

CITY OF JOHN DAY
WORK SESSION MINUTES December 3, 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
Amelia Wallace, Jensen Strategies

Call Meeting to Order

The Work Session 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.

Agenda Item No. 3—Strategic Plan Update; Themes and outcomes from input; Vision Statement

Wallace from Jensen Strategies delivered a PowerPoint presentation outlining the progress made to date in the Strategic Planning process. She provided a review of community feedback gathered through the John Day 2045 Vision process.

Several focus areas for the John Day 2045 Vision were identified including a thriving economy, a family friendly community, an excellent quality of life and support and safety for residents. Key concepts associated with these focus areas include well-paying jobs, an affordable cost of living, access to housing, a variety of community amenities, activities for all ages, strong schools and education, access to quality healthcare and overall safety and security.

Council members generally agreed the feedback was not surprising and noted that while the community's priorities and challenges are clear, additional guidance is needed on how to achieve the desired outcomes. Council members expressed appreciation for the community engagement efforts and indicated interest in moving forward with the next steps of the strategic planning process.

Agenda Item No. 4—Council Rules and Procedures; Council discussion

- a. Is there a specific Rules and Procedures Council would like to use as a base?

- b. What specific content from other cities Rules and Procedures would Council like incorporated into John Day's?

The Council expressed consensus on the need to review and become familiar with the existing rules and practices before considering changes. Bethel stated to keep in mind that the current rules are old and outdated.

Adjourn:

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

Melissa Bethel, CM