

**CITY OF JOHN DAY
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
JOHN DAY, OREGON**

May 9th, 2023

COUCILORS PRESENT:

Heather Rookstool, Mayor
Sherrie Rininger, Councilor
David Holland, Councilor
Katrina Randleas, Councilor
Elliot Sky, Councilor
Ron Phillips, Councilor
Chris Labhart, Councilor

COUNCILORS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Casey Myers
Don Gabbard
Aaron Lieuallen
Steph Allen (Virtual)
Rick Allen, Interim City Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

John Rowell
Robert Pereira
Cam Marlowe

Agenda Item No. 1—Open and Note Attendance

Mayor Rookstool called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Item No. 2—Roll Call and Attendance

Mayor Rookstool noted that all councilors were present as well as Rick Allen, Interim City Manager.

Agenda Item No. 3—Amend or Accept Regular Agenda

Mayor Rookstool added we are going to revote for our committee selection now that Councilor Labhart is part of the council. She also stated we are moving the 7th street project to the May 23rd meeting. Rick Allen wanted to add in a fire update under the City Manager Updates.

Councilor Randleas made a motion to accept the consent agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rininger and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 4—Consent Agenda

Items on the consent agenda for approval:

- a. Approval of Check Register

b. Approval of April 25th, 2023 Council Minutes

Councilor Randleas introduced a change to the April 25th minutes, under agenda item number 9 it was approved with amendments as well as agenda item number 10 so that needs to be added in.

Councilor Labhart made a motion to approve the check register as well as the minutes from April 25th, 2023 with the amendments presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Randleas and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 5—Public Comments

Mayor Rookstool welcomed the public and asked if there was anyone present for something not on the agenda. Councilor Labhart brought up a letter he received from Casey Myers, Public Works Director regarding backflow devices. Casey Myers stated after the letter went out he contacted elkhorn media group as well as the radio stating if you're not sure if you have a backflow device to contact him.

Agenda Item No. 6—Regular Agenda

a) **Rural Revitalization Strategies (R3) (Report)**

Mayor Rookstool, Councilor Holland, and Councilor Randleas attended the R3 meeting in Burns on Thursday to show that John Day is still wanting to be involved. Burns did approve for us to be voted back in if their councils will re elect us. Right now, it's just the two board members and if John Day is accepted in we will be the third. If you are from John Day, Burns or Lakeview you cannot be the person at large. Councilor Holland stated that Lakeview and Burns attorney were virtually present and they agreed to work on some of the issues that were brought up during the meeting with our attorney. May 25th is the next R3 meeting in Burns.

Councilor Sky made a motion that our council supports the signature of the person who is represented to sign the House Bill 3569. The motion was seconded by Councilor Randleas and passed unanimously.

b) **Rural Revitalization Strategies (R3) Representative Appointment (Action)**

Mayor Rookstool opened the R3 representative appointment up for discussion. Right now, its bi-weekly, hopefully turning into monthly. Meeting will be held in Burns with the option of being remote. This person will be responsible for making board decisions. Any financial things that come from decisions made have to come back to our board and be approved by our council.

Councilor Rininger made a motion to appoint Mayor Rookstool to be our representative for R3. The motion was seconded Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.

c) **Water Leak and Damage City Hall (Report)**

Casey Myers stated when they fixed the leak and turned the water back on there was a problem with the hot water heater which resulted in water leaking into the floor. We brought in people from Bend to pull tiles and sheetrock and take samples for asbestos testing. Rick Allen called a restoration company to come look at it and evaluate it. They will be the ones doing the repairs.

d) **Solar Grant Progress (Action)**

This was a grant that was given for up to \$100,000. This grant was originally applied for solar. They were going to put a solar field close to the treatment plant with the anticipation that it would supply the electricity for all city sites. Councilor Sky stated its important to know that we can use the grant funding to pay for the services. Mayor Rookstool doesn't see this as a necessity right now because of the other projects we have going on. The council agreed to decide whether or not to move forward with this at the next city council meeting on May 23rd after they have looked into it more.

e) **Committee Selections**

Mayor Rookstool went over who is currently on each assignment. Councilor Labhart would like a list to be put together then brought forward at the next meeting for discussion.

f) **Interim City Manager Updates (Reports)**

- **City Manager Recruitment**—GMP consultants sent out flyers for this position. One person has applied. It will be put in the newspaper as well as on our website.
- **Community Development Director**—They are still putting this together, it is not out yet.
- **Vacant Industrial Building**—The city has a vacant building at 433 Patterson Bridge Road. Rick Allen stated there are reasons to tear it down and there are reasons to keep it, each has its own risks and rewards. There were several different opinions on what to do with this property. There was a consensus made to come back to it.
- **Sewer Treatment Plant**—The Sewer Treatment Plant is a main priority to council. There have just been numerous things that held them back from moving forward which was out of council's control. Councilor Labhart suggested the Public Works Committee helping out with this.
- **Employee Handbook**—Jeremy Green will be getting the employee handbook back at the beginning of next week to be reviewed. After it is reviewed it will go before council at the May 23rd meeting.
- **Budget 2023-24: Meeting May 16th**— A budget meeting is set for May 16th, 2023 at 7pm.
- **Update on Fire Buildings**—Rick Allen has talked to all of the tenants that were affected by the fire and they understand where the city is headed. Making sure those buildings are cleaned up is the main goal due to safety. The city is still moving forward with this.

Agenda Item No. 7—Additional Comments, Announcements and Departmental Reports

Councilor Randleas made a motion to approve and have Rick Allen sign the EDA award. Councilor Sky seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Councilor Labhart brought up concerns about Hill Family Park Restrooms and not being able to access it. Casey Myers stated unfortunately we do not have law enforcement to handle that situation and isn't sure how to handle it at the moment but agrees something should be done about it. Councilor Labhart would like this to be added to the agenda for the next council meeting.

There is a budget meeting May 16th, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

There is a meeting for R3 is on May 25th.

The next council meeting is on May 23rd, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the council, Councilor Rininger moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Rick Allen
Interim City Manager

ACCEPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON MAY 23rd, 2023

Heather Rookstool, Mayor