



**CITY OF JOHN DAY
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES October 28, 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
Don Gabbard, Fire Chief

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

Agenda Item No. 5—Public Comments

No public comments were made.

Agenda Item No. 6—Consent Agenda

- a. Accounts Payable through 10-20-25
- b. Minutes of City Council Meeting 10-14-2025

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

Agenda Item No. 7—Motion regarding Writ of Mandamus filed against the City of John Day

Councilor Hale moves that the City of John Day show cause and contests in response to the Writ of Mandamus that may be issued by the Grant County Circuit Court in relation to a petition for alternative Writ of Mandamus filed in the Grant County Circuit Court by Nicholas Green and Morgan Green naming the City of John Day and John Day Urban Renewal Agency as defendants. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed 6-1 with Councilor Labhart being opposed.

Agenda Item No. 8—Finance Update—Rob Gaslin

Bethel provided Council with the financial update prepared by Gaslin. The City is preparing to start the audit for last year's finances. Gaslin will be spending more time at City Hall to assist with this process.

Other Business:

Agenda Item No. 9—City Manager Comments

a. Strategic Plan Update

The Strategic Plan process is ongoing.

A Community Meeting will take place on November 5th from 6-7 at the John Day Senior Center.

A focus group will also be held, incorporating input from the selection of the completed community surveys.

Gabbard reviewed expenses including equipment repairs.

Bethel noted that the City has an excellent team of employees. Holiday lights will be installed the first week of November and staff is preparing for winter operations.

Agenda Item No. 10—Mayor and Council Comments

Council received a letter from the Carrie Young Memorial, a non-profit organization that raises funds for the elderly in Grant County. Councilor Labhart requested that a discussion about a potential donation to the Carrie Young Memorial be added to the next agenda.

Mayor Rininger praised Firehall Press for sharing information but noted a recent error about the statue, which has since been corrected.

Adjourn:

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

Melissa Bethel, CM