

CITY OF JOHN DAY  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES/AMENDED  
JOHN DAY, OREGON

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**COUCILORS PRESENT:**

Heather Rookstool, Mayor  
David Holland, Council President  
Chris Labhart, Councilor  
Eric Bush, Councilor  
Edwin Newby, Councilor  
Ron Phillips, Councilor  
Sherrie Rininger, Councilor

**COUNCILORS ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Casey Myers, Public Works Director  
Don Gabbard, Fire Chief  
Savannah Lovell  
Shirley Manca  
Sarah Wright (Virtual)

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Frances Preston	King Williams
Louis Provencher	John Rowell
Joyce Nodine	Heather Swank
Carl Swank	Jeremy Adair
Judy Schuette	Shannon Adair
Tammy Bremner	Terry Davison
Jim Spell	Jody Moulton
Beth Spell	Brad Hale
Leslie Stillwater	Stacy Hale
Eva Harris	Nick Green
Josh Walker	Morgan Green
Mindy Walker	Paul Dieker
Michelle Dieker	Robert Gaslin

**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**

***Councilor Rininger made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Newby 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 10/10

***Councilor Bush made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 6—Public Comments**

Judy Schuette asked the Council when is the public allowed to ask questions if its not during the public comment section. She doesn't think it is proper for them to pick and choose who can ask a question and who can't. She would like the Council to consider when that time is and address it.

**Agenda Item No. 7—Action Items**

**a) Mahogany Ridge Update**

All of the inspections with the engineers have been completed and they did a final walkthrough with Casey Myers. Once a stop sign gets put up, ODOT will come sign off on the approach permit.

**b) Town Hall Discussion and possible dates**

Councilor Holland suggested setting a date for a Town Hall in January because the holidays are coming up. Then doing it quarterly from there, if there's not too many other things going on. Councilor Labhart would like to see the Town Hall's be held at the Senior Center. There will be a Town Hall January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.

**c) R3 review IGA and Catalyst Contract**

There was a R3 meeting October 16<sup>th</sup>. The Council already approved the Intergovernmental agreement with some changes they would like to see. Nick Green said that everything in the agreement that the Council passed in that ordinance is the same, there hasn't been any changes made to the IGA except the effective date. If the Council decides that R3 isn't a good fit for John Day Shannon Adair would like to see an alternative and would like to know how the Council is going to bring in funding. Mayor Rookstool signed the IGA agreement.

Start— 25:55 End—54:06

**d) Grant County Digital Board Nomination**

The Council needs to appoint a board member for Grant County Digital since Elliot Sky is no longer on Council.

Start—54:06 End—1:00:45

***Councilor Phillips made a motion to appoint Councilor Bush to represent the City of John Day on the Grant County Digital Board. The motion was seconded by Councilor Labhart and passed unanimously.***

**e) AP/Payroll Update**

Rob Gaslin has been working on figuring out mistakes that have been made on employee's paychecks. He is still working on it but once he has found everything he recommends The City

contacts legal Council to make this right for the employees. This has impacted current and past employees.

**f) Instream Transfer**

***Councilor Phillips made a motion to approve the Instream Transfer. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush and passed unanimously.***

**g) City Manager Appointment**

***Councilor Bush moved to hire Melissa Bethel as the City Manager for John Day with the terms as presented in the negotiation letter and allow the Mayor, applicant and City Attorney to formally finalize the contract. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rininger. The motion passed 6-1 with Councilor Labhart being opposed only because he believes \$130,000 is too much for a City this size.***

Melissa will start her contract on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

**h) Microphones for Owl—**There was a public comment made about not being able to hear the Council. Councilor Labhart questioned the price of the owl expansion microphone. For two of them it would be around \$500. Robert Gaslin doesn't think we can afford them with the budget being so tight. Council came to a consensus to table this until further notice.

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

Councilor Bush will be contacting an appraiser out of Prineville for the greenhouse.

Mayor Rookstool contacted the library foundation and hopefully by the beginning of the year when we have a City Manager they can come to a meeting and give the Council an update.

Casey Myers gave Council an update on the east 7<sup>th</sup> street project. Ramps and curbs are being put in within the next couple days and the paving should be finished by the end of next week.

Savannah Lovell would like to put on record that the agenda that was posted for this meeting included the 3<sup>rd</sup> amended restated employee handbook under the consent agenda. That handbook had been changed since the council approved it at the May 23<sup>rd</sup> council meeting. Mayor Rookstool lied to an employee at the August 8<sup>th</sup> council meeting and denied any changes being made to the handbook. She asked how the council was going to address and handle this since they now all have documentation of her working outside of her authority.

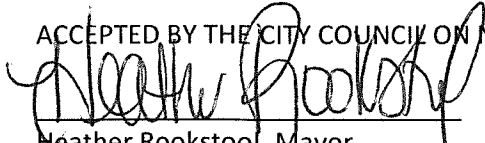
**Adjourn**

***There being no further business before the council, Councilor Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rininger and passed unanimously.***

Respectfully Submitted:

Heather Rookstool  
Mayor

ACCEPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023



Heather Rookstool, Mayor