

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

November 14th, 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 (Virtual)

COUNCILORS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

Frances Preston	Judy Schuette
Linda Ladd	Tracie Unterwegner
Tammy Bremner	Heather Swank
Rick LaMountain	Carl Swank
Beth Spell	Bob Pereira
Jim Spell	Nick Green
Shannon Adair	Morgan Green
Brad Hale	Stacey Hale
Cindy Day	Linda Gingrich
Steve	Ryan

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 with Councilor Rininger being virtual.

Agenda Item No. 4—Amend or Accept Regular Agenda

Councilor Bush 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 10/24
- c) Letter of representation for Labor Legal

Councilor Labhart would like to add to the October 24th minutes stating he 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 at the time.

Councilor Bush made a motion to accept the consent agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed 6-1 with Councilor Rininger abstaining due to not seeing the check register.

Agenda Item No. 6—Public Comments

Richard LaMountain would like to know if the City has been contacted or consulted by federal or state authorities recently in regard to the City becoming an official place of resettlement for our Afghan refugees.

Bob Pereira stated the minutes of the October 24th didn't write any of the narrative that Casey Myers, Public Works Director presented. This was about the transfer of the water rights. These rights were issued before the City purchased the Oregon Pine property in 2017. Bob said at the beginning of Casey's narrative, he stated that nothing was done with these water rights "for 30 years". He would like to see Casey Myer's phrase as presented be included into the minutes of the October 24th meeting as well as the minutes of this meeting.

Ryan commutes by bike a lot and has noticed during City Council meetings people park in the bike lane and would like to make Council aware of that.

Didget McCracken didn't see any updates from the recent discussions and meetings regarding Grant County Digital. She was hoping there would be some discussion tonight to update the community on that topic.

Casey Myers would like to clarify what Ryan said about the bike lane. The bike lane that he was talking about is on the East side of Canyon Blvd. During Council meetings there have been several cars parked there and according to ODOT that is against state law.

Agenda Item No. 7—Action Items

- **Water Treatment/Purple Pipe Update**

The Biological Assessment was officially submitted for formal consultation from USDA. There was good feedback from National Marine Fisheries that because of all the work that has been done on the front end a month should be cut off of their review time. So hopefully the City should have the final Biological opinion from the services at the beginning of next year. The grant amendment was finalized to allow reimbursement for some past grant administration and environmental expenses. The Purple Pipe Design cost estimate for construction exceeds the available budget.

Having an Engineering Owner's Rep for the WWTF Design would be a really important role to have. This would be a \$10-\$15 million-dollar contract with a general contractor and design engineer. The City amended the grant budget to allow \$50,000 to start for this Owner's Rep

position. This would give the City an additional person to lean on for this expertise. There are a lot of costs to be determined in the next 6-9 months, those will be determined by going out for bids. Nick Ducote believes having a person like that to represent the City's interests over the next couple years will ultimately benefit the City. Councilor Rininger asked if they will need to go out for an RFP or if Nick Ducote has some engineers in mind that he's worked with in the past that he can suggest. Nick said we will definitely want to go out for an RFP to satisfy all of the federal funding requirements, there have been some firms he is aware of that are interested in the job. A Progressive Design-Build procurement will include a General Contractor and Design Engineer, separate from the Owner's Rep.

The OWRD awarded the City \$2.9 million in August of 2022 to design and build the Purple Pipe distribution system. Council can either chase more money to build all of it or they can cut some segments out and size the project to the funding that is available. Cutting out some of the segments doesn't necessarily have an impact on the entire sewer project, it's more of an impact on where we can get that water in the long term and who the end users will be. Councilor Holland recommends doing the design as originally planned and in the process of the construction going on potentially pursuing some additional money. The City hasn't done any negotiations for the Golf Course Easement and without that easement the Golf Course is out. Someone needs to be appointed to start those negotiations so decisions can be made.

Doug Argo at HECO engineers gave council the costs for the different segments. Just the tank and the pump and the line going from the tank and the pump out to 7th street where they will tee to go East and West is approximately \$1.8 million. The line going to the East over to the rec center is about \$470,000. The crossing going into Hill Park is about \$71,000. The line going West out to Malheur Lumber is approximately \$1.1 million. The line going up to the golf course is about \$175,000. The water service going to the Greenhouse where the pipe crosses the bridge is about \$18,000. That total is \$3.7 million, the grant funding available for construction is \$2.55 million. Doug Argo recommended designing it all and then bid each part in schedules.

Start—13:50 End—1:14:54

Councilor Bush made a motion to allow Councilor Holland to work with City staff to conduct negotiations on the easement from the Purple Pipe to the Golf Course then bring it back to Council. The motion was seconded by Councilor Labhart and passed unanimously.

Council came to a consensus to have Doug Argo from HECO Engineers move forward but when it goes to construction the East would be the lowest priority.

- **Resolution 23-903-03**

There are 2 Resolutions with the same number. One of the Resolutions was regarding the budget that Rick Allen did and the other was regarding Grant County Digital. There will be a new resolution for Council to review to fix these numbers that are the exact same.

- **URA Update**

Councilor Holland thinks the Council needs to find someone to manage and run the URA so it can run effectively and efficiently. There is tracking that needs to be done, books that need to be kept right, and someone needs to be in contact with the assessor's office to make sure that stuff is being handled. Councilor Holland would like for Council to sit down, look at their projects and prioritize them. He also believes they need someone who can deal with the Broadband stuff and negotiate the lease with Rally and work on the dissolution of Grant County Digital. Councilor

Bush would like to add this on the next meeting agenda so they can all figure out what their options are and fully understand the benefits and risks of each one.

Start—1:16:00 End—1:30:41

- **Planning Committee Board Appointment**

Councilor Holland made a motion to reappoint Tim Unterwegner to the Planning Committee for a 4-year term. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush and passed unanimously.

- **City Manager Contract**

Mayor Rookstool gave Council a draft of the City Manager's contract for them to review and look for any answers, input and discussion on it before the next Council meeting. That way it can be brought back for approval be signed before the new City Managers official start date of January 2nd.

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

The Planning Meeting that was supposed to be on November 22nd is going to be the following week sometime due to the Holidays.

There is a short Council meeting November 28th, 2023 to sign checks.

Executive session December 1st, 2023 at 10am.

Councilor Holland will be absent for the December 12th, 2023 meeting.

Sometime after the 1st of the year Councilor Bush would like council to consider scheduling a work session to specifically address strategic planning.

The Townhall will be January 23rd, 2023 at the Senior Center.

There is a Meet and Greet for the new City Manager, Melissa Bethel on January 2nd, 2023 from 4-6 pm.

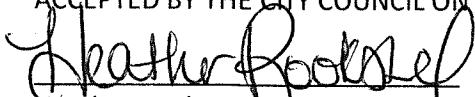
Adjourn

There being no further business before the council, Councilor Holland moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 pm. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Heather Rookstool
Mayor

ACCEPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON December 13th, 2023


Heather Rookstool, Mayor