

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

September 22, 2020

COUCILORS PRESENT:

Ron Lundbom, Mayor
Shannon Adair, Councilor
Paul Smith, Councilor
Elliot Sky, Councilor (attended virtually)
Steve Schuette, Council President
Gregg Haberly, Councilor

COUNCILORS ABSENT:

David Holland, Councilor

STAFF PRESENT:

Nicholas Green, City Manager

Danielle Carter, Secretary

GUESTS PRESENT (IN PERSON):

GUESTS PRESENT (VIRTUALLY):

Louis
M, New York
831-596-1771
Stephanie LeQuieu, Oregon RAIN
541-620-1125
Mindy Winegar
Meryl Harrell, Northbound Ventures
Holly Fowler, Meryl Harrell Consulting
Logan Bagett, Elkhorn Media Group

Agenda Item No. 1—Open and Note Attendance

Mayor Lundbom called the meeting to order at 6:00PM, noting everyone was present except Councilor Holland, who was absent and excused.

Agenda Item No. 2—Approval of Prior City Council Minutes

Councilor Smith moved to approve the city council minutes of September 8, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilor Schuette and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 3—Appearance of Interested Citizens

Mayor Lundbom welcomed the audience. *No items added to the agenda.*

Agenda Item No. 4—Consent Agenda

City Manager Green reviewed the information provided in the agenda memo.

Councilor Schuette moved to approve the City Manager to sign the Amendment No. 01 [MOU for School Resource Officer]. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haberly and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 5—RERC Debrief

City Manager Green introduced Holly Fowler and Meryl Harrell with Northbound Ventures who led the RERC Workshop. They each gave a brief background of themselves and their work with the City so far. They reviewed the numerous participants in the workshop, including local, state, and federal partners. Holly Fowler gave a digital presentation that included background on the RERC Program. She highlighted the desired outcomes were new connections among people to help build capacity for success and an action plan with goals and strategies for achieving each community's desired outcomes. Meryl Harrell added that it is the inaugural year for that particular RERC Program, with 170 applications, and only 10 were selected for funding. Fowler emphasized that while they and the other partners were there to lend technical experience and facilitate, they prioritize the community voice and build the action plan around benefiting and reflecting the community. She also outlined the process from a program overview with recreation economy data to a community tour with visioning, then narrowing in on case studies and asset mapping. Then began the action brainstorming and prioritizing to build the community action plan tables. Meryl Harrell noted that each community focuses and helps determine the priorities; the focus for John Day was how the recreation economy can improve quality of life for residents by strengthening opportunities that folks see as reflective of the culture and values of John Day to enhance quality of life. They noted that communities that have crafted a vision of where they want to go and support of strong local institutions are better able to adapt to change and capture new opportunities, especially in these uncertain times. Meryl reviewed the steering committee goals that fed into the action planning done during the workshop. They were to promote John Day's Main Street, accelerate and incubate the businesses to expand services surrounding outdoor recreation, galvanize community support and participation in the recreation economy, and expand outdoor recreation opportunities for all in John Day. They presented several case studies, highlighting components to success and the economic impact and then the process that was led for asset mapping.

The actions that came from the goals were;

Goal 1: Promote Main Street as a gateway to nearby public lands and communities with new marketing and branding concepts

- Establish stakeholder group ("John Day Vision Team") to guide overarching John Day identity vision
- Establish a comprehensive communication strategy and cohesive branding
- Install information kiosks in key locations (east end, west end, and south end)
- Erect a sign/structure/monument that announces John Day at the east and west entrances

Goal 2: Accelerate and incubate businesses to expand services surrounding outdoor recreation

- Create a plan to use the Iron Triangle shop as an outdoor recreation business incubator and connect the shop with downtown signage and trails
- Complete further gap analysis: review existing assets and hold roundtable to identify the gaps in services, businesses, and amenities to support the outdoor recreation economy
- Re-evaluation the Transient Lodging Tax methods of distribution. Request stakeholder meeting with the goal of identifying specific allowable opportunities to invest/distribute that lead to tangible benefits for the outdoor recreation economy. Opportunities should be informed by community input and include ways to measure/capture the return on investment.
- Organize a partnership to provide training and business support to connect existing business owners with the outdoor recreation economy.

Goal 3: Galvanize community support and participation (residents and business owners) in John Day's recreation economy

- Create a community coordinator position to help with community outreach and event coordination; focused on participation in outdoor recreation that supports community quality of life
- Create a plan for a series of outdoor recreation related events (timing, types, promotion) To create the Plan:
 - Identify what types of events other small towns are doing that are successful in creating energy
 - Review current events to identify ones to continue and ones to reconsider if not delivering value
 - Identify a proposed event plan and schedule for the year
 - Coordinate the other partners to build out/host the events
- Coordinated calendar of events. Post in multiple locations. Also develop a monthly newsletter to provide updates, highlight upcoming events.
- Host 2 times a year a community brainstorm session to get input from the community
- Hold a series of conversations to listen to concerns, build cultural readiness (1-1, small group)

Goal 4: Expand outdoor recreation opportunities for all in John Day

- Create regional trails master plan
- Establish wayfinding system in downtown/surround recreation areas
- Build an aquatics center capable of expanding into a recreation center
- Complete John Day-Canyon City intercity trail system, integrated park system
- Create a comprehensive, multi-user experience recreation map to help residents and visitors connect with outdoor recreation opportunities (with consistent branding)

Holly Fowler highlighted that they were fortunate to have the depth and breadth of decision makers that attended the workshop. It is unusual and a testament to the steering committee's outreach efforts and strategy. She also noted that folks who usually are limited in commitment capacity were running to be part of what John Day is planning and speaking up to offer support. Mayor Lundbom asked about coordinating with the National Forest and State to get access to the forest from town. City Manager Green replied that under the action for master plan trail system, they looked at multi-use access being incorporated into the County's comprehensive plan under Goal 8, Recreation, then used to drive needed public policy changes like ATV corridors on the highway and in the forest, permits for guided tours, and creating a geospatial layer with accurate coordinates. The consensus was that a masterplan would shape all of the policy changes that need to happen and give weight to each individual one. There was discussion about the talks and connections done during the workshop regarding these trail efforts. There were thanks given; it was confirmed there would be multiple follow up calls to ensure concrete and tangible next steps.

Agenda Item No. 6—Parks and Rec Improvements/ 2020 Water Credit

City Manager Green reviewed the discussion in the agenda memo and asked the council for guidance on implementing their credit intentions in light of COVID, since no formal agreement was in place. Councilor Elliot asked for clarification on whether the funds were to offset the water cost or just blanket contribution to the project. Green clarified the city did help with implementing efficiency by installing a timer to decrease the usage from what they had estimated at the time of the credit offer last year but the intent was to credit up to \$5,000 in the original agreement.

There was a consensus from the council to extend the credit to be pro-rated based on actual water usage.

City Manager Green gave an update on the construction progress at the west 7th Street parking lot and plans to connect to the river trails and Hill Family Park. *He presented photos included in the agenda packet.* There was confirmation that the plans are only the finish the paving and parking as shown in the agenda, with this round of funding. Councilor Sky asked Green to walk through the design for parking. Green noted the number of parking spaces is informed by the expected use and the ADA is correlated to that, as required in the Code. The twenty-foot easement for John Rowell, shown on the south property, dictated the approach, so a one-way loop felt appropriate. Sky asked why the greenspace and not a larger lot. Green explained the bare land south of the park could be developed into residential housing and the greenery would give some privacy but noted now is the time for alternative design input. Some councilors voiced support of the greenway. There was discussion confirming that as the old treatment plant gets decommissioned, the existing trails will all get connected through that area. Councilor Smith asked for clarification on the rental home next to the 7th Street west parking. Green confirmed that unless they need to acquire it for additional parking for an aquatic center, the home will remain and privacy greenery is planned as part of the development. Green confirmed that since they are not scoping around an aquatic center, the lot will be finished grade gravel compacted with storm water run off but not paved or expanded until the aquatic decision has run its course.

There was a consensus from the council in support of the proposed design for the Hill Family Park parking as presented. The design package will be submitted to the John Day Planning Commission for approval.

Agenda Item No. 7—OTEC Property Line Adjustment- Final Plat

City Manager Green reviewed the progress and administrative processes that have taken place so far, as outlined in the agenda memo. The final plat for the PLA needs to be approved by the council. It includes easements for the city infrastructure in the ground, specifically the two water lines that goes up the hill and around Well #1. The electric charging stations would be between the two water lines, with the possibility of moving the northern line up to hug against the property line as part of the development. Green summarized the final plat will show the proposed easements as shown but they will go through the process to document the easements based on the construction agreement with OTECC and all will be recorded in the final conveyance documents so the City's interests are protected and OTECC can do what they need to do. The charging stations are ordered and OTECC would like to go into construction before the weather turns.

There was a consensus from the council to proceed with the final plat as presented.

Agenda Item No. 8—Resolution No. 20-847-20— A Resolution to Authorize Expenditures of the Multimodal Transportation Enhance Program Grant

City Manager Green explained the approval of the revised agreement that allows the city to design the water lines and utility relocates at the last city council meeting meant that additional expenditures needed to be approved in the budget, along with the additional grant proceeds made available by ODOT for reimbursable expenses for the project. Once approved, the contract can be awarded.

Councilor Smith moved to approve Resolution No. 20-847-20, A Resolution to Authorize Expenditures of the Multimodal Transportation Enhance Program Grant. The motion was seconded by Councilor Adair and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 9—Other Business & Upcoming Meetings

There was review of the street fair, noting good turnout before the stormy weather came and great collaboration of the local vendors to provide beef, produce, and activities. He noted they are working to hold the next event at the fairgrounds to ensure weather is not a deterrent. Stephanie LeQuieu and Mindy Winegar confirmed they will hold it in the Heritage Barn as the Pavilion is still under construction. LeQuieu highlighted the benefit she felt the event had on community mental health.

City Manager Green noted they haven't been fully debriefed on why they were not selected for the BUILD Grant. The only project that was selected from Oregon will have big influence, it affects freight distribution, transit, interstate commerce, etc. Green felt the take away, given the increased strength of their application, is that the United States is drastically underfunding its infrastructure. He stated there has been systematic failure at the congressional level to reach a bi-partisan agreement on investing in our own economy. He argued that they are at one-tenth of the funding needs for streets, bridges, and road improvements. When the volume of ask is so large in comparison to the available funds, there is no hope for the city to win in competition against an interstate bridge due to a sheer lack of numbers. He noted it does not make the need any less important or alternative funding sources, besides local dollars. Green discussed the handicapping of prevailing wage laws to rural economies and noted that he is in discussion with state legislators to level the playing field through something equivalent to urban renewal for rural communities. It would start with removing the artificial barriers to entry and incentivize developers to come to rural areas, offset the cost of construction, and create funding packages that rural areas can access. The one hundred percent debt financing cannot be repaid. If they continue to be unable to build new streets or housing, there is no way to grow and increase the tax base or the buildable lands. A policy decision at the state and federal level needs to take place. The continuous delay of financing the infrastructure improvements has created a situation where everything is failing at the same time and has to be replaced. Green noted that it is curious that the city's greatest needs in infrastructure investment are the hardest to secure.

Mayor Lundbom reviewed the upcoming meetings. Councilor Smith noted there is still a 50 million dollar pot with the county and if they could work together, at least to build major arterials that would serve the whole community. Councilor Sky noted he also felt that collaboration with the county and more demonstrated partnerships are a way to strengthen the BUILD Grant application. Green noted the positive out of all the work done so far is that all the planning and engineering has been completed, all that is needed now is the fund and build.

Councilor Smith motioned to adjourn the regular session of the council meeting at 7:23PM to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilor Schuette and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 10—Executive Session #1

Mayor Lundbom read the notice of executive session.

Councilor Schuette moved to enter executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f) at 7:29 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Adair and passed unanimously.

Councilor Schuette moved to leave executive session at 7:40 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Adair and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 11—Executive Session #2

Mayor Lundbom read the notice of executive session.

Councilor Schuette moved to enter executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) at 7:42PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Adair and passed unanimously.

Councilor Schuette moved to leave executive session at 8:05 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Adair and passed unanimously.

Resumption of Regular Session

Councilor Adair moved to return to the September 22nd city council meeting regular session at 8:07 PM. Councilor Smith seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Sky moved have the City Manager set up a working group with Grant County Court to discuss the distribution of the transient lodging tax under the County's current ordinance. Councilor Adair seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

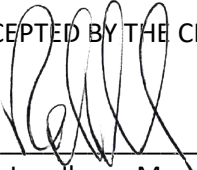
Adjourn

Councilor Schuette moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32PM. Councilor Adair seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicholas Green
City Manager

ACCEPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 13, 2020



Ron Lundbom, Mayor