



**CITY OF JOHN DAY
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES June 24, 2025**

COUCILORS PRESENT:

Sherrie Rininger, Mayor
Chris Labhart, Councilor
Bradley Hale, Councilor
Eric Bush, Council President
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

No motion was made.

Agenda Item No. 5—Public Comments

No public comments were made.

Agenda Item No. 6—Consent Agenda

- a. Accounts Payable through 6-10-25
- b. Budget Committee Minutes
 - i. May 12, 2025
 - ii. May 27, 2025
- c. Minutes of City Council Meeting 5-27-25
- d. Minutes of City Council Meeting 6-10-25

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

Agenda Item No. 7—Ordinance No. 25-03; An Ordinance Amending Title 7, Chapter 4 of the John Day City Code, Which Chapter Concerns the City of John Day Water System Utility Rules and Regulations. To Address Temporary Water Services, Including Fees and Charges Concerning Temporary Services; and Declaring an Emergency.

No public comments were made.

Councilor Bush made a motion to read Ordinance No. 25-03 by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Labhart and passed unanimously.

Councilor Bush made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 25-03 as read by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Swank and passed 6-1 with Councilor Labhart being opposed.

Councilor Labhart voted against this because he believes it is not fair to individuals that leave for 6 months a year and have to continue to pay for water and sewer services even if water services are shut off.

Agenda Item No. 8—Ordinance No. 25-04; An Ordinance Amending Title 7, Chapter 5 of the John Day City Code, Which Chapter Concerns the City of John Day Sewer System Utility Rules and Regulations. To Address Temporary Sewer Services, Including Fees and Charges Concerning Temporary Services; and Declaring an Emergency.

This is being declared an emergency so it can be implemented in July 2025. No public comments were made.

Councilor Bush made a motion to read Ordinance No. 25-04 by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Swank and passed unanimously.

Councilor Bush made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 25-04 as read by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed 6-1 with Councilor Labhart being opposed.

Agenda Item No. 9—FY 25-26 Budget as recommended by the Budget Committee on May 27, 2025 (receive public comment)

Louis Provencher: He informed Council that Oregon State Legislature just passed House Bill 3962 which is going to allow them more money so they can be flexible to invest in essential activities for the City. Bethel stated this hasn't been passed yet but it would allow more flexibility with the City Council on tourism dollars to spend.

- a. Approval of Resolution 25-01 A Resolution to Adopt FY 25-26 Budget
Councilor Labhart made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-01 A Resolution to Adopt FY 25-26 Budget in the amount of \$6,958,813. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.
- b. Approval of Resolution 25-02 A Resolution to Accept State Shared Revenues
Councilor Labhart made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-02 A Resolution of the City of John Day, Grant County, Oregon Approving Participation in the State Revenue Sharing Program. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush and passed unanimously.
- c. Approval of Resolution 25-03 A Resolution to Impose Taxes for FY 25-26
Councilor Labhart made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-03 A Resolution to Impose and Categorize Taxes for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget at the rate of \$2.9915 per \$1,000 of the assessed value for operations and excluded from limitation \$50,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Swank and passed unanimously.
- d. Approval of Resolution 25-04 A Resolution to Appropriate FY 25-26 Budget

Councilor Bush made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-04 A Resolution to Appropriate Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.

e. Approval of Resolution 25-05 A Resolution setting in place a Master Fee Schedule
Councilor Labhart has a problem with charging a Fire Hall Reservation Fee. When the building was being built it was stated the room would be available for the people.

The Master Fee Schedule may be reviewed and amended from time to time by resolution of the City Council.

Councilor made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-05 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of John Day Adopting a Master Fee Schedule and Repealing all Prior Fee Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pifer and passed 5-2 with Councilor Labhart and Councilor Hale being opposed.

Agenda Item No. 10—Finance Report—Rob Gaslin; Gaslin Accounting

Gaslin gave a presented a budget to actual report to Council.

Agenda Item No. 11—City Manager Comments

DEQ came on June 12th and did a tour of the existing wastewater treatment plant.

The City is going out for recruitment for a Public Works Director in the meantime there have been interns working out in the field and in the office.

One of the interns who will be working in Public Works will be transitioning into Code Enforcement. Councilor Labhart would like to know what the salary is going to be for that position.

Agenda Item No. 12—Mayor and Council Comments

Last Wednesday Councilor Labhart emailed Bethel requesting signage for the restrooms on Main Street be placed on the agenda. He did not meet the deadline for this but believes it could have easily been added and a revised agenda could have been updated. He would like this to be put on the agenda at the next meeting.

Mayor Rininger stated there will not be a second meeting in July just the one on July 8th, 2025.

Councilor Bush stated this will be his last City Council meeting. He intends to resign from Council at the end of this month. He has thoroughly enjoyed serving the community. As much as he would love to stay he has a busy summer and believes it's his time to move on.

The City is accepting applications for the vacant Council position.

Adjourn:

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

Melissa Bethel, CM