

**CITY OF JOHN DAY
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JOHN DAY, OREGON**

November 3rd, 2023

COUCILORS PRESENT:

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

COUNCILORS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Savannah Lovell (Virtual)
Sarah Wright (Virtual)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Shannon Adair	Louis Provencher
Jeremy Adair	Tammy Bremner
Leslie Stillwater	Charlene Morris
Bob Pereira	Morgan Green
Sherri Dowdy	Terry Davison
John Morris	Judy Schuette

Agenda Item No. 1—Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Rookstool called the special meeting to order at 8:02 am.

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. Councilor Bush attended virtually. Councilor Holland would like to add a Purple Pipe Project update to the agenda.

Agenda Item No. 4—Intergovernmental Agreement GC Digital Update

LS Networks was doing work for Grant County Digital, Councilor Bush told them to put a pause on things until further notice. The pre-award cost are all incurred costs between April 2021 and April 2022 for EDA eligible costs on the EDA fiber project. The ability to reimburse costs from that period was amended out of the grant in August 2022. The amendment was submitted to change the budget and remove the architectural/engineering costs and Pre-Award Costs from the SACs and EDA contract. The Cybermill building cannot be reimbursed because it was purchased in June 2021 which is within the pre-award period and same goes for LS Networks. Councilor Labhart asked who authorized the amendment. Nick Ducote said he gathered as much information as he could within the week he has been working on it and will look into that. Councilor Holland suggested having Nick Green speak on this since he was the one who started this project and could clear up a lot of missing pieces.

Nick Green stated there is about 1 million dollars in awarded grant funds for the CyberMill building. To answer the question regarding who approved the amendment, it was Council. The amendment was brought to them back in May which Rick Allen signed. Then Council subsequently passed a Resolution that was drafted to authorize the City to apply for additional funds. If carrying the cash deficit on the books for a few more months isn't in the best interest of the City, Nick suggests talking to R3 that's why it was created but it's not something that Council should panic about. He doesn't know why no one came to him with questions but he would have been more than happy to answer them.

Dan from Grant County Digital said there is another Grant County Digital meeting November 7th at 5:30 at the Firehall.

Councilor Bush wants to make sure Council fully understands where the money is, where it's going and is it going to a priority that this Council sees to move forward with. He wants to deliberately peel the onion back and understand everything.

Chantal Desjardin asked if there was a chance EDA was eligible for a match but not eligible for reimbursement. Nick Ducote stated it is neither eligible for a match or a reimbursement, the issue is about the period in which the cost was incurred. It was incurred within the pre-award cost period between April 2021-April 2022, that was SAC #22 which was removed from the grant contract.

Start—2:08 End—50:37

Agenda Item No. 5—Local Government Investment Pool—Account Access

Rob Gaslin stated the City needs 2 people to have access to the LGIP account, currently no one on the City's payroll has access to it. The City's general primary checking account is down to \$30,000 and the last pay run was \$202,000 so the City is going to have to use some of the LGIP funds to support operations.

Chantal Desjardin being the person who has added and removed the most people from the City of John Day's LGIP over the last 4 years, she wanted to clarify there are different levels of permission you can give individuals. When you are adding a contact to the LGIP account you can either give them permission to access the account, which means you can view statements and that is all. You can allow them to initiate transactions, allow them to make wire transfers, or open and close new accounts. She thinks that the Resolution could use some clarification to allow Manca and Gaslin to not only view and access the account but to also initiate transactions.

Jeremy Green said they spoke to LGIP and this Resolution is exactly what they asked for, without any further clarification or request of specificity.

Councilor Rininger made a motion to approve Resolution No. 23-907-07 A RESOLUTION OF CITY OF JOHN DAY APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS TO HAVE ACCESS TO CITY'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT POOL ACCOUNT. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 6—Select an Election Officer

Currently the City does not have an election official listed with the state of Oregon. There's a recall petition that is about to be circulate, which can't continue until the City has an election official. In the

past it has either been the City Manager or City Recorder. Councilor Rininger stated she is not comfortable with the current City Staff handling this and would rather petition the County to handle it.

Charlene Morris thinks there is a conflict of interest between all of the Council members and City Staff. To ensure that there are no issues she thinks they should petition the County Clerk to take this matter over.

Judy Schuette stated this would be a very minimal procedure for whoever does it. This person would make sure the heading meets the 200-word requirement and using the words "certify signatures" is really misleading. She suggested calling Brenda Percy up and asking her.

Councilor Rininger made a motion to have Legal Council contact the County Clerk to move forward on a request to handle this recall. The motion was seconded by Councilor Holland and passed 6-0. Mayor Rookstool recused herself from voting due to a conflict of interest.

Agenda Item No. 7—Purple Pipe Update

Councilor Holland met with HECO engineers. They're at a point that they need to finish the design. They need to get this done in the near future because of the timeline on the grant. Council needs to authorize someone to negotiate with the Parson's about the easement. If there aren't enough funds to complete the full project at this time then Council needs to decide which ends they want to cut.

Shannon Adair reminded Council that in May several people came to a council meeting asking for a Project Manager, a motion was made and approved that never happened. Now it is November and nothing has happened, Nick Ducote has asked multiple times for a project manager or someone to contact. The City is paying a consultant to do ground work from the very beginning, and spending all this money to start from scratch instead of having everyone at the table to get the answers. Cutting somebody out because you don't like them or think their wrong does not mean they shouldn't be at the table.

John Morris asked what the purple pipe water is going to be used for. Council has to consider that water is going to be used 365 days a year from his understanding and if they're going to go up to the golf course, they aren't going to irrigate during the winter months. If that pipe breaks or something he is concerned there will be too much water in the ditch under natural conditions that they won't be able to do maintenance on that ditch.

Terry Davison was assured by the previous City Manager that by the end of summer he would have high speed broadband. Four years later, he still doesn't have it and was told by Rally there was no plan to extend broadband to his home. He asked how many millions of dollars have to be spent until he can get broadband at his property.

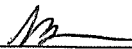
Adjourn

There being no further business before council, Councilor Holland moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 am. The motion was seconded by Councilor Labhart and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Melissa Bethel
City Manager

ACCEPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON January 9th, 2024



Melissa Bethel, City Manager