

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

August 24, 2021

COUNCILORS PRESENT:

Ron Lundbom, Mayor
Paul Smith
Shannon Adair
Heather Rookstool
Gregg Haberly
Elliot Sky

COUNCILORS ABSENT

David Holland

CITY STAFF PRESENT

Nicholas Green, Executive Director
Lindy Berry, Secretary
Monte Legg, Public Works Director
Michael Durr, Police Chief

Aaron Lieuallen, Senior Project Manager
(virtual)
Don Gabbard, Fire Chief (virtual)

**GUESTS PRESENT (VIRTUAL UNLESS INDICATED
AS IN-PERSON)**

Sherrie Rininger (in person)
John Rowell (in person)
Carl Metler (in person)
Rhonda Metler (in person)
Pam Durr (in person)
Frances Preston (in person)
Carl Swank (in person)
Heather Swank (in person)
Darla Byus
Dawn DeGrande

Judy Schuette
Caller
Liz R
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Agenda Item No. 1— OPEN AND NOTE ATTENDANCE

Mayor Lundbom called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., noting everyone was present except Councilor Holland who was absent and excused.

Agenda Item No. 2— APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

The minutes from the July 27, 2021 town hall meeting were presented for approval.

Councilor Rookstool motioned to approve the July 27, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sky and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 3— APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

Mayor Lundbom invited guests to share items not on the agenda. *None appeared.*

Agenda Item No. 4— CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (7:01 PM)

None presented.

Councilor Rookstool provided a brief update from the fair provided by Mindy Winegar. She shared that there were 2200 people in attendance for the concert, 30 parade entries, and 47 fair vendors. She thanked a number of people in the community who were a part of making the fair a success as well as a number of community members who assisted in the clean up after the fair.

Action Item No. 5 RESOLUTION NO. 21-867-15, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE LEAGUE OF OREGON CITIES' LEGAL ADVICE PROGRAM PROVIDING LIMITED FREE LEGAL ADVICE TO OREGON CITIES LOCATED IN EASTERN OREGON (7:02 PM)

City Manager Green explained this resolution would allow for 3 years of free legal counsel through the League of Oregon Cities. He noted that he had utilized this service for the ballot measure and review of ordinances.

Council President Smith motioned to adopt Resolution No. 21-867-15, A Resolution Authorizing the City's Participation in the League of Oregon Cities' Legal Advice Program Providing Limited Free Legal Advice to Oregon Cities Located in Eastern Oregon. The motion was seconded by Councilor Adair and passed unanimously.

Action Item No. 6— CHOICES RECOVERY (7:03 PM)

Councilor Rookstool introduced Darla Byus the Director of Choices Recovery. Mrs. Byus then introduced Bryan, the Clinical Supervisor. She shared that they planned to open at the end of September. They specialize in substance use disorder counseling, only offering outpatient services, no inpatient. Generally, they see adults, not children. She shared they will be working closely with probation and DHS as well as CCS and the Families First program.

Councilor Adair asked about location. Mrs. Byus replied that they would be located at 131 N Canyon Blvd. Councilor Rookstool shared she will be the Office Manager, and that they were currently interviewing counselors and nurses. Councilor Rookstool noted that additional information could be found on the pamphlets that were provided to the council.

Mayor Lundom inquired if it was similar to CCS? Councilor Rookstool invited Mrs. Byus to share some of the different treatments that will be offered. She touched on the medication treatment that will be available. A nurse practitioner will be prescribing medications to be filled in the local pharmacy so that people will not have to travel. They also provide a parenting program approved by the state for people going through custody battles. She also briefly shared about their harm reduction program, focused on addiction and substance use counseling to stop drug abuse while avoiding suicidal and homicidal ideations.

Councilor Rookstool shared that probation and CCS were excited to add to the existing services and have new services in the community., noting that there is no DUII diversion available in the County currently. Guest, Frances Preston inquired about the email policy, expressing frustration that she wasn't provided an email address to reach someone. Mrs. Byus replied that she had received Mrs. Preston's email and she had replied that day.

Resident, Heather Swank expressed concern and anger about having a drug treatment center in town. There was discussion amongst the councilors that they felt it was needed and would be beneficial for the community. City Manager Green noted that the business was permitted outright and the City did not have any ability to regulate the business.

The council thanked Choices Recovery.

Action Item No. 7— BUDGET WORK SESSION (7:16 PM)

City Manager Green explained he would need to schedule a time for the council to discuss some of the needs that have been identified. Topics for discussion would include the aquatics center and a street sweeper. He noted that the street sweeper was estimated at a cost of \$90,000- \$115,000. This purchase would allow for maintenance and cleaning of the streets, as requested by residents.

The council came to a consensus to meet Tuesday, September 14th at 6:00 pm

Councilor Rookstool motioned to approve and authorize the City Manager to sign amendment number 2 to the sidewalk project. The motion was seconded by Councilor Adair and passed unanimously.

Action Item No.8- PROJECT UPDATES (7:23 PM)

Hill Family Park

City Manager Green briefly reviewed progress on the Hill Family Park project. The current goal is to be done by mid-October. Councilor Sky inquired what site improvements would be completed by Iron Triangle? City Manager Green answered that Iron Triangle would complete the parking lots, driveway approach, curb, gutter, trails and the bridge footings. Iron Triangle would also set the bridge and complete the trail to 7th St. There was a brief discussion about the location of the restrooms.

Aquatics Center

The neighborhood meeting took place the prior week. They were targeting October 6th for a planning commission hearing.

Recreational Trails

City Manager Green shared that they had requested \$147,990.50 in grant funding from OPRD to complete the paving and construction of the riverfront trail system between the Oregon Pine Bridge and the 7th Street Sports Complex/Hill Family Park. The project was slated to begin next spring if grant funds are awarded.

Planar Shed

The request for \$125,000 in congressional supplemental funding was not approved. They will apply for an EDA grant for this project.

Guest, Sherrie Rininger inquired about the Planar Shed restoration project. She was under the impression Bruce Ward had volunteered to complete work. City Manager Green shared that Senior Project Manager, Aaron Lieuallen would be following up with Mr. Ward.

The Pit Stop

The final design will be submitted for review before any onsite improvements are completed. Mrs. Rininger asked when the downtown businesses would be contacted regarding the project? City Manager Green answered that the new Community Development Director, Michael Anderson would be connecting with the downtown businesses and leading the project. Councilor Rookstool added that they hope to have a town hall to share the project vision with the community.

Treatment Plant

City Manager Green reviewed some of the design plans for the road, noting the council was asked to look at the current staked route and provide feedback. Councilor Sky inquired if the staked route had anything to do with solar? City Manager Green answered that yes, they were exploring putting in solar. He shared that while at the Western Planning conference, he learned about floating solar panels for waste water ponds. If they were to utilize this technology, it would reduce operations and maintenance costs. Councilor Sky shared concerns about the cost differences and shared he would like to see the road further away from the river if possible. He would like to see the space used for a park area. Mayor Lundbom inquired about the space required for the solar. City Manager Green answered that 1 acre would be required for the 150-kw solar array. The ponds at that time were about 8.5 acres. An eighth of that space would power the city's infrastructure. Councilor Adair shared she would like to see additional information prior to making a decision.

Guest, Frances Preston inquired what considerations they have given to Senator Wyden's Rivers Act? City Manager Green answered that they had not discussed the impacts.

Charolais Heights Project

City Manager Green invited Public Works Director, Monte Legg to provide an update. Mr. Legg shared that they would start seeing progress now that they had the storm drain system in. The curbing was anticipated to be in in the next couple of days. He noted that all radiuses of the intersections had been finalized as well. Councilor Sky shared that some residents have expressed frustration about being unaware of what is occurring. He inquired if there might be more communication about the progress of the project? Mr. Legg recommended that following meeting with the engineers, staff could post an update to the City website.

The council came to a consensus to have a street naming contest for what is currently known as Government Way.

Guest, Carl Metler shared that emergency services needs to be kept up to date on progress for road work projects.

Councilor Rookstool asked that the City put out a notice to watch for children while driving on the detours.

Action Item No. 9— POLICE TRANSITION PLANNING (7:46 PM)

City Manager Green recapped the process they had gone through to reach their current position. He informed the council that the ARPA funds could be used to temporarily sustain the department if they should choose. He emphasized that the decline of population had created a deficit in the budget, briefly

reviewing data showing the decline of population in Grant County as well as a decline in school enrollment.

Councilor Rookstool shared she was concerned that the plan to build 100 homes would not be successful without a police department. She felt they should find a temporary solution and put the police levy back on the ballot during the general election. She expressed a desire to look at every possible avenue to fund the department.

Councilor Haberly asked why did they believe the City would be able to fund the department when a city like Sisters is unable to fund their own department?

Mayor Lundbom expressed concerns that a temporary solution to keep the department open would not create a stable environment to retain employees for the department.

Guest, Valerie Maynard stated she agreed with Councilor Rookstool, that they should keep the department open and put the levy on the ballot during the general election. She expressed concern that special elections do not historically have the turnout like a general election.

Sheriff McKinley shared that there had not been any discussion with him in recent months and he urged the council to approach the County Court. He expressed concern that the agenda included inaccurate information regarding the County Sheriff's Department not contracting with other cities. City Manager Green apologized for any inaccuracy, as he had been told they were not contracting with any cities. Sheriff McKinley asked that they refrain from grouping the Sheriff's Office in with the rest of the County noting that they are doing their best with limited resources. He shared that an average patrol position costs about \$75,000. That cost does not include equipment, fuel or training. He shared that if the transition were to occur, they anticipate only responding to type 1 or type 2 calls, not responding to calls to enforce ordinances. Sheriff McKinley also noted that by statute, the City would be required to pay for any transferring officers for the first year.

Councilor Adair apologized for the appearance of lumping the Sheriff's Office together with the County Court. She expressed frustration that the County Court had been unapproachable.

Sheriff McKinley inquired if the council had approached the County Court to specifically discuss the police transition? Several members of the council answered that they had not approached the Court to address only the transition. Mayor Lundbom expressed concern that the Court had not historically honored agreements.

Councilor Rookstool requested that the council approach the County Court about a transitional agreement immediately. She did not want to wait on the results of the COPS Grant.

Mrs. Rininger shared she felt the No votes were a statement. She felt that people did not understand why they could not locate the funds for the department. She expressed frustration that the Council had not approached the County Court yet.

Guest, Pam Durr shared that she felt the No votes were because of peoples' opinions about the City Manager. She noted that the past Sheriff had urged people to vote No, and a Budget Committee member had shared incorrect information that led people to believe the budget could be reformed.

Guest, Frances Preston shared that she lives in Prairie City and that she would like the Council to find a solution to help the Sheriff's Office.

Councilor Sky expressed disappointment that there had not been discussion with the County Court yet. He was hopeful the Council and County Court could work together for benefit of the citizens.

Mayor Lundbom shared that a County wide levy to support the Sheriff's Office could be beneficial to police the whole County effectively. Sherriff McKinley recommended a work session with the Court to explore possible options. Several members of the council deliberated about approaching the County Court.

Councilor Adair stated she would like to approach the County about a transition plan. She did not feel they should use ARPA funds to keep the department open for a short period without any stability to keep the department open. She agreed that John Day should not be the only city paying for coverage. If awarded the COPS Grant, she was hopeful with their aggressive growth strategy, the city would be able to secure funding for the future for the department. If unsuccessful with their growth strategy, balancing the budget will continue to be an issue.

Council President Smith inquired if they were obligated to pay for the first year? City Manager Green confirmed they would be obligated to pay for the first year of wages for the transferring officers. Council President Smith inquired if they could plan for a levy with the general election and find a way to fund the department in the interim? City Manager Green noted that it would be difficult to secure a new police chief without being able to offer job stability.

Mrs. Maynard asked that the Council be transparent that the citizens would not receive the same level of service. She wanted residents to be aware that the level of service would be drastically different without John Day Police Department.

Mrs. Preston asked if Sheriff McKinley might be able to explain how the Sheriff's Office responds to cities that do not have a contract? Sheriff McKinley answered that they have a delayed response to less emergent calls and do not typically respond to code enforcement calls.

Guest, John Rowell shared that should the city lose the department, it would be incredibly difficult to get it back. He felt that if John Day did not have a department, the whole County would suffer. If John Day cannot afford their own department, they would need to take a different approach to policing the County and to support the Sheriff's Office.

City Manager Green shared that Portland State University was forecasting continued decline for Grant County. The County had lost 1,000 residents and if they did not address the loss of population and focus on growth, they would continue to suffer loss of services.

Councilor Sky shared that he felt the Council had made a drastic change for innovation and growth. The police issue stems from the lack of growth. If John Day was a growing, thriving city, this would not be an issue. He noted that City Manager Green had spent hours working on the COPS Grant and that the council had been working to find a solution.

Mrs. Rininger shared she was concerned that they waited until just 6 months prior to the retirement of the Chief to go out for the levy. Mayor Lundbom answered that it was an issue addressed at every budget session. City Manager Green shared that they had addressed the issue in 2018. When he started at the City they had 21 employees and they cut back to 14 employees. He noted that they had made all possible cuts and it still was not enough to make up for the shortfall. Mayor Lundbom felt that the levy was an attractive offer with an affordable dollar amount and an end date. He expressed frustration that if people had chosen not to vote because of feelings about the City Manager, that was disgraceful.

City Manager Green reviewed data showing that from 2015 to that date, the revenue had recovered back to what it was, however, the expenses were far greater than the revenues. Everything the council had been doing was to grow the tax base to support public safety.

Mrs. Preston inquired about the revenue source for public safety and the amount currently available? Mayor Lundbom answered the revenue was in the general fund and came from the State from taxes in the amount of \$300,000. The budgeted cost of the department was far above the revenue being brought in. She inquired where those funds would go if there was no police department? City Manager Green shared he would encourage the council to put that money towards housing. Several councilors added that no decisions had been made about where to use those funds.

Councilor Adair agreed they need the police force, but they must secure funding for the department.. She expressed a desire to work together with the County to serve the County as a whole if they cannot secure funding for the John Day department.

Action Item No. 10— OTHER BUSINESS & UPCOMING MEETINGS (8:41 PM)

City Manager Green shared that they had been awarded the President's Award in recognition of the projects occurring in John Day. He came back from the conference with lots of exciting ideas to leverage in the community.

Councilor Adair noted that the police department was an emotional issue and that the award is something to be celebrated. The award is due in part to the plans the council had been working on to encourage growth, in order to secure funding for services such as public safety. She congratulated City Manager Green and the council on the work they had been doing. She added that the council is a very diverse group and they work hard together for the betterment of the community. They want to get back to the vibrant community of the past that can support the hospital and public safety services.

Mayor Lundbom briefly reviewed the upcoming meetings

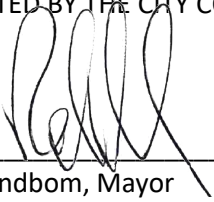
City Manager Green updated the council on the latest sales at the Industrial Park and potential pending transactions. He noted that one buyer has inquired about purchasing 3 lots which would require council approval.

Councilor Haberly motioned to close the meeting at 8:50 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Adair and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicholas Green, City Manager

ACCEPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2021.



Ron Lundbom, Mayor