

CITY OF JOHN DAY  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
JOHN DAY, OREGON

May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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:**

Don Gabbard, Fire Chief  
Casey Myers, Public Works Director  
Aaron Lieuallen, Senior Project Manager  
Stephanie Allen (Virtual)  
Savannah Lovell (Virtual)  
Sarah Wright (Virtual)

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

John Rowell	Paul Smith
Carl Swank	Kathy Smith
Heather Swank	Shannon Adair
Steve Schuette	Jon Meiling
Andy Day	Cam Marlowe
Maxine Day	

**Agenda Item No. 1—Call Meeting to Order**

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 as well as Interim City Manager Rick Allen.

**Agenda Item No. 3—Amend or Accept Regular Agenda**

Mayor Rookstool asked if there were any amendments or changes to the regular agenda, none were presented.

*Councilor Randleas made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.*

#### **Agenda Item No. 4—Consent Agenda**

Items on the consent agenda for approval:

- a) Approval of Check Register
- b) Approval of May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Council Minutes
- c) Approval of Easement Agreement Greg and Melody Jackson
- d) Approval of Malheur/DEQ Grant Project Award Contract

***Councilor Holland made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilor Randleas seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.***

#### **Agenda Item No. 5—Public Comments**

Mayor Rookstool opened the floor for public comments.

Shannon Adair came forward and think it's important for the city to have something in place about what we can and can't do about the homelessness situation, most cities are creating ordinances regarding this and the deadline to due so in July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.

Cam Marlowe came forward curious on where we stand with R3. Mayor Rookstool stated that we've been accepted to join, pending the approval of the current city councils.

Paul Smith was curious about the burn downtown and if we have a plan to make it look nicer during summer, there have been volunteers who have offered to help clean up.

Jon Meiling came forward asking about the pitstop and whether or not more work is going to be done to it. He also brought up the bridge on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue being way over built and trucks going over it, even though there is a sign posted not to.

#### **Agenda Item No. 6—Paul Smith-Public Comment**

Paul Smith wanted to address the priority of the waste water treatment plant. He highly recommends that it should be the first priority to the council and the city. He stated the treatment plant could fail tomorrow. Our community is dependent on this treatment plant. Smith believed we need Nick Green to run this project to completion, he is the one who can articulate to do so and that's what is best for our city, in his opinion.

Lisa Weigum, who is on the city council in Canyon City stated that they are talking about developing their own treatment plant. She was curious on where this project stands in terms of priority with John Day's city council. Rick Allen stated there are many steps that still need to happen.

Andy Day doesn't understand why this treatment plant has been in the works for almost 10 years. He believes we should hire someone to take this whole project on just so it can be taken care. The city needs a distribution place for the water, and he is willing to provide that at the golf course.

Shannon Adair believes Nick Green should handle this set of projects. Adair is concerned because she feels like the treatment plant, the purple pipe project, and the solar array projects are being treated as 3 separate projects when they actually all supplement each other. She expresses her concerns about this massive project with all of this funding and having our interim city manager trying to figure out where this is going and how it works, then its going to be passed on to the next city manager who will have to do the same thing which will slow this project down. Adair believes if the council were to bring Nick Green back onto this project they would have the history, the historical knowledge and have someone who could move it forward fast and efficiently.

Steve Schuette believes that Nick Green is the right man to hire to push this forward. He knows the right contacts and Schuette believes that Green can get the job done and get it done sooner than we can.

Councilor Holland agrees with the citizens and past council members about Nick Green. He also stated we as councilors need to do what is best for the city and the community and personal feelings need to be set aside at all times.

***Councilor Phillips made a motion to have Interim City Manager Rick Allen move forward with the process to find a project manager. Councilor Rininger seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.***

#### **Agenda Item No. 7—Regular Agenda**

**a. 3<sup>rd</sup> Amended and Restated Employee Handbook (Action)**

Councilor Rininger proposed one more amendment to the employee handbook stating no children in the work place, she believes it is unprofessional. Mayor Rookstool thinks that making this change right now is not the time or place to do so. Casey Myers brought up the public works on call policy. Public works are forced to be on call. The public works on call policy is an attachment to the employee handbook. Councilor Labhart noticed the dates on the handbook are incorrect, so that needs to be changed.

***Councilor Rininger made a motion to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Amended and Restated Employee Handbook with the changed presented. Councilor Randleas seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.***

**b. Council Committee Assignments (Action)**

- Public Works Committee- Councilor Phillips, Councilor Holland, and Councilor Randleas
- Public Safety Committee- Councilor Phillips, Councilor Rininger, and Councilor Sky
- Administrative Committee- Mayor Rookstool, Councilor Holland, and Councilor Labhart
- Community Development Committee- Councilor Rininger, Councilor Randleas, and Councilor Labhart
- Grant County Digital Network Coalition- Councilor Sky
- Grant County Emergency Communications Agency- Councilor Labhart

**c. East 7<sup>th</sup> Street (Park Area) Intent to Award Project (Action)**

All of the funding for this project is there and appointed to the correct places.

*Councilor Labhart made a motion to accept the East 7<sup>th</sup> Street project award. Councilor Phillips seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

d. **Solar Array & Inline Hydropower—Department of Energy Grant (Action)**

Rick Allen supports going forward with the department of energy grant.

*Councilor Labhart made a motion to accept the Solar Array & Inline Hydropower-Department of Energy Grant. Councilor Randleas seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

e. **Interim City Manager Updates**

- **City Manager Recruitment**—The first review of applications will be on the 27<sup>th</sup>. So far there have been 5 applicants. The GMP consultants will inform us on who is qualified.
- **Community Development Director**—We are unsure right now whether or not the community development director will make the budget cut. We will have to wait until the budget meeting.
- **Budget Meeting – June 6 and 7 (if needed)**—There will be a budget meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and if another one is needed it will be on June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- **Work Session – June 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting at 6:00 pm**— Mayor Rookstool wants a work session on June 27<sup>th</sup> before the city council meeting.

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

Rick Allen posted nuisance abatements on the front and back doors of the fire buildings downtown. He has started the official process of declaring those buildings a public nuisance and safety. Letters have been sent out to the property owners.

Mayor Rookstool will be remote for the R3 meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The next council meeting will be June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

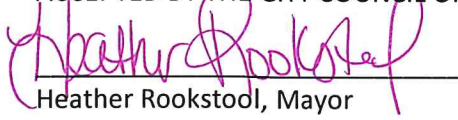
**Adjourn**

*There being no further business before the council, Councilor Phillips 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 June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

  
Heather Rookstool, Mayor