**CITY OF JOHN DAY**

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

**COUCILORS PRESENT:**

**COUNCILORS ABSENT:**

David Holland, Councilor

Chris Labhart, Councilor

Eric Bush, Councilor

Edwin Newby, Councilor

Ron Phillips, Councilor

Sherrie Rininger, Council President

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Melissa Bethel, City Manager

Casey Myers, Public Works Director

Don Gabbard, Fire Chief

Joe Hitz – Contract Engineer

Rob Gaslin – Contract Finance

Nick Ducote- Contract grant writer and administrator

Jim Pex- Flagline

**Agenda Item No. 1—Call Meeting to Order**

Called the 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**

Councilor Rininger noted that all councilors were present.

**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—Public Comments**

Terry Davison: Mr. Davison would like to thank our former Mayor, Heather Rookstool for her service.

Beth Spell: Mrs. Spell has expressed her concerns about many unanswered questions the public has brought to City Council. Spell asked when and where will Council provide a format so the public can ask questions about the running of the City and receive answers.

Shannon Adair: Ms. Adair has concerns about the community not being able or allowed to be involved at all. Adair said it feels like decisions are being made outside of Council and not by the entire Council. Adair would like to see this Council form a community advisory committee, so the community can have input.

**Agenda Item No. 6—Consent Agenda**

Items on the consent agenda for approval:

1. Accounts Payable through February 8th, 2024.
2. City Council minutes of January 9, 2024

On the February 8th minutes, under Agenda Item No. 7 it states Councilor Labhart abstained two times because he was cut off from the meeting, he would like that to be changed to him voting no.

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

**Agenda Item No. 7—Grant County Fair recap; Fair sponsorship & City booth discussion**

Mindy Winegar: Ms. Winegar gave an update on the work that has been going on at the Fair Grounds. The outdoor pavilion has been finished. There will be a supporter dinner on June 7th. They are in the works of getting 25 more RV spaces at the 3rd street extension. She stated the ICA Rodeo is August 2nd and 3rd, the Junior Rodeo is August 4th and the Fair is August 7th-10th. She gave Council sponsor packets and would love for the City to be apart of the Fair and Rodeo.

***Councilor Bush made a motion that Council directs City Staff to plan a booth at the indoor pavilion not to exceed $300. The motion was seconded by Councilor Newby and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 8—Wastewater Plant update**

Ducote and Pex gave an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Some of their top priorities are the environmental compliance, completing the funding application(s) and the Purple Pipe. The biological opinion from NOAA-NMFS has been received. The final design scope of work will be ready at the end of this month. Final changes are being made and discussed regarding the design. The Purple Pipe final design work is 100% complete and was submitted to DEQ. Tetra Tech is working on the solar feasibility study. Flagline scope of work is being drafted internally by the engineering team for the WWTF final design. A rate study will be conducted when the costing information is updated.

***Councilor Bush made a motion to accept the recommendations on Ducote’s report under Council Discussion regarding the suggested changes he provided. Councilor Bush declared this motion an expedited requirement. The motion was seconded by Councilor Labhart and passed unanimously.***

***Council came to a consensus to build a new lagoon by the new Treatment Plant for the untreated emergency overflow to save on fencing cost.***

**Agenda Item No. 9—Grant County Digital dissolution and BTAP grant update**

Councilor Bush gave an update on Grant County Digital dissolution.

**Agenda Item No. 10—Approve and Authorize the City Manager to sign a lease for the Patterson Bridge Property with Oregon Underground Utilities LLC**

***Councilor Bush made a motion to approve the commercial lease with Oregon Underground Utilities LLC subject to final legal revisions. The motion was seconded by Councilor Newby and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 11—Approve IGA with Lane Council of Government (LCOG) for Planning services**

***Councilor Bush made a motion to approve the IGA for planning services with Lane Council of Government. The motion was seconded by Councilor Holland and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 12—Authorize a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Auditing Services**

***Councilor Labhart made a motion to request for proposals for qualified municipal auditors for the City of John Day, beginning June 30th, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 13—Discussion regarding ballot measure to update the City Charter**

Councilor Labhart elaborated on why the City Charter needs to be updated. He would like to start the process in doing so.

Councilor Bush would like to bring this back up once the budget is taken care of. He believes there is too much going on at the moment.

**Agenda Item No. 14—Discussion regarding appointment of Mayor position**

Council discussed the options the City Attorney presented to them regarding the appointment of the vacant Mayor position.

Council came to a consensus to table this discussion for a couple months.

**Agenda Item No. 15—Discussion regarding change of time for Council meetings**

***Councilor Labhart made a motion that the City of John Day, as of the next meeting have a starting time of 6:30 pm. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 16—City Manager Comments**

Bethel went over some of her tasks that she’s been working on since the last Council meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 17—Council Comments**

The next regular scheduled meeting is February 27th, 2024.

**Adjourn:**

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

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Melissa Bethel, CM