



**CITY OF JOHN DAY
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES May 27, 2025**

COUCILORS PRESENT:

Sherrie Riningger, 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
Rob Gaslin, Contract Finance

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

Bethel would like Council to add two agenda items. One that authorizes the Mayor to sign the closing documents for the Seneca building and a Financial Report.

Councilor Phillips moved to accept the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hale and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 5—Public Comments

No public comments were made.

Agenda Item No. 6—Consent Agenda

- a. Accounts Payable through 5-19-25
- b. Minutes of City Council Meeting 4-22-2025
- c. Minutes of Finance Workshop Meeting 4-22-2025

Councilor Swank made a motion to accept the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 7—Finance Report

Gaslin presented a budget to actual report to Council.

Agenda Item No. 7—Ranch & Rodeo Community Grant request for \$1,500

The Museum is asking for the funding to reorder brochures which advertise the museum and are placed all around Central and Eastern Oregon. They are also redoing the existing painted pictures in the windows which are faded.

Councilor Labhart made a motion to fund the Ranch and Rodeo Museum in the amount of \$1,500 from the TRT fund. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 8—Strategic Plan Kick Off – Jensen Strategies Presentation

Councilor Bush made a motion to amend the contract with Jensen Strategies for Strategic Planning. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pifer and passed 6-1 with Councilor Labhart being opposed.

Councilor Labhart asked what the City was getting for the extra \$5,000 and Bethel stated they would receive an extra in person session.

Jensen Strategies gave a presentation to Council regarding strategic planning.

Agenda Item No. 9—Discussion regarding naming of John Day Fire Hall

Council came to a consensus that it would be tough naming the Fire Hall after one specific person and decided not to move forward with this.

Agenda Item No. 10—Mayor Signature on Closing Documents

Councilor Bush moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the closing documents for the Seneca building. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 11—City Manager Comments

There will be an Executive Session on June 3rd at 5:30.

Agenda Item No. 12—Mayor and Council Comments

Mayor Rininger was able to make a virtual testimony a few weeks ago as well as traveled to Salem with Bethel to testify in person.

Representative Owens had a Town Hall in which he responded to the question regarding the Sewer Treatment Plant and said it is a priority.

The next City Council Budget adoption meeting is June 24th

The next regular City Council meeting is June 10th

Adjourn:

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

Melissa Bethel, CM