

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

March 14, 2023

COUCILORS PRESENT:

Heather Rookstool, Mayor
Sherrie Rininger, Councilor
David Holland, Councilor
Katrina Randleas, Councilor
Elliot Sky, Councilor
Ron Phillips, Councilor

COUNCILORS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Aaron Lieuallen
Rick Allen, Interim City Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

John Rowell	Beth Spell
Jon Meiling	Jim Spell
Heather Swank	Carl Swank
Shannon Adair	Judy Schuette
Louis Provencher	Robert Perieria
Cam Marlowe	

Agenda Item No. 1—Open and Note Attendance

Mayor Rookstool called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Agenda Item No. 2—Roll Call and Attendance

Mayor Rookstool noted that all councilors were present.

Agenda Item No. 3—Amend or Accept Regular Agenda

Rick Allen introduced amendments to the regular agenda. He added that they needed to appoint him as the Budget Officer, approve the Budget Calendar and an item on there, and a document regarding the 7th Avenue right-of-way that needs approved. He also has a liquor license needing approved and needs to know if the council wants him to approve them or if they want to approve them. Councilor Skye had an update about a Grant County Digital grant to go over with the council. Rick presented a check register showing all checks and amounts that have been written since the last meeting for the Mayor and Council President to sign.

Agenda Item No. 4—Consent Agenda

Councilor Rininger made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Randleas and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 5—Public Comments

Mayor Rookstool welcomed the public and asked if there was anyone present for something not on the agenda. Bob Perieria requested that the minutes from the December 29, 2022 meeting be presented and approved because his lawyer needs them. John Rowell recommended that the City put up a sign at the Hill Family Park that prohibits unauthorized vehicles due to increased activity there at night.

Agenda Item No. 6—Regular Agenda

a. Credit Card

Mayor Rookstool drew up a letter to change the maintenance person on the bank account to herself or to Rick Allen, whichever the Council decides. The bank manager advised that it would be better to have this person be someone who will be there for a while rather than an interim employee.

Councilor Rininger made a motion to have Mayor Rookstool added as the maintenance person on all of the Bank of Easter Oregon accounts and to have Rick Allen added as a Bank of Eastern Oregon credit card holder. The Motion was seconded by Councilor Skye and passed unanimously.

b. Bank Accounts – Add/Remove Check Signers

Current signers on the account are Councilor Holland, Mayor Rookstool, Anna Bass, Lori Armstrong and Melissa Finlayson. Rick would like to have the account set up so that any of the six councilors can sign checks and non-elected officials would be removed from the accounts. Casey Myers asked about the limits on his credit card because he is having trouble sending employees to classes and purchasing necessary supplies.

Councilor Randleas made a motion to increase Casey Myers credit limit to \$10,000 and to correct the middle initial on his card. The motion was seconded by Councilor Skye and passed unanimously.

Councilor Rininger made a motion to remove Anna Bass, Lori Armstrong and Melissa Finlayson as signors from the Bank of Eastern Oregon accounts and to add Dave Holland, Katrina Randleas, Elliott Skye, Ron Phillips, and Sherrie Rininger as signors on the accounts. Councilor Skye seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

c. City Manager Recruitment – GMP Consultants

Rick Allen advised that GMP Consultants is the same company that the Council was going to use in the past to find a new City Manager. The previous quote was \$15,000 and they said they would still do it for that which is \$5,000-\$10,000 less than the other company he contacted for a quote.

Councilor Randleas made a motion to hire GMP Consultants to recruit a City Manager. The motion was seconded by Councilor Skye and passed unanimously.

d. Intergovernmental Agreement to Establish Regional Rural Revitalization (R3) Strategies Consortium

Rick Allen presented information regarding a bill before legislature that would allocate \$30 million to Lakeview, Burns and John Day to go toward housing. There is no deadline and they are still in the decision making phase of what the bill will entail and how it will look. All 3 cities would approve it, the bill would come out and they would know what it would be in July. A city could leave if they wanted out any time before the bill actually comes out, after it comes out they would have to give notice to leave.

Dave said he would like to discuss details with the city's attorneys; he is unsure on the timeline. Councilor Skye said it was a very proactive approach to addressing the needs of the city and reminded everyone how hard it was to build in our community and how critical building infrastructure and bringing in new families is; he said even without the money this type of agreement with other communities is important. Mayor Rookstool said there were too many unknown factors and uncertainties for her to feel comfortable just saying yes and without a deadline the city should take their time. Councilor Phillips said he called Lakeview and his call was never returned and that bothered him, he couldn't see any of those 3 cities buying any equipment. Councilor Rininger agreed that we should not rush into it and requested that the councilors take a really good look at the 3D housing because it is not what they have been told it is.

Mayor Rookstool opened the floor for public comments. Bob Perieria said he doesn't know how a city that is in as deep as John Day is can go into something like this when it has accrued \$6 million in debt. Judy Schuette requested that all of the Councilors, but particularly Councilor Phillips and Mayor Rookstool, include details when they give anecdotal information like who they spoke to when they called somewhere for information. She also said she was not against waiting and that she would appreciate the Council keeping people on topic when they get up to speak during public comment. John Rowell said that Rick provided a lot of clarification on R3 and that ORS 190 could also use other cities within our own county. Louis Provencher said we had limited building space unless we expand out and expressed concern over emergency services available for expanded housing. Shannon Adair reminded everyone that the City has accountants and city attorneys that look over everything and that the books are in excellent shape, and thanked the Council for continuing to look into funding options. Beth Spell asked for clarification if the city could opt in now and drop out later if they decided it wasn't a good fit; Rick clarified that, as the bill is written, that is not an option but that could change. Cam Marlowe, who works at the hospital, said that a crucial interim employee did not show up due to housing falling through and these kinds of things are hurting the hospital. Chris Labhart said studies were done and housing was the number one issue people are facing and John Day has the space for it and the opportunities to work on it.

Councilor Holland made comment that R3 is essentially an agreement between the 3 cities, it is one agreement to be signed by all 3 cities. One of the things holding up the attorneys working on the agreement is that they are unsure of how the Council wants to proceed.

The Council gave their consensus to have Rick and the attorneys keep moving forward with the R3 agreement.

e. Planning and Budget Committee Appointments

The Council received 4 applications for the Budget Committee. Mayor Rookstool said there will be a majority vote to fill the 4 open positions. Councilor Holland said each applicant needed to be given time to speak and then a motion made for each individual with a vote. The 4 applicants were Eric Bush, Edwin Newby, Richard Colbeth and Jon Meiling.

Mayor Rookstool opened the floor for the Budget Committee applicants to speak. None of the applicants came forward. Mayor Rookstool called for a motion for Richard Colbeth; no motion made. Mayor Rookstool called for a motion for Edwin Newby; no motion made. Mayor Rookstool called for a motion for Eric Bush; ***Councilor Rininger made a motion to appoint Eric Bush to the Budget Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Skye and passed unanimously.*** Mayor Rookstool called for a motion for Jon Meiling; no motion made.

Mayor Rookstool opened the floor for the Planning Commission applicants to speak. None of the applicants came forward. Mayor Rookstool called for a motion for Robert Perieria; ***Councilor Phillips made a motion to appoint Robert Perieria for the at large position on the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rininger and did not pass with a 2-4 vote.*** Mayor Rookstool called for a motion for Jim Spell; ***Councilor Holland made a motion to appoint Jim Spell to the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Katrina Randleas and passed 5-1.*** Mayor Rookstool called for a motion for Edwin Newby; no motion made. Mayor Rookstool called for a motion for Brian Hubbard; no motion made. Mayor Rookstool called for a motion for Jon Meiling; ***Councilor Phillips made a motion to appoint Jon Meiling to the Planning Commission. Councilor Rininger seconded and the motion did not pass 4-2.***

Mayor Rookstool reminded everyone that there was still a council position open and that if you applied previously you need to reapply.

f. **Budget Officer Appointment**

Councilor Holland made a motion to appoint the Interim City Manager as the Budget Officer. Councilor Skye seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Budget Officer presented the Budget Calendar.

Councilor Rininger made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 Budget Process Schedule. Councilor Skye seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

g. **7th Avenue Project Update**

Aaron Lieuallen presented the council with an update on the project on 7th Avenue and legal paperwork from the attorneys.

Councilor Randleas made a motion to allow the dedication for the 7th Avenue project between the City and the School District. Councilor Skye seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

h. **OLCC Application Approval**

Councilor Holland advised that the Council does approve OLCC licenses when they come in. Rick advised that they could be approved with the consent agenda to avoid an additional motion needing to be made.

Shannon Adair commented that in the past when her business had to apply for these licenses, they were just signed by the Police Chief or the City Manager so the community should know that they will now have to have those applications in sooner if they will be going before the council.

i. **Council Rules**

Mayor Rookstool asked that all of the Councilors turn in their edits to the Council Rules.

j. Grant County Digital Grant

Councilor Skye asked the council to confirm that the Ford Family Foundation Grant Agreement would be signed since the City is the fiduciary. Mayor Rookstool asked for an update on Grant County Digital/Cybermill progress.

Agenda Item No. 7—Additional Comments, Announcements and Departmental Reports

There is a work session with Straw to Gold on 3/21/23 at 6:00 pm at the Fire Hall.

The next council meeting is on 3/28/23 at 7:00 pm.

The Tidewater loan will be paid this week.

John Rowell asked for updates on projects at the next meeting.

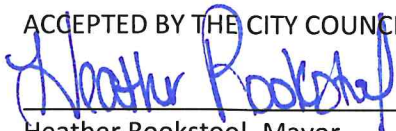
Adjourn

There being no further business before the council, Councilor Randleas moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rininger and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Rick Allen
Interim City Manager

ACCEPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON MARCH 28, 2023



Heather Rookstool, Mayor