

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

July 25th, 2023

COUCILORS PRESENT:

Heather Rookstool, Mayor
David Holland, Council President
Katrina Randleas, Councilor
Chris Labhart, Councilor
Ron Phillips, Councilor
Sherrie Rininger, Councilor

COUNCILORS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Casey Myers, Public Works Director
Travis Piercy, Public Works
Scott Moore, Public Works
Oren Wyss, Public Works
Steph Allen, Senior Account Clerk (Virtual)
Sarah Wright, Secretary (Virtual)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Shannon Adair	Edwin Newby
Jeremy Adair	Paul Dieker
Carl Swank	Mindy Winegar
Heather Swank	Michele Dieker
Judy Schuette	Jody Moulton
Susan Church	

Agenda Item No. 1—Call Meeting to Order

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

Agenda Item No. 2—Pledge of Allegiance

The City Council stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item No. 3—Roll Call and Attendance

Mayor Rookstool noted that all councilors were present.

Agenda Item No. 4—Amend or Accept Regular Agenda

Mayor Rookstool would like to add an update on the heating and cooling system.
Councilor Rininger would like to add an update about a motion that was made at a previous meeting.

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

Agenda Item No. 5—Consent Agenda

Items on the consent agenda for approval:

- a) Approval of Check Register
- b) Approval of Council Minutes
- c) Nick Ducote Treatment Plant Update

Councilor Phillips made a motion to approve the check register. The motion was seconded by Councilor Labhart and passed 5-1 with Councilor Rininger being opposed.

Councilor Randleas made a motion to approve the Council Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Labhart and passed unanimously.

Councilor Randleas made a motion to approve the Treatment Plant Update. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rininger and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 6—Public Comments

Mayor Rookstool welcomed the public and asked if there was anyone present for something not on the agenda.

Mindy Winegar invites everyone to attend the Grant County Fair and Rodeo. The Rodeo is the 4th and 5th of August, Junior Rodeo is the 6th and the Fair is the 9th through the 12th.

Judy Schuette said when the discussion about the Pledge of Allegiance was brought up Councilor Rininger was very adamant that Robert's Rules of Order required the Pledge of Allegiance to begin meetings. It does not, it is stated under an optional heading. Mrs. Schuette then asked Councilor Rininger if she would be willing to correct her statement that it is not a requirement. Councilor Rininger responded with "dually noted." At a County Court meeting Councilor Phillips quoted, "The thing I'd like to express is the City of John Day is really anxious to work with you to try to resolve our problems. That's where we stand but unfortunately, we don't have any money but we're anxious to try and help you resolve things and you know we will budget money next year." Mrs. Schuette asked Councilor Phillips to respond to that comment because she feels that statement was highly inaccurate and misleading. Councilor Phillips responded with it may have been and he probably should have said he would like for The City to budget money for next year.

Chris Emery, owner of the burned building stated he tried everything he could to satisfy everyone's demands. He has a new buyer that is more than willing to satisfy the City's demands. He also said he isn't playing the victim, he is the victim here.

Agenda Item No. 7—Action Items

a. **Straw to Gold Presentation**

Straw to Gold has been working with the City for the last couple years. They have completed several projects.

Start Time—15:45

End Time—42:30

b. **Greenhouse Appraisal**

Mayor Rookstool contacted legal council about the greenhouse. She stated the greenhouse contract that the City had last June or July was never sent to legal council to start drafting so

there is not one. There has been talk about selling the greenhouse at the cost of the loan or getting it appraised. There is also a potential buyer who is eager.

Nick Green appreciates what Council is trying to accomplish and understands there is no City Manager right now so the Councilors are guessing about what may or may not have happened. Green stated last December he was a contractor for the City working with the current City Manager, Corum Ketchum to begin the lease agreement process. The terms of the lease agreement had already been agreed to by the leaser and the business of Oregon. When Mayor Rookstool introduced the topic by saying there is no draft agreement, that is not true. The City's ordinance does not require them to get an appraisal on the property. The ordinance requires the City has evidence of market value which has been done. To claim it hasn't started when there are 5 months of invoices from the attorney on this topic is simply not true.

Council made a consensus that Mayor Rookstool will get a price with their added cost then bring it back to Council with a draft.

Start Time—42:30

End Time—59:40

c. **Homeless Ordinance**

Mayor Rookstool believes there should be a town hall regarding this ordinance. The Town Hall will be held Tuesday August 15th at 6pm.

d. **Council Vacancy**

There is an open vacancy on council since Elliot Sky resigned. There were 2 applications received by Shannon Adair and Edwin Newby. Two different dates were advertised for the application deadline. Edwin Newby dropped his application off Saturday the 15th but we advertised in the newspaper the deadline was the 14th. Council made a consensus to only accept Shannon Adair's application.

- **Shannon Adair**—This is her 4th time applying for City Council since January. She understands the ethics complaint is a concern to some since it is still being decided. Bob Pereira filed a complaint that said that Shannon potentially used her position on council for financial gain by passing an ordinance in January 2021 that made it easier for the City to sell property. Shannon stated she was not a part of drawing out that ordinance or requesting it and has verification of that from the City Attorney, Jeremy Green. She did vote for it because she wasn't planning on buying property in January 2021, it wasn't until December 2021 that she put a letter of intent for the property, almost an entire year later. It wasn't until May 2022 that Council approved her to purchase that property. In the minutes it stated Shannon Adair wants to buy property from the City. She recused herself in both those meetings, she did not vote and there is nowhere that states you have to leave the room. She is standing up there because she loves the City and wants to help make decisions because she is familiar with the projects.

Councilor Holland made a motion to appoint Shannon Adair to fill Elliot Sky's position with terms to expire December 31st, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilor Randleas. The vote was 3-3 which did not pass. Councilor Phillips, Councilor Rininger and Mayor Rookstool voted against it.

e. Heating Quotes

Councilor Rininger made a motion to hire Milburn Heating and Cooling to install the unit. Councilor Randleas seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-1 with Councilor Labhart being opposed.

Agenda Item No. 8—Additional Department, Council or Other Comments

The City Manager that the City was negotiating with decided to not accept their offer because his current employer offered him a significant pay raise. Council will set up an interview with another gentleman on Monday July 31st at 7pm.

Councilor Phillips brought up the question about the library sign. He stated he probably did a really stupid thing by taking the sign down and said it was a mistake on his part. He apologized for the problem that it caused.

Casey Myers asked the Council who authorized the removal of City property. Council did not vote on this to his knowledge. He stated this is theft of public property by a public elected official without permission or notification. He is tired of the lies, deception and anything but transparency that he has been seeing from this Council. If it would have been anyone else to remove that sign from public property there would have been consequences.

Judy Schuette appreciates Councilor Phillips willingness to apologies but believes there is documentation of him making a comment that he spoke to Mayor Rookstool about this prior to him taking the sign. She asked if that was true or not, Councilor Phillips stated that they did discuss it briefly but Mayor Rookstool was busy at the time. Mayor Rookstool then said she was only told afterwards about the sign being removed. Judy also asked the Councilors who voted no to Shannon Adair why they voted no. Councilor Rininger said she believe they have already been over that answer and doesn't see the value of going over it again. Councilor Phillips stated he doesn't want somebody on the Council that's under an ethics violation.

Lisa Holland had the same question as Judy and said she doesn't understand why the Council would do this. She would like to hear Councilor Rininger's explanation to why she voted no for Shannon Adair. Councilor Rininger said she already gave her explanation and doesn't have to respond to that.

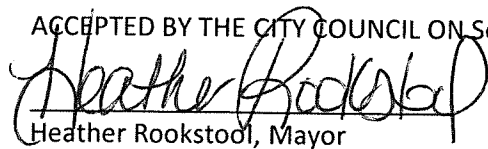
Adjourn

There being no further business before the council, Councilor Rininger moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Heather Rookstool
Mayor

ACCEPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON September 12th, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Rookstool", written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Heather Rookstool, Mayor