

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

November 28th, 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:

Don Gabbard, Fire Chief
Savannah Lovell
Oren Wyss
Sarah Wright (Virtual)

GUESTS PRESENT:

John Rowell	Joyce Nodine
Tammy Bremner	Jody Moulton
Jim Spell	Shannon Adair
Carl Swank	Heather Swank
Terry Davison	Judy Schuette
Steve Fischer	Jon Meiling

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 remove the approval of council minutes on the agenda since there were none present.

Councilor Labhart made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rininger 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) Business Oregon Payments

Councilor Labhart questioned the Dice invoice. Councilor Holland stated that Dennis Dice was a contractor for many years, during a lot of his projects he had leftover parts that Casey Myers bought from him for half price, saving the City a bunch of money.

No Council minutes were provided.

Councilor Labhart made a motion to approve part A and C only on the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Newby and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 6—Public Comments

No public comments were made.

Agenda Item No. 7—Action Items

a) **Iron Triangle Building Lease**

There are 3 or more people wanting to lease the iron triangle building off of Patterson. After Councilor Holland was contacted about people wanting to lease this building he felt it was very necessary to have it on the agenda because it provides revenue coming into the City. He thinks Council needs to set a minimum amount, open it up for bid and lease it as is. Councilor Labhart would like to see a set minimum duration as well as a minimum amount.

Councilor Bush made a motion to open the Iron Triangle building for a sealed bid for a minimum 1-year lease and a minimum price of \$1,250 a month closing January 2nd, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilor Holland and passed unanimously.

b) **Council Board Updates**

R3 Update—There was a R3 meeting last Monday. No real decisions were made and money still isn't in the bank account so there's not much to do. Mayor Rookstool asked the R3 board for up to date invoices so Council could see what the City has spent so far. The City is responsible for 25% of any expenses that comes from R3 if the money runs out or something happens. None of these bills have been submitted to R3 because Catalyst and the attorney are waiting for the money to come in before requesting payment. No one is asking for payment right now. Councilor Bush doesn't like the concept that the City is essentially spending money before the money is in the bank.

Shannon Adair has been involved with R3 from the very beginning. It's not just an application for a grant, that grant was approved and has been worked on with the director of R3 and the state. Tom Olson thinks that money needs to be in the bank before moving forward.

Cam Marlowe knows there's a little bit of risk but there is a chance to have multiple organizations within John Day to receive something that will really help the community.

Councilor Rininger said there was a conversation at the last R3 meeting saying that they had a choice to take out a loan and double their money to invest it in a broader scope.

Councilor Holland stated those were only discussions and no decisions have been made. He asked Councilor Rininger to present it as discussions that were had and to not lead people to believe these things are going to happen.

Grant County Digital Update—The fund that manages the money for Grant County Digital is the IT Fund. Councilor Bush called LS Networks who is doing the engineering and design for the CyberMill and broadband project in John Day and told them to stop working for now. At the Grant County Digital meeting they voted unanimously to recommend to the City of John Day to transition into ultimately dissolving Grant County Digital as an organization. They have to make sure that all the assets and liabilities are accounted for. There's no rush to make a final decision on this but there are several options.

Councilor Holland said an option is to petition R3 to purchase the CyberMill building from the City. If they were willing to take on this project, they could finish the CyberMill building and potentially turn the upstairs into residential units which would benefit them if they leased them. Council came to a consensus to have Councilor Bush move forward with the transition into dissolving Grant County Digital in the long run.

Shannon Adair said at the Grant County Digital meeting it was discussed to have a project manager and asked Councilor Bush if he was willing to do that. Councilor Bush said there will be a meeting to discuss the possibility of getting a project manager.

c) OSHA Updates

OSHA was called for a possibility of workspace mold and asbestos due to the flood. They came in and did an investigation. There are a couple fines which came out to less than \$500. There are a couple things that haven't been happening such as Safety Meetings. The City is still waiting for the report from the asbestos testing.

Savannah Lovell stated that the City safety meetings are different than the Council Safety Committee. Those are two separate things.

d) Firehall IGA

Councilor Labhart made a motion to have Mayor Rookstool sign the Intergovernmental Agreement for the 2023 OSFM Engine Program. The motion was seconded by Councilor Holland and passed unanimously.

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

There is a Planning Meeting November 29th, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

There is an Executive Session December 1st, 2023 at 10:00 am.

Questions about Holiday pay came up, the handbook does not state the day after Thanksgiving as a Holiday. The employees got paid for it this year because it has been past practice.

Councilor Labhart would like to bring before Council at the next meeting a possible revision of the City Charter.

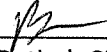
Adjourn

There being no further business before the council, Councilor Holland moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Melissa Bethel
City Manager

ACCEPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON January 9th, 2024



Melissa Bethel, City Manager