

**John Day City Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 8, 2022
316 S. Canyon Boulevard**

7:00 PM City Council Meeting

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1. **OPEN AND NOTE ATTENDANCE**
2. **APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES**
3. **APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS** – At this time we will welcome the public and ask if there is anything they would like to add to tonight’s agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Attachments:

- None

ACTION ITEMS

5. **STRAW-TO-GOLD PRESENTATION**

Attachments:

- None

6. **AQUATICS CENTER FINANCING AND Q&A**

Attachments:

- None

7. **2021 COPS GRANT AWARD - JOHN DAY (FAW-167033)**

Attachments:

- None

8. **OTHER BUSINESS & UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Attachments:

- FY2023 Budget Calendar

TO: John Day City Council
FROM: Nicholas Green, City Manager
DATE: February 8, 2022
SUBJECT: Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda Items
Attachment(s)

- None

BACKGROUND

No items on the consent agenda.

Item 1) N/A

N/A

Recommendation: N/A

Item 2) N/A

N/A

Recommendation: N/A

TO: John Day City Council
FROM: Nicholas Green, City Manager
DATE: February 8, 2022
SUBJECT: Agenda Item #5: Straw-to-Gold Presentation
• None

BACKGROUND

Straw-to-Gold staff will present to council an update on the www.discoverjohnday.com website and the media content they are creating to promote recreation, tourism and economic investment in our region.

TO: John Day City Council
FROM: Nicholas Green, City Manager
DATE: February 8, 2022
SUBJECT: Agenda Item #6: Aquatics Center Financing and Q&A
• None

BACKGROUND

This agenda item is an opportunity to review with council the Aquatics Center Financing and Q&A related to the City's portion of the pool project.

DISCUSSION

Our consultants will have an opinion of probable construction cost back to the City and Parks & Recreation District by February 17th. This information will be used by the District to draft their ballot measure language, which will go to the county clerk this month (Form SEL 805).

D.A. Davidson is preparing a cost analysis for a 10-year credit facility for the city to assist with financing, which will cover the interim financing of the Aquatics Center (assuming the ballot measure passes) as well as any contribution the city wishes to make toward capital construction costs.

Bond proceeds from the Lottery Bond grant will be available in the spring of 2023. The D.A. Davidson credit facility would allow construction to proceed in advance of the bonds being issued. City staff have already coordinated this with the appropriate state agencies and both the City and District will be listed as recipients of the \$2 million grant agreement for the aquatics center – the City because we were awarded the appropriation and the District because they will be the owner/operator of the facility.

Mr. Morris sent a letter to council expressing his frustrations with the lack of public comment on the pool, alleging “not once has there been a public comment time.” It’s unclear to staff what he’s referring to as public comment time. This matter was on the council’s regular agenda in both November and December 2021 and both meetings were well attended. It has been addressed in the District’s meetings and other city council meetings on several prior occasions. A local steering committee participated during the feasibility study stage and council reviewed their work in multiple work sessions and public meetings since 2019. All of these are opportunities for public comment.

Mr. Morris also questioned the statements made by staff to the state legislature. In the spring of 2021, I sent a Capital Project Information Form to Representative Owens office related to the pool, which clearly states the project description:

The City of John Day has developed a facility plan to replace Gleason Pool, the only public swimming pool in Grant County, with a new aquatics center. Gleason is now a 63-year old facility that opened in 1958 and is the second oldest municipal pool in the state. The new aquatics center is a 7,700 SF facility featuring a six-lane, 25-yard competition pool (75' long x 50' wide) and a 600 SF warm water pool (30' long x 20' wide). The Aquatics Center includes a front lobby and reception area, office space, party room/meeting space, family and individual locker rooms and pool support spaces. It will operate on land donated by the John Day/Canyon City Parks & Recreation District at the west end of the 7th Street Sports Complex in John Day.

The preliminary design plan is complete and the parking area for the facility has been constructed. Additional funding is needed to complete final design and construction. The capital cost for the full project is \$6 million. The locally contributed value of the land and parking improvements is \$500,000. \$2 million in funding is requested from the state. A capital improvement bond will be issued for the remaining fund balance. The final plan will require approval by the John Day Planning Commission but no other state or federal permits are required.

This information was accurate at the time I submitted it (March 30, 2021) and remains accurate today. Whether or not Mr. Morris understood what was said, or whether the information was subsequently amended by legislative staff, is irrelevant to this council, as he is not a city resident and we are not the legislative staff – nor are we on trial. This is not a public inquisition. It's not a conspiracy. It isn't collusion. There has been no ethical misconduct on the part of any city employee or the city council. We're a small city trying to work with other local agencies to create enduring economic benefits and opportunities for our residents. That's it.

To the extent council wishes staff to continue to engage and respond to these inquiries we are willing to, but I believe our time could be better spent. We can simply acknowledge that some will disagree with specific projects, some will choose to paint those projects in a negative light, and some will stoop to disinformation tactics that unfairly or inaccurately portray the actions and motives of city staff and the city council.

SUMMARY & NEXT STEPS

At our next meeting, I will bring the engagement letter from D.A. Davidson along with the IGA for approval between the City and the District related to the financing, operations and maintenance of the pool, along with a schedule together for review and discussion.

We will need council authorization for the credit facility at a March City Council meeting. Given our current workload, I would prefer to receive that authorization at the March 8th meeting, but it would need to be in place no later than April 12. Authorization does not obligate the City to accept funds – but makes it possible for the City to do so in the event the May ballot measure passes.

TO: John Day City Council
FROM: Nicholas Green, City Manager
DATE: February 8, 2022
SUBJECT: Agenda Item #7: 2021 Cops Grant Award - John Day (FAW-167033)

- None

BACKGROUND

The COPS program office responded to our inquiries on February 7th. They are in the process of assigning a new program officer and are evaluating our request to transition the award to the Grant County Sheriff's Office, assuming the County desire to receive it.

I will continue to keep the council informed as to the status of this award as I have additional information to share.

TO: John Day City Council

FROM: Nicholas Green, City Manager

DATE: February 1, 2022

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #8: Other Business and Upcoming Meetings
Attachment(s)

- FY2023 Budget Calendar

OTHER BUSINESS

- Staffing for GRO Coordinator Position / Other City Positions
- Council monthly budget reports

UPCOMING MEETINGS

I have eight city council meetings remaining. I plan to use my leave balance from mid-June to the end of the month, which would make my last day in the office Thursday, June 16th. We've adapted the FY23 Budget Calendar so that council can adopt the budget on June 14th and have backward planned from there.

- February 22, City Council Meeting – Fire Hall, 7:00 PM
- March 8, City Council Meeting – Fire Hall, 7:00 PM
- March 22, City Council Meeting – Fire Hall, 7:00 PM
- April 12, City Council Meeting – Fire Hall, 7:00 PM
- April 19, Budget Committee Meeting – Fire Hall, 6:00 PM
- April 26, City Council Meeting – Fire Hall, 7:00 PM
- May 10, City Council Meeting – Fire Hall, 7:00 PM
- May 24, City Council Meeting – Fire Hall, 7:00 PM – Council Budget Public Hearing
- June 14, City Council Meeting – Fire Hall, 7:00 PM – Budget Adoption