

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

September 28, 2021

COUNCILORS ABSENT

COUNCILORS PRESENT:

Ron Lundbom, Mayor
Shannon Adair
Heather Rookstool
Gregg Haberly
David Holland
Elliot Sky (virtual)
Paul Smith (virtual)

CITY STAFF PRESENT

Nicholas Green, Executive Director
Lindy Berry, Secretary
Aron Lieuallen, Senior Project Manager
(virtual)

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

Sherrie Rininger (in person)
Bennett Hall (in person)
Frances Preston (in person)
Dave Lynn (in person)
Joe Hitz (in person)

Steve Foster (in person)
Eric Bush (in person)
Judy Schuette
Roberta Fox
Mindy Winegar

Agenda Item No. 1— OPEN AND NOTE ATTENDANCE

Mayor Lundbom called the study session to order at 7:00 p.m., noting everyone was present with Council President Smith and Councilor Sky attending virtually.

Agenda Item No. 2— APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

The minutes from the August 24, 2021 council meeting were presented for approval.

Councilor Rookstool motioned to approve the August 24, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Holland and passed unanimously.

The minutes from the September 14, 2021 council meeting were presented for approval.

Councilor Rookstool motioned to approve the September 14, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haberly and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 3— APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

Mayor Lundbom invited guests to share items not on the agenda.

Eric Bush, the new Emergency Management Coordinator for Grant County introduced himself. He shared he had been on the job for about 3 weeks, and he was excited to be there. The council inquired about his past experience. Mr. Bush shared he was in law enforcement for 26 years and served as the Chief of Police in Prineville for 11 years. He also served in the Oregon Army National Guard for 36 years. The council thanked him and welcomed him the community.

Bennett Hall, the new editor for the Blue Mountain Eagle introduced himself. He shared he had been on the job for a few weeks and was happy to be there. The council inquired where he had moved to the area from. Mr. Hall answered that he had relocated from Corvallis. The council welcomed him to the community.

Agenda Item No. 4— CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (7:05 PM)

None presented.

Agenda Item No. 5— WESTERN PLANNER PRESIDENTS AWARD & SITES CERTIFICATION (7:06 PM)

City Manager Green shared the President's Award received by the City of John Day was created to recognize outstanding contributions to the planning field. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet likeminded individuals who have invested their careers into community development and planning. He stayed for the first two days of the conference and while networking, he met with some teams that introduced him to the SITES certification. He briefly reviewed the SITES scorecard and explained a few of the items scored and how they were being achieved in John Day. He shared that he believed they had the potential to score platinum.

Mayor Lundbom inquired who would do the scoring?
City Manager Green answered that they would provide information about the project to SITES during the precertification period. During that period they would be given feedback about the project and upon completion, they could then request the certification.

Councilor Adair inquired about the cost associated with the certification?
City Manager Green shared that the precertification cost would be around \$6,800. That amount would then be applied towards the costs of the certification which was around \$10,000, noting it was dependent upon the size of the project.

Councilor Holland asked if they scored high, City Manager Green had said it may influence private sector investment, but could they anticipate a positive influence on the grant side?
City Manager Green felt that there was potential for it to positively impact grants. It's a new enough program that it would create national recognition for the City as well.

Mayor Lundbom asked if they could use grant funds to apply for the program?
City Manager Green answered that he wasn't sure yet and wanted the guidance of the council, adding they could contract the work out.

Councilor Rookstool inquired what the cost would be to contract out, noting she would like to know the costs prior to deciding.

City Manager Green answered that he was not sure, but that Walker Macy would be in the area the following week and he could gather information at that time.

Councilor Adair added that being sustainable was important to keep in mind and that she would also like the financials prior to making a decision.

City Manager Green noted the item on the scorecard regarding restoring soil disturbed by previous development. He suggested it could be addressed as there was currently no soil to allow for and encourage native plants to grow.

The council came to a consensus to allow City Manager Green to gather additional information to present at a later date.

Action Item No. 6 - GRANTS & PROJECT UPDATES / CHAROLAIS HTS. TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT (7:17 PM)

City Manager Green shared that residents have expressed concerns about the speed of vehicles traveling on the newly paved roads. He shared that there had not been residential road construction in the City since the first phase of Ironwood in the 1990's. There has been a learning curve on this project, but they are making great progress. He noted that Engineer, Joe Hitz from Sisul Engineering was in attendance to brainstorm ideas.

Councilor Rookstool shared she had been contacted by residents as well. She expressed concerns that the approach coming out of Boulder Ln had limited visibility. Another concern that was addressed was the lack of stop signs. She felt that a flashing speed sign would be beneficial for high speed, high traffic areas.

Councilor Haberly inquired about the cost of the flashing speed signs?

Councilor Rookstool shared they had priced it out at \$5,000- \$10,000. She noted that after sitting at the intersection, she observed multiple vehicles traveling what appeared to be above the speed limit.

City Manager Green shared that the road was still an active job site, it was not meant to be open for thru traffic yet. There have been no stop signs placed as there should not be heavy traffic through the job site.

Councilor Holland shared that it was a unique project as road closures would trap residents, but that thru traffic should be limited to the residents.

Councilor Sky shared that from his recent research, he had a few recommendations.

He shared that installing speed limit signs may not create much difference. He suggested finding a way to narrow the road or lanes that would encourage drivers to slow down. He noted that straight stretches naturally allow for a vehicle to drive at greater speeds. A major concern he added would be residents coming in and out of their driveways, as well as the hill heading toward what would potentially be the future pool location. He agreed with Councilor Rookstool that there should be a four way stop.

Council President Smith shared that speed has always been an issue in the neighborhood. His first recommendation was to add a four way stop. He noted that the work completed is a great improvement, and the asphalt is beautiful, but they needed to find a way to slow traffic down.

Councilor Holland noted that a four way stop at the top of the hill could make it difficult for traffic traveling up the hill. He felt the only way to get vehicles to slow down would be to force them to slow down. He recommended a speed bump to force traffic to slow.

Councilor Adair shared that she liked the idea Councilor Sky had shared to create the appearance of narrowing of the road to encourage drivers to slow down.

Councilor Sky noted that kids frequently do bike and walk in that area.

Council President Smith agreed with Councilor Holland that in the winter months, it would create difficulty if vehicles had a stop sign going uphill. He recommended installing some sort of divider on the corners to keep traffic from drifting into the oncoming lane.

Councilor Rookstool shared that she had concerns about Boulder Ln having a stop sign for the reasons they were concerned about a stop sign going uphill on Bridge St.

Engineer, Joe Hitz reviewed the slopes of the intersections the council had been discussing. The intersection of Valley View and Boulder had a 2.8% transition with a 12% slope going down Boulder Ln. He noted that the 20 feet prior to where a stop sign would be placed had only a 5% grade which would easily allow for a vehicle to stop. The intersection of Valley View and Bridge St had a slope of 8.3% and did not have a flat area to allow for a stop sign. Mr. Hitz shared that older drivers and young drivers tend to abide by paint on the road above leaving room for pedestrians or bikers on the roadside. If they paint the road, there may be unintended consequences.

Virtual guest, Mindy Winegar said, "I'd rather have lights than another speed bump."

The council came to a consensus to purchase 3 stop signs and 1 or 2 flashing radar speed limit signs.

Councilor Sky wanted the council to continue to keep in mind ways to slow traffic.

Mayor Lundom applauded the work being done. He added that the work that was ripped out and redone was not redone at the expense of the City. City Manager Green noted that the team has been great. He thanked Joe Madden and his team for jumping in and helping out.

Councilor Haberly asked if there was some sort of drainage system for above the old forestry building. Mr. Hitz answered that there was currently a ditch to keep water from running down that hill.

Councilor Rookstool inquired when the storm drain would be installed?
Mr. Hitz stated the Public Works Director, Monte Legg would have to answer.

City Manager Green shared the bridge is ready to be relocated. The driveway was being prepped and underground utilities were in. He shared that the power crusher is on the river turning the dredge tailing into road base. If they'd like to go back and put in some vegetation, for every 6 inches of rock that is crushed and turned into road base allows them to infill without impact on the floodplain.

City Manager Green shared that they have nearly completed the testing DEQ required, noting the yellow pipes were the locations of the pump tests. There are monitoring well throughout the well. The final

phase 2 report was provided to DEQ. The model and preliminary data was showing they should be able to operate under their existing permit. He anticipated beginning construction on the treatment plant early next Spring.

They have been working with OTEC on the solar farm project. They were exploring going as high as 850 kW. Following an analysis of current electric costs, they found the costs ranging from \$95,000- \$100,000 for City property. With the new treatment plant and pool, they estimated \$140,000-\$150,000 annual cost. He noted that excess power generated could be sold or given back to OTEC to benefit the residents of John Day. It would save a little over \$100,000 annually in maintenance and operations costs which would save residents money. The issue would be policy, if Bonneville would allow for a site that large on the grid.

The council briefly discussed the large solar farm outside of Unity.

Council President Smith inquired about the location of the solar field in relation to the treatment plant. City Manager Green answered that Walker Macy would assist in brainstorming the location, but he noted they had a few potential options. One option would be immediately North of the proposed treatment plant or closer to the development of the 7th Street extension.

Council President Smith inquired if they were looking at an acre or more? City Manager Green answered that maxing out at 850 kW would take up 2 acres.

Council President Smith inquired about the size of the Unity solar farm.

Councilor Rookstool shared from a search online that the Unity solar farm was about 23 acres.

City Manager Green shared that the submission deadline for the COPS grant was delayed by three weeks. He reached out and was told that the announcement of award had been pushed back to Fall, with no exact date.

Mayor Lundbom inquired about Kam Wah Chung?

City Manager Green shared that the appraisal review was in process. He did not have any further update.

Action Item No. 7— TOWN HALL FORMAT & TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION (8:05 PM)

City Manager Green shared concerns that Grant County was seeing the highest rate of infection per capita in the state. He also noted that not having an answer on the COPS grant would not address the original reason for holding the townhall.

Councilor Rookstool shared that without the decision on the COPS grant, she felt they should not hold the town hall.

Councilor Adair agreed that due to COVID and uncertainty about the result of the COPS grant, they should postpone.

Councilor Sky agreed and inquired about continuing to provide updates on the road construction.

City Manager Green recommended holding a ribbon cutting for the Hill Family Park.

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

Mayor Lundbom reviewed the upcoming meetings.

Councilor Rookstool inquired about a budget for sidewalk repair. City Manager Green shared that it was in progress and being refined.


They were tentatively planning for an informal study session on October 4th with the planning team. City Manager Green noted he would post to the website once it was set.

Councilor Rookstool motioned to close the meeting at 8:15 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Holland and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicholas Green, City Manager

ACCEPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 12, 2021.



Ron Lundbom, Mayor