



CITY OF JOHN DAY
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES September 23, 2025

COUCILORS PRESENT:

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

COUNCILORS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT:

Melissa Bethel, City Manager
Rob Gaslin, Contract Finance
Nick Ducote, Contract grant writer & administrator

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 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

No public comments were made.

Agenda Item No. 6—Consent Agenda

- a. Accounts Payable through 9-16-25
- b. Minutes of City Council Meeting 8-12-2025 & 8-26-2025
- c. New Liquor License: 603 W Main Street

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

Agenda Item No. 7—Formal Introduction of new Public Works Director: Luis Campos

Campos introduced himself to Council and the public and is excited to be here.

Agenda Item No. 8—Resolution 25-10; A Resolution declaring personal property surplus and authorizing its disposal (two (2) Conex containers 8x20)

This was a request from Council. Public Works is currently utilizing 2 of these containers. This Resolution is to make sure the City would be able to sell the other 2 containers if Public Works decides they don't have a need for them.

Councilor Cochran made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-10; A Resolution declaring personal property surplus and authorizing its disposal (two (2) Conex containers 8x20). The motion was seconded by Councilor Pifer and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 9—Discussion regarding placing a 3% Marijuana tax on the 2026 general election ballot

This is a process. Council will have to come back with a Resolution and an Ordinance. There will also be a ballot initiative.

Councilor Labhart made a motion that the City refers the referendum to the voters a resolution involving a 3% tax on local marijuana dispensaries. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 10—WWTP Update—Ducote Consulting

Ducote gave an update on the Waste Water Treatment Plant. He discussed some of the high notes that have taken place. The CDBG Grant was 100% spent down prior to the deadline. Federal funding of \$4,500,000 is still in process. CwM-H2O and Yellow Jacket drilling are coordinating a schedule on the final drilling of the wells.

Agenda Item No. 11—Financial Update—Rob Gaslin

Gaslin presented a budget to actual report to Council.

Agenda Item No. 12—Motion to take Eric Bush off and add Meloni Cochran to the City checking account

Councilor Swank made a motion to take Eric Bush off of the City checking account and add Meloni Cochran to the City checking account. The motion was seconded by Councilor Labhart and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 13—City Manager Comments

a. Strategic Plan Survey

There is a survey on our website as well as packets in the office for the public to fill out.

b. Mattress Recycling Event

There is a mattress recycling event happening on Saturday October 4th. This is an opportunity for citizens to drop off used/old mattresses for free and they will handle the rest.

Agenda Item No. 14—Mayor and Council Comments

Mayor Rininger brought up some questions Mr. Provencher had at the last meeting. Mayor Rininger went over these questions and answered all of them to the best of her ability. She wanted to make sure people know if they have questions they can come to the City Manager or Council members because that is what they are here for.

Councilor Phillips made a comment that he is still receiving compliments about Public Works and how great they are doing.

Adjourn:

The next regular council meeting is October 14th, 2025.

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



Melissa Bethel, CM