**CITY OF JOHN DAY**

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES May 28, 2024**

**COUCILORS PRESENT:**

**COUNCILORS ABSENT**

David Holland, Councilor

Eric Bush, Councilor

Edwin Newby, Councilor

Ron Phillips, Councilor

Sherrie Rininger, Council President

Chris Labhart, Councilor

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Melissa Bethel, City Manager

Nick Ducote—Contract grant writer & administrator (Virtual)

Doug Argo- Contract Engineer (Virtual)

**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 Bush moved to accept the agenda as published. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 5—Public Comments**

Beth Spell: Spell asked Council when they changed their format for selecting committee members and why they didn’t consider everyone who applied for the budget committee.

**Agenda Item No. 6—Consent Agenda**

Items on the consent agenda for approval:

1. Accounts Payable through May 22, 2024
2. Appointment of Planning Commissioners for a term of 4 years ending Dec 2027

Bradley Hale

Valarie Maynard

Vernon Pifer

Councilor Holland asked about the payment that was made to Tyler Sheedy on the Accounts Payable. Bethel said the payment was a reimbursement for the facade program.

***Councilor Bush moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed 4-1 with Councilor Holland being opposed.***

**Agenda Item No. 7—Presentation & request by the Change Club for the City to try and obtain a sculpture from the City of Portland**

Larry Decew spoke on behalf of the Change Club. In the summer of 2020, protestors in downtown Portland damaged statues in a number of public parks. There was a bronze sculpture titled “The Promised Land” which was splashed with red paint and defaced with graffiti. The John Day Change Club petitions the City of John Day to contact the City of Portland and offer to take ownership of “The Promised Land” sculpture and offer to pay the transportation to Grant County. Any cost that would be incurred transporting the statue, the Change Club would take it on as a project and fundraise for that.

Council came to a consensus for Bethel to reach out to the City of Portland and move forward with this.

**Agenda Item No. 8—Purple Pipe Project Recommendation from Council subcommittee**

The subcommittee for the Purple Pipe recommends abandoning the Purple Pipe at this time due to circumstances beyond their control.

***Councilor Bush moved to terminate the Purple Pipe Project, occurring no further costs at this time and direct City Manager to work with Oregon Department of Water Resources to mitigate the cost of terminating the project at this point. The motion was seconded by Councilor Holland and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 9—Mayor Appointment Discussion**

Bethel got conformation from the County that the City can’t do an advisory vote.

Council discussed their options regarding appointing a Mayor.

They came to a consensus to not make a decision tonight and revisit this topic at a later date.

**Agenda Item No. 10—City Manager Comments**

There have been concerns about the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Bethel stated last week the City received confirmation that their grant extension has been approved until August 2025. All of the plans the City has submitted has been reviewed and approved.

**Agenda Item No. 11—Mayor and Council Comments**

No Comments were made.

**Adjourn:**

There being no further business before council the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is the City and URA Budget on June 4, 2024

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Melissa Bethel, CM