



**CITY OF JOHN DAY  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES APRIL 8, 2025**

**COUCILORS PRESENT:**

Sherrie Rininger, Mayor  
Chris Labhart, Councilor  
Eric Bush, Council President  
Bradley Hale, Councilor  
Ron Phillips, Councilor  
Vern Pifer, Councilor  
Heather Swank, Councilor

**COUNCILORS ABSENT**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Melissa Bethel, City Manager

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

The City Council meeting was called to order at 6:30 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**

All councilors were present.

**Agenda Item No. 4—Amend or Accept Regular Agenda**

*Councilor Phillips moved to accept the agenda as published. The motion was seconded by Councilor Swank and passed unanimously.*

**Agenda Item No. 5—Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

**Agenda Item No. 6—Consent Agenda**

- a. Accounts Payable through 3-27-25
- b. Minutes of 3-11-25 & 3-25-25
- c. Budget Committee Appointments: 4-year term to expire Jan 2029
  1. Louis Provencher
  2. Meloni Cochran

Councilor Labhart would like to see Katy Nelson's public comment be added to the March 25<sup>th</sup> minutes.

*Councilor Swank made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the change being made to the minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush and passed unanimously.*

**Agenda Item No. 7—Planning Commission Appointment: Linda Pifer**

Councilor Pifer recused himself from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

***Councilor Bush made a motion to appoint Linda Pifer to the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilor Swank and opened up for discussion.***

Councilor Labhart has nothing against Mrs. Pifer but believes this would be a conflict of interest. He wouldn't want to see the Planning Commission decide on something in which Councilor Pifer wouldn't be able to vote. Mayor Rininger and Bethel stated they have already checked into this and it would not be a conflict of interest

***The motion passed 6-0 with Councilor Pifer abstaining.***

**Agenda Item No. 8—April 18 “Two Lights” event**

Rick LaMountain informed Council that the Two Lights event is where two lights are displayed on the evening of April 18<sup>th</sup> to honor and bring to mind Paul Revere's famous ride on April 18, 1775. It is also an opportunity for states and communities to raise awareness about the nation's upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

***Councilor Bush made a motion to display two candles and the American flag in a respectful manner in a front window at the City Hall on April 18<sup>th</sup> through the morning of April 19<sup>th</sup> as well as post on the website and display a summary of the purpose in City Hall. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hale and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 9—Purchase and Sale Agreement – 24 acres Industrial Land**

***Councilor Phillips made a motion to approve the Sale Agreement with Chuck Skupa—24 acres of Industrial Land. The motion was seconded by Councilor Labhart and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 10—Appeal of SDC charges for 27499 La Costa Road**

On December 4th, 2002, an agreement was entered into between the City of John Day and Mathew Turner. At that time the City Code regarding System Development Charges had not been enacted or approved by the City Council. Mr. Densberger is appealing the payment of the SDC since no SDC Ordinance was in place at the time of the agreement.

***Councilor Labhart made a motion to approve the appeal made by Mr. Densberger. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hale and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 11—City Manager Comments**

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a Financial Workshop before the regular Council meeting.

Bethel and Mayor Rininger went to the Townhall on Sunday and had the chance to speak with Senator Merkley.

The Ways and Means Committee is coming up which gives the City an opportunity to testify again regarding funding for the sewer plant. Ducote will be present to testify on the City's behalf. Mr. Rowell stated he would be present and could speak for the City as well.

There is an Easter Egg hunt on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Grant Union High School.

**Agenda Item No. 12—Mayor and Council Comments**

Councilor Bush stated all of the money that has been asked for from the Federal Government this year is gone because they didn't approve a budget, they approved a continuing resolution. Just because the City won't be getting money this year doesn't mean they won't get it next year.

Councilor Hale asked if it would be possible to get an update on the wells and where we stand because budget is coming up.

Having code enforcement in John Day is still in the works.

There will be a Finance Overview Workshop on April 22, 2025 before the regular City Council meeting.

**Adjourn:**

There being no further business before council the meeting was adjourned.

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Melissa Bethel, CM