**CITY OF JOHN DAY**

**URA MINUTES MAY 21, 2024**

**COUCILORS PRESENT:**

David Holland, Councilor

Chris Labhart, Councilor

Eric Bush, Councilor

Edwin Newby, Councilor

Ron Phillips, Councilor

Sherrie Rininger, Council President

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Melissa Bethel, City Manager

Rob Gaslin, Contract Finance

**Agenda Item No. 1—Call Meeting to Order**

The URA meeting was called to order.

**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 and board members were present.

**Agenda Item No. 4—Amend or Accept Regular Agenda**

***Councilor Bush made a motion to accept the agenda for the John Day URA meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Newby and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 5—Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

**Agenda Item No. 6—URA Fund Update and Discussion**

Gaslin addressed Council asking for direction on whether or not they want to continue the incentive program. He spoke about the URA Business Oregon Loan. The URA is in need of cash to repay the City and continue operation. If URA took an additional draw of the loan to repay the City it would improve the City’s cash position, however, if the URA takes out more debt than the property tax revenue can support, the City will then need to continue subsidizing the URA’s debt service payment which will continue to reduce funds available for City operations.

Councilor Holland suggested reaching out to R3 to help subsidize the URA until the tax increments have an opportunity to catch up.

***Councilor Bush moved to direct the City Manager and City Attorney to hire an independent third-party person to review the URA program in order to give Council advice on how to move forward. Councilor Labhart seconded the motion. Council opened it up for discussion. Motion passed 4-2 with Councilor Labhart and Councilor Holland being opposed.***

***Councilor Phillips made a motion to give the City Manager authority to move forward with taking out the loan in order to balance the budget. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush and passed unanimously.***

Council came to a consensus to have the City Manager contact the R3 board to see whether or not this is something they can help the City with.

Shannon Adair: Adair is concerned about spending more money to get information on the URA before asking the people who developed it.

**Adjourn:**

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

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Melissa Bethel, CM