JOHN DAY
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
JOHN DAY, OREGON

August 25th, 2020

COUNCILORS PRESENT:

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

COUNCILORS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

GUESTS PRESENT:

Rudy Diaz (Blue Mountain Eagle)
Stephanie LeQuieu
Reha Singh
Harsh Patel

GUESTS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Didgette McCracken
Rod Ray
+15418156614
Logan Bagett, KJDY
+15415750547
+15417909060
+18315961771
+15416204037
+15416203608

STAFF PRESENT:

Nicholas Green, City Manager
Dani Carter, Secretary
Aaron Lieuallen, Senior Project Manager

STAFF PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

LauraBeth Wallenstein
Daisy Goebel

Agenda Item No. 1 Open and Note Attendance

Mayor Lundbom called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., noting everyone was present.

Agenda Item No. 2 Approval of prior minutes

The minutes from August 11th 2020, 8pm City Council Meeting were presented.

City Manager, Nicholas Green reviewed minutes from prior meeting. Councilor Holland made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Councilor Schuette seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 3 Appearance of Interested Citizens

Mayor Lundbom welcomed the audience and asked if there was anything to add to the agenda.

None appeared

Agenda Item No. 4 Consent Agenda

Councilor Holland requested to know if Iron Triangle was responsible for phase two cleanup. City Manager Green stated in the final version we were covering the phase two costs out of the grant portion of our development agreement, and that we would know more once testing was complete. Mayor Lundbom asked what prompted the phase two testing. City Manager Green stated that because of historic use they wanted to make sure nothing has penetrated into the ground water.

Councilor Smith moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, which allows City Manager Nicholas Green to sign the agreement for Iron Triangle Phase 2 ESA. The motion was seconded by Councilor Adair and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 5 Resolution No. 20-845-18

City Manager Nicholas Green advised that Resolution 20-845-18 was discussed during our last meeting, and is necessary to expend grant funds that were above what we budgeted for in revenue and expenditure during the FY21 budget process. This resolution will allow us to expend the addition grant funds received in this fiscal year.

Councilor Schuette moved to approve Resolution 20-845-18, a Resolution To Authorize Expenditures of the Business Oregon Brownfields Redevelopment Fund Grant. The Motion was seconded by Councilor Holland and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 6 Broadband Project Updates

City Manager Green stated that we are expecting to have the final construction plan as soon as tomorrow for review with the design team. Make-ready improvements are still needed at Humbolt Elementary to receive the fiber lines, but we are where we need to be to have this fully operational by the end of September. Meetings occurred with the other stakeholders and they all agreed to refer this to their respective boards. City Manager Green was told that Canyon City approved their share of the costs at the last meeting. It looks like we will have the two school districts, Canyon City, John Day, Grant County, and Grant County Digital Network Coalition all contributing to the construction project. Green requested to speak about another topic related to expanding access within the city and potentially to Seneca for an open office area for distance learners, students, and workers who don't have access at home. Didgette McCracken and Rod Ray's proposal was developed with Allison Field and Stephanie LeQuieu and they joined the meeting virtually to present the concept for the council to discuss. Didgette McCracken presented the Grant County Co Works facility proposal where there would be three phases of development. Phase one includes office space in Seneca, John Day, and Prairie City. Phase two includes a countywide expansion to allow sites in Long Creek, Monument and Dayville, and the proposed opening for those sites is two years out. Phase three would allow for a multipurpose technology and education center. The proposed budget is \$288,500 for total start up costs in the first two years of operation for six sites in Grant County. The proposed Grand Opening for the phase three site is in 2025. Mrs. McCracken wants to see 24/7 access to the sites with staffing built into the budget as well as utilizing a security system to make the sites accessible when people need to use it. Rod Ray discussed the need to create an environment for individuals to start up small businesses with help and advice from peers. City Manager Green would like to get some energy behind this project and evaluate at the end of a year or more frequently and see if the site is getting the utilization we anticipated. The probability of school closing down would leave people disadvantaged with lack of access. Mayor Ron Lundbom requested to know where the funds could be rounded up from. City Manager Green stated that where we could contribute the most early on as seed stage investor is by helping them acquire a space and looking at the possibility of covering their rent for the first year as well as getting the school districts involved in contributing equipment. If we can put together a package of thirty or forty thousand dollars, we could bring donors along for the rest of it. Councilor Adair wanted to know if some of the funding could come from the COVID relief fund. City Manager Green stated that we have about sixteen thousand dollars left that we can obligate to this project or another project on the agenda tonight. Mayor Lundbom asked if there was the support of the other people involved to get the computers and software to get this project kicked off. City Manager Green stated that other than the Grant County Digital board this was the first time the idea has been presented publicly. Mayor Lundbom asked if there was a space available now for the first site. City Manager Green advised that there were a few spots in town that are available for rent. Councilor Smith asked if OSU would be willing to contribute financially. Didgette McCracken stated that she has talked to them and engaged in

conversation with OSU about having a satellite situation out here. OSU is involved in the conversation and they seem very interested, but have not offered any money yet. Rod Ray stated that he has been speaking to Senator Ron Wyden's office seriously about the project, and that local contributions early on is very important to them. Rod Ray is planning to speak to the Ford foundation and OCF to help with getting the project off the ground and a space is very critical early on. Mayor Lundbom asked if their offer of providing a rent-free space would be a good first step. Rod Ray stated that he mentioned it to Ron Wyden's people would be a great first step and shows support and interest by the City of John Day. Councilor Sky said it is important to show intention and support right off the bat and make sure it's funded to the degree that they would have the best shot at their first year. Stephanie LeQuieu would like to see a small space with video recording capabilities, 3D printers, webinars, networking, mentoring and website building. City Manager Green advised we would be taking a risk allocating our remaining funds from the CARES act to the project because through the end of December, no more COVID funds would be available, however they are guaranteeing us they will not be giving us anymore relief money as long as that money is still sitting here unspent.

Councilor Schuette moved to approve that fifteen thousand dollars be put into the Grant County Co-Works budget to enable distance learning and accelerate the program. The motion was seconded by Councilor Adair and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 7 Guiding Principles for John Day's Recreation & Tourism Strategic Action Plan

City Manager Green advised that a virtual recreation summit is planned for September 21st-22nd. We want to have a strategic action plan that we can walk away with from the two-day workshop and begin implementing. This should include creating a sense of place for visitors and individuals seeing our town for the first time by having more specific branding at the entrances of the city, and creating more distinct neighborhoods or cultural districts that highlight our cultural ecology and the history of our community and celebrate our heritage, which isn't being done right now. Redefining Main Street as end to end in our business corridor with most of our buildable land being west of town and start looking at Main Street as the whole business corridor and not just the two blocks around the light are also important changes. Councilor Adair is interested in Main Street feeling end-to-end and believed it would be good to promote businesses west of the city center. Mayor Lundbom asked how we can get people moving west. City Manager Green mentioned that the new Dollar General is going to be down that direction and that the old Bowling alley will be worked on to get it back open with a redefined concept and some virtual reality gaming in there while keeping the retro elements that are nostalgic. Having buildable land west of town is important because people who want start up space are going to be looking for where they can expand, but don't want to be disconnected from everyone else. Mayor Lundbom wants businesses in the corridor to feel included and have those businesses at the edge of the city limits such as Oregon Pine to feel included. City

Manager Green discussed prioritizing infrastructure, recreation and tourism with the riverfront trail systems, greenhouse, state of the art sewer plant, Kam Wah Chung Interpretive Center and an Aquatic center and all of the projects we have been investing in brings this plan together. Something that points you to each of those locations and encourages activities you could do and stay here an extra day in the community. This should drive more investment capital into the community and could include highlighting places like Painted Sky and creating an Art Center in John Day. Having the ability to catch a show and create a maker's space and expanding it into public with art out on the trail system would be great. We could have a board of advisors focusing on policy changes we have implemented to be smart about these investments in recreation and tourism and pay attention to results and outcomes we are achieving and really challenge us to maximize the impact of these things. Getting ATV use permitted on the highways in town and looking at regional events with the intent of implementing them. Green stated he would like to see tours and outfitters to give people the ability to rent ATV's and snowmobiles and have someone to take you around to recreate. Improving maps and place markers to make it easier to get around town from one place to another. Marketing with a purpose by targeting groups to tell them who we are, to find out what their needs are, and what services and products they are interested in. A catch line that tells people who we are as a community and a Discover John Day portal to feed them information about our housing incentive program, how to identify a realtor and where they could go to look for business start up information. Mayor Lundbom stated that he liked the idea. City Manager Green stated that OTEC did a narrated virtual tour of Grant County that he viewed on a virtual reality headset that they are going to use as the intro to the Summit in September. A company called Straw-to-Gold could be used to do a 4K video and capture imagery about our community and our way of life. Conceptually the video would be the quality and caliber we need to be operating at to really attract the folks that might be on the fence about coming to John Day to recreate or not. At the end of the video it would send you to discoverjohnday.com and from there we would show them more about our community, the virtual tour, and all of the things to do here. This is a business model that promotes our hardest hit industries right now through this pandemic but also creates long term growth potential for the community. Alternatively, we have what was provided in the council packet from Expedia including up and down reviews with no information about exactly where they stayed and where they ate. Where we are today vs. where we can go, there's a lot of space there for adaptation. Mayor Lundbom asked if this was something we wanted to bring back next month and talk about it again. City Manager Green requested to have them come here within the next few months to start filming video during the fall festival, and the Farmers Market. More funding would be requested from the State to get the shoot done. As of now we'd be stretching the budget to get it done with the money we've got. The cost is about fifteen thousand dollars for a video of this quality and would be broadcasted during hunting and fishing shows and adventure networks. Councilor Adair stated it was something we should work towards to be serious about bringing people into the area with the best technology, and a dynamic high-quality video. Mayor Lundbom asked how we go about getting people to look at our site "discoverjohnday.com". City Manager Green introduced

Harsh Patel who was a former computer science major and could help us optimize our web search so we're the first thing that comes up in a web search. Mr. Patel was in the audience and stated he would be willing to do so. Councilor Sky stated he would be interested in considering timing for some of the buildings we are going to be working on so that we don't miss out on those being included in the video. He would like to see better photos and footage on our current platforms. Councilor Adair would also like to see updated photos on a place like discoverjohnday.com immediately and thinks it's important to have the high-quality video later. Mayor Lundbom closed the discussion to be discussed again at a later time.

Agenda Item No. 8 Street Improvement Project Updates

City manager Green presented the update on Canton Street stating that it was paved for about twenty thousand dollars less than the bid from a year ago. Southwest 4th Avenue/Airport Road repairs surveying and core drilling has been completed. The 7th street parking lot is going to be starting soon. ODOT sidewalk project is being pushed back again and construction is projected to begin in 2022.

Agenda Item No. 9 Resolution 20-846-19

City Manager Green stated that sixty-two thousand will be put back into our budget that we had loaned to the URA. Old west Federal has given us good terms, but wanted a guarantee from the City with full faith in credit in the event that the URA couldn't make payments on the loan. The probability of that is very low considering the URA's income is all tied to taxes on properties that have all been built or remodeled in the last 12 months. They are asking this of the City before they'll issue the line of credit.

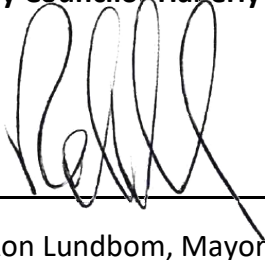
Motion was made by Councilor Holland to approve resolution 20-846-19 a resolution guaranteeing the loan of John Day Urban Renewal Agency. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith, and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 10 Other Business and Upcoming Meetings

*Stephanie LeQuieu presented updates to the street fair plan which is planning to take place over the next three months on August 28th, September 18th, and October 16th. She would like to see the fair opened to a broader audience with business staying open later on those dates to participate in the fair. October 16th the quilt guild will have a quilt walk with a grant they received which will bring people from all over to the area to camp and participate in the fair. Plans for food and entertainment are in the works as well as a drawing each hour for gift certificates that have been purchased from local stores. Stephanie LeQuieu would like to know if there would be a better location other than 1st Street to hold the event. Mayor Lundbom

requested to know what she would like the City to do. Mrs. LeQuieu would like to know as business owners and city leaders if this fair is something that you would like to do or have happen. City Manager Green would like to do a law enforcement and first responder appreciation event at the September Fair with a BBQ and have the emergency workers grill burgers and bring some of the trucks to the event. The city could pay for the food that the first responders would be grilling during the event, and Dayton St up to 1st street may be an option for the event. Mrs. LeQuieu stated that she needs power for the event. Councilor Holland advised that there are power outlets on the street lights down Dayton Street. Mrs. LeQuieu stated that she could strategically funnel people along Dayton street to keep with social distancing requirements. Councilor Adair said that Dayton is a nice long street with plenty of room to space out.

Councilor Schuette motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 pm. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haberly and passed unanimously.



Ron Lundbom, Mayor