

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

October 10th, 2023

COUCILORS PRESENT:

Heather Rookstool, Mayor
Chris Labhart, Councilor
Eric Bush, Councilor
Edwin Newby, Councilor
Ron Phillips, Councilor
Sherrie Rininger, Councilor

COUNCILORS ABSENT:

David Holland, Council President

STAFF PRESENT:

Savannah Lovell, Records Clerk
Don Gabbard, Fire Chief
Shirley Manca
Sarah Wright (Virtual)

GUESTS PRESENT:

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| Frances Preston | Matt Molnar |
| Louis Provencher | John Rowell |
| Joyce Nodine | Linda Ladd |
| Judy Schuette | Shannon Adair |
| Tammy Bremner | Terry Davison |
| Jim Spell | Jody Moulton |
| Beth Spell | |

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 except Councilor Holland who was excused.

Agenda Item No. 4—Amend or Accept Regular Agenda

Councilor Rininger made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush 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 9/28
- c) Social Media Posting (LOC)

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

Agenda Item No. 6—Public Comments

Judy Schuette read a letter she had so it can be part of the permanent record. There was a complaint filed regarding inappropriate comments made by the Mayor in August at the Grant County fair. She is very concerned because the majority of Council (not all) have chosen to take no action and not do an investigation. It appears to her that you don't have to tell the truth and take responsibility for your actions and apparently the majority of this Council agrees.

Beth Spell brought up some of the discussions that took place at the last Council meeting. If Council is actually serious about doing better and being better then she suggested they start answering the public's questions. She thinks the councilors need to put aside anything that's happened in the past and start making their decisions based on what the best thing is for the citizens of John Day.

Jim Spell asked the Council why they don't have microphones so the public can hear what's being said. He believes the citizens have a right to hear what is being said and would like Council to put that into consideration.

Benjamin Ariff from Straw to Gold said several members of the community have told him about posts made by Mayor Rookstool on social media regarding him and his company. He finds these posts to be both disturbing and unprofessional. In addition to these accusatory social media posts and Straw to Gold's contract being over Benjamin claims he has received emails and text from Mayor Rookstool demanding reports of his staff hours and endless details about the work they delivered last year. He stated Mayor Rookstool has been working with the City Attorney to formally pursue him and his company. He asked where in the City Charter is the Mayor authorized to act on their own and pursue legal claims without the Council's knowledge.

Agenda Item No. 7—Action Items

- **Water Treatment Update—Nick Ducote**
 1. Flagline Contract Amendment, for USDA application assistance (\$10,000)
Start—19:30 End—24:20
Councilor Bush made a motion to approve the professional service agreement as amended #01 Flagline Engineering not to exceed \$10,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Newby and passed unanimously.
 2. Ducote Contract Amendment, updating expiration date and maximum contract for Sewer project (\$30,000)
Start—24:20 End—29:10
Councilor Rininger made a motion to approve the professional service agreement as amended #02 for Ducote Consulting LLC. The motion was seconded by Councilor Labhart and passed unanimously.
 3. CwM-H2O: Monitoring Well Contractor Selection, Construction Observation, and Year-1 Water Quality Sampling (\$104,800)
Start—29:10 End—38:03

Councilor Rininger made a motion to accept CwM-H2O: Monitoring well contractor selection, construction observation, and 1-year water quality sampling. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. Instream Water Rights Transfer Package—Task 4b/Purple Pipe
Start—38:03 End—51:45

Council came to a consensus to table this until the next meeting.

- **Add Signers to Bank of Eastern Oregon**

Councilor Phillips made a motion to add Councilor Bush and Councilor Newby as signers to all accounts for The City of John Day at the Bank of Eastern Oregon. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rininger and passed unanimously.

- **3D Print Update—Shawn McKay**

The 3D project is still moving forward. We are still waiting for approval from the State.
Start—55:38 End—1:03:18

- **Greenhouse Update**

The City Attorney recommended the City gets an appraisal for the Greenhouse. Aaron Still Appraisal who has done other work for the City was the only one to give The City an offer. If somebody would like to lease the building it would have to be for the loan amount which is \$24,000 a year.

Start—1:03:18 End—1:20:55

Council came to a consensus to table this until the next meeting.

- **City Manager Update**

There was a Meet and Greet for the City Manager position. Two of those candidates were in person to do interviews and one was virtual.

Councilor Rininger moved to have Council approve GMP consulting to continue to discuss contract negotiations with potential City Manager candidates. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush. After discussion the motion was amended.

Councilor Rininger moved to have Council approve GMP consulting to continue to discuss contract negotiations with a potential City Manager candidate out of the 3 that were interviewed. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush and passed unanimously.

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

At the request of a constituent, Councilor Rininger thinks Council needs to review R3 at the next Council meeting. She encourages all Councilors to read through the contract to fully understand what is going on.

The next Council meeting will be October 24th at 7pm.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the council, Councilor Bush moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 pm. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Heather Rookstool
Mayor

ACCEPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON October 24th, 2023


Heather Rookstool, Mayor