

CITY OF JOHN DAY
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES October 14, 2025

COUCILORS PRESENT:

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

COUNCILORS ABSENT

Bradley Hale, Councilor (Excused)

STAFF PRESENT:

Melissa Bethel, City Manager

Call Meeting to Order

The City Council meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Agenda Item No. 1—Pledge of Allegiance

The City Council stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item No. 2—Roll Call and Attendance

All councilors were present besides Councilor Hale who is excused.

Agenda Item No. 3—Amend or Accept Regular Agenda

Councilor Cochran made a motion to approve the agenda as published. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 4—Public Comments

Christine Ostberg: She informed Council of the Save Our Library Committee. They are trying to find another source of funding for the public library. She asks that the community attends the public hearing on October 21, 2025.

Larry Decew: He gave an update regarding the “Promised Land” statue. The City of Portland is going to release the statue, have it transported to Enterprise where the original artist is going to restore it. If everything goes as planned the statue should be transported to John Day in the Spring.

Agenda Item No. 5—Consent Agenda

- a. Accounts Payable through 10-1-25
- b. Minutes of City Council Meeting 9-23-2025

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

Agenda Item No. 6—Appointment of “Pit Stop” committee

- a. Shannon Adair
- b. Elaine Mezzo

- c. Susan Church
- d. Richard LaMountain
- e. Larry DeCew
- f. Councilor Swank
- g. Councilor Labhart

Mayor Rininger made a motion to approve all of the applicants that applied to this committee; Shannon Adair, Elaine Mezzo, Susan Church, Richard LaMountain, Larry DeCew, Councilor Swank and Councilor Labhart and to follow the Resolution and report back to Council. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pifer and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 7—Set date for Council Rules and Procedures workshop – Goal #3

Mayor Rininger has reached out to other mayors, who have shared their Council rules with her for reference. The Mayor is requesting that Council reviews this and provide feedback on what they would like to see included in their own set of council rules.

Other Business

Agenda Item No. 8—City Manager Comments

- a. Strategic Plan Survey**
The City is still accepting strategic plan surveys.
- b. LOC 100 Year Anniversary fall Conference report**
Bethel and Mayor Rininger attended this conference in Portland. One thing Bethel found fascinating is people are now considering John Day as frontier rather than rural. This could bring a whole new connotation to economic development within the City.
- c. November Council meeting on the 18 due to holidays**
The first meeting in November falls on a holiday and the second meeting falls right before Thanksgiving. There has been discussion about holding this meeting in the middle of the month.

The City has been transitioning to a new IT department. Updates to the City website are planned for the week of October 25th.

Bethel stated there will be a bigger update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The City is looking at other candidates for the Public Works Director position after the previous candidate chose to remain with their current employer.

The Grant County Fair & Rodeo is having a fundraising dinner. Bethel asked Council if they would be willing to sponsor a table for the employees to attend. Bethel said she would check into the legality of this.

Agenda Item No. 9—Mayor and Council Comments

Councilor Phillips informed council there is a light out in the parking lot.

Adjourn:

The next regular council meeting is October 28th, 2025 following a URA executive session. There being no further business before council the meeting was adjourned.

Melissa Bethel, CM