



**CITY OF JOHN DAY
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES June 10, 2025**

COUCILORS PRESENT:

Sherrie Rininger, Mayor
Chris Labhart, Councilor
Bradley Hale, Councilor
Ron Phillips, Councilor
Vern Pifer, Councilor
Heather Swank, Councilor

COUNCILORS ABSENT

Eric Bush, Council President (Excused)

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 besides Councilor Bush who is excused.

Agenda Item No. 4—Amend or Accept Regular Agenda

Councilor Labhart would like to add discussion regarding the Grant County Library to the agenda.

Councilor Hale made a motion to add the Grant County Library to the agenda for discussion only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Labhart and didn't pass with Councilor Swank, Councilor Phillips and Mayor Rininger being opposed.

Councilor Hale moved to approve 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 5-27-25
- b. Minutes of City Council Meeting 5-27-2025 (will be approved next meeting)

Councilor Phillips made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pifer and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 7—Public Hearing: PAPA 24-01

Mayor Rininger opened the Public Hearing.

The John Day City Council will hold a public hearing to consider a request by Oregon Department of Forestry to amend the text of the John Day Development Code to allow RV's, with standards attached, as residential use in the General Industrial Zone only on properties owned or leased by a governmental entity. Text amendments also request that "Dormitory Dwelling" be permitted as a residential use in the GI Zone only on governmental properties. Purpose of amendments is to house fire fighting personnel during the busy fire season in Oregon. The planning commission recommended approval.

a. Staff Report

This is a request for an amendment to the John Day Development Code. The proposed amendment aims to address the need for emergency and seasonal housing employees as well as to provide accommodations for other guests and personnel on official government business. This would not be City wide it would only apply in the General Industrial zone and on governmental properties. Staff recommends the City Council approve and adopt PAPA24-01.

b. Applicant Presentation

No presentation was given.

c. Public Testimony

No public comments.

d. Applicant rebuttal

No rebuttal.

e. Close Public Hearing

Mayor Rininger closed the Public Hearing.

f. Deliberation

No deliberation.

Agenda Item No. 8—Adoption of Ordinance No. 25-02: An Ordinance of the City of John Day Amending the John Day Development Code to Permit Recreational Vehicles as Residential uses in the General Industrial Zone

Councilor Swank made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 25-02: An Ordinance of the City of John Day Amending the John Day Development Code to Permit Recreational Vehicles as Residential uses in the General Industrial Zone. The motion was seconded by Councilor Labhart and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 9—Discussion regarding Director of Public Works Recruitment

The City currently has no Public Works Director. Bethel is asking Council for approval to go out for national recruitment using a firm. The cost is going to be around \$25,000 to do so but she feels it is necessary.

Councilor Hale agrees with going nationally but would like the duties to be very defined. He believes this position has been neglected in the past. Councilor Hale would like to see Bethel reach out to more companies to get more quotes.

Councilor Hale made a motion to direct Bethel to reach out to more companies to compare prices. The motion was not seconded.

Bethel agreed to get Council at least one more bid. Councilor Labhart is not in favor of spending \$25,000.

Councilor Hale made a motion to go with Bethel's recommendation for \$25,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pifer and passed 4-2 with Councilor Labhart and Councilor Hale being opposed.

Agenda Item No. 10—City Manager Comments

The City hired 3 interns out in the field and there will be 1 intern starting at the City Hall.

Agenda Item No. 11—Mayor and Council Comments

Councilor Swank has concerns regarding code enforcement. There has been a lot of speeding and loud trucks downtown. She would like to see this be patrolled better.

Adjourn:

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

Melissa Bethel, CM