

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

October 27 ,2020

COUNCILORS PRESENT:

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

COUNCILORS ABSENT

CITY STAFF PRESENT

Nicholas Green, Executive Director
Chantal DesJardin, Senior Acct Clerk
Daisy Goebel, Associate Planner
Don Gabbard, Fire Chief

GUESTS PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Heather Rookstool (in person)
Stephanie LeQuieu
Mindy Winegar
Eric, Wirfs, OTEC

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541-519-2888
Rudy Diaz, Blue Mtn Eagle

Agenda Item No. 1—Open and Note Attendance

Chairman Lundbom called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m., noting everyone was present.

Agenda Item No. 2—Approval of Prior Minutes

The minutes from the October 13th, 2020 meeting were presented for approval.

Councilor Holland moved to approve the October 13, 2020 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Adair and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 3—Appearance of Interested Citizens

Mayor Lundbom welcomed the audience and asked if there was any business to add to the agenda. Heather Rookstool asked to be added to the agenda; she spoke to the council regarding the Coronavirus Relief Funds in the amount of \$52,000. She inquired about whether there was still \$17,000 that was not expended, what their plan was, how they decided to spend

the earlier monies? She also inquired if they were going to assist some of the small businesses that were shut down. City Manager Green noted most of the money had been obligated to projects and spent, they would be discussing one of the projects later but less than \$1,000 remains unobligated. It was noted that the monies were spent to allow for requests of additional funds in the future. Mrs. Rookstool asked that the council be mindful that many businesses are hurting and have had to shut down. She expressed concern that it was not clear to her where the funds were being spent.

Action Item No. 4—OREGON RAIN MOU

City Manager Green briefly reviewed the expiration date of the MOU signed the prior year. He invited Stephanie LeQuieu to present. Mrs. LeQuieu reviewed her work for Oregon RAIN since February, noting the pivot that took place to go virtual due to COVID. She discussed efforts in connecting entrepreneurs with Senator Wyden to inform CARES funding, workshops regarding re-opening Oregon and policy suggestions, which unfortunately were not incorporated. She reviewed her upcoming projects with RAIN and explained some of the exciting upcoming opportunities Councilor Smith inquired about the cost to sustain the program? What occurs if that funding cannot be secured? Mrs. LeQuieu shared background on some of the funds that have been secured and noted that she was not sure, but felt that they would continue to operate. Councilor Smith added that he was wondering about changes with the overview and responsibilities laid out in section 5. Mrs. LeQuieu did not believe there had been any change in the overview or responsibilities. Councilor Adair touched on her personal experiences and voiced support of the work Oregon RAIN is doing.

Councilor Adair motioned to authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement supporting Oregon RAIN. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sky and passed unanimously.

Action Item No. 5—Ordinance No. 20-186-07

City Manager Green reviewed the franchise agreement information and explained that the current fee is used primarily to fund public safety. He asked that the council deliberate whether or not to adjust the fee or make any changes to the agreement. He noted that they cannot raise the rate again for ten years. They could discuss executing a shorter agreement. The council discussed the rate change and how that would impact the community. Councilor Holland noted the increase would supplement the funds for public safety. City Manager Green shared that the City is operating at about 7% overhead last fiscal year. For comparison sake, most non-profits target overhead is 10%. The city is running very lean.

The council came to a consensus that the new franchise agreement would take effect in November. After 24 months, the rate would increase to 6%. After 3 years, the rate would increase to 7% and would remain at 7% for the duration of the agreement.

Action Item No. 6—Marijuana Ordinance Repeal Procedures

City Manager Green reviewed the process to repeal the ordinance. The marijuana tax rates have been superseded by changes in State law. The council would need to establish a new rate as a local tax within the city limits. Councilor Sky inquired when the state shared revenue would become available following repealing the ordinance. City Manager Green replied that the funds would become available following a 30-day waiting period and that for the population of John Day, the dollar amount would not be substantial.

Mayor Lundbom asked Police Chief Michael Durr for his opinion. Chief Durr shared that he did not want to see sales or growing operations occurring anywhere near schools. The council discussed the limited number of locations available for any sales or operations to occur. Mayor Lundbom shared that from his experiences, it seemed that people may want the opportunity to vote and voice their opinions.

The council came to a consensus to hold a public hearing to work towards repealing the marijuana ordinance.

Action Item No. 7— Other Business & Upcoming Meetings

City Manager Green shared a fiber update, OTC wireless is operational-adding customers any day now. Grant County-Coworks professional to do the design. The Seneca site has been located and they are looking at two locations in John Day. The preferred location is the Old West building at 241 W Main Street due to the large workspace that allows for social distancing requirements. The Grant County Digital board approved to partner with OTC on the Community Connect grant application. This would allow for their support as part of GC-Coworks to co-locate.

A decision on the EDA-broadband grant is expected in November. For the Industrial Park they are requiring more information on environmental impact. The hotel site requires significantly more information to refine the application. One of the largest challenges would be to locate someone that could build the hotel.

4th street, if not in the November then December they will have a final cost estimate from engineers. They have invested \$50,000 with SCA, \$450,000 with FEMA, plus local matching

dollars. They may not need assistance from the County but will ask for match for FEMA. They won't know until they bid what the financing gap, if there is one, will be.

7th street parking lot is done and Hill Family Park is slated for completion next. It will be up for review by the planning commission in November, not required but want to give opportunity for public input.

Dollar General has completed permitting process with the City. He expected construction to begin in the early Spring. He noted that even the local contractors are booked and scheduled up to the early Spring.

Mayor Lundbom reviewed the upcoming meetings and checked in with city staff.

City Manager Green briefly reviewed some of what would be discussed during the executive session. He noted the first discussion would be regarding heaters from EuroMex and specifics regarding the failure to receive payment for contractual payment. Noting council would likely resume regular session in order to make motions.

The council entered executive session.

Councilor Smith moved to adjourn at 9:20 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Adair and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicholas Green, City Manager

ACCEPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON JULY 13,2021.



Ron Lundbom, Mayor