



CITY OF JOHN DAY
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES July 8, 2025

COUCILORS PRESENT:

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

COUNCILORS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT:

Melissa Bethel, City Manager
Nick Ducote, Contract grant writer
Jim Peck, Engineer

Agenda Item No. 1—Call Meeting to Order

The City Council meeting was called to order at 6:35 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 Hale made a motion to approve the agenda as published. The motion was seconded by Councilor Swank and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 5—Public Comments

Richard LaMountain: He asked Council to consider issuing a formal resolution asking the county court to retain funding for the library. Mayor Rininger stated discussion regarding the library is on the agenda.

Agenda Item No. 6—Consent Agenda

- a. Accounts Payable through 6-17-25
- b. Minutes of City Council Meeting 6-24-2025
- c. Minutes of the URA Meeting 6-24-2025

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

Agenda Item No. 7—Wastewater Treatment Plant update and approval of Amendment #1 for update to the Engineer scope of work for an increase of \$353,500.00

a. Ducote Consulting Update

The state has funded a \$5 million request for the wastewater treatment plant. The federal funding of \$4.5 million is in process. Ducote needs input from Council regarding the loan

authorization resolution. This advances the process with DEQ and allows the City to receive a Loan Agreement for the additional Final Design Cost.

Peck is requesting Council to amend Keller's scope of work. This amendment updates the design to include a tertiary filter as well as design for solids handling. The total cost of the scope of work amendment is an additional \$353,500

Councilor Hale made a motion to pass Amendment No. 1 the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvement Project Amendment to the Main Agreement dated 8/14/24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Labhart and passed unanimously.

- b. Approval of Resolution 25-06; A Resolution authorizing the City to apply for and enter into a loan agreement with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for the wastewater treatment plant project**

Councilor Labhart made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2025-06 A Resolution Authorizing the City of John Day to Apply for and Enter into a Loan Agreement with the Clean Water State Revolving Funding (CWSRF) for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. The motion was seconded by Councilor Swank and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 8—Public Restroom on Main; Improvements and name discussion

Currently the Main Street Public Restrooms sits with little landscaping, a lack of signage and little purpose other than a public restroom. Some members of Council have brought up improvements. Staff is seeking direction on what improvements should be a priority.

Council came to a consensus to start a committee to discuss what they would like to see be done at the restrooms.

Agenda Item No. 9—Discussion regarding Community Grant Applications

During the FY 24-25 John Day set up a community grant application process to grant nonprofits or community groups. Since implementing the grant certain policy questions have surfaced.

Council would like to see the grant application be changed. Council came to a consensus to put a cap at only spending \$15,000 for the year with each organization receiving no more than \$1,500. Organizations would be allowed to apply for 3 years and then be allotted on a case by case basis.

Agenda Item No. 10—Grant County Library Support

The Grant County Library Coordinator, Chris Ostberg spoke on behalf of the library and the benefits that the community receives from it. Councilor Labhart asked if Council could come up with a letter of support to keep the Grant County Library open. Council approved for a letter to be written in support of the Library.

Agenda Item No. 11—City Manager Comments

Bethel elaborated on how remarkable it is getting the funding for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. She stated there is a great group of employees and interns working hard and doing a phenomenal job.

Agenda Item No. 12—Mayor and Council Comments

Councilor Hale would like Council's input on putting a pool in the City greenhouse to utilize it. Council came to a consensus to have Councilor Hale proceed with gathering information regarding this. Bethel reminded council when they are researching on their own to not make any commitments.

Mayor Rininger read a letter that thanked Public Works for getting the streets cleaned and appreciates them cleaning up our town.

Adjourn:

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

