**CITY OF JOHN DAY**

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES AUGUST 13, 2024**

**COUCILORS PRESENT:**

**COUNCILORS ABSENT**

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

Nick Ducote, Contract Grant writer & administrator

**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 would like to add in strategic planning at the end.

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

**Agenda Item No. 5—Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

**Agenda Item No. 6—Consent Agenda**

Items on the consent agenda for approval:

1. Accounts Payable through July 31, 2024
2. Minutes for June 4 and July 9, 2024.

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

Councilor Labhart wanted to put on record that since the new fiscal year has started the City has spent $39,549 in legal fees with only a $91,000 budget.

**Agenda Item No. 7—Public Hearing**

Pursuant to ORS 221.725, the John Day City Council (the “Council”) will hold a public hearing to discuss the sale of certain City-owned real property, including a commercial building located thereon (the “Building”), commonly known as 300 Barnes Ave., Seneca, Oregon 97873. The Council considers it necessary or convenient to sell the Property because the Property is no longer needed for City purposes. In accordance with ORS 221.725, City residents will have the opportunity to present written or oral testimony at the public hearing concerning the proposed transfer.

***Councilor Labhart made a motion to open the public hearing pursuant to ORS 221.725. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush and passed unanimously.***

Councilor Holland stated because the City is putting the building up for sale, a public hearing needs to be held.

Shannon Adair: If the City sells this property, Adair asked how it will impact the Cybermill and if it will be affected. Councilor Rininger stated it won’t be negatively affected if it is sold.

***Councilor Bush moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilor Labhart and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 8—Community Grant Application—Hope for Paws: Request for $1,700**

Paul Smith shared some highlights regarding Hope 4 Paws. Smith asked Council to consider donating $1 per person (per city population). Councilor Labhart declared a conflict of interest because he is a board member for Hope 4 Paws but will be voting due to not having a financial impact on this.

***Councilor Bush made a motion to donate $1,704 from the Community Grant Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilor Labhart and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 9—R3 Offer to Purchase City-Owned Real Property**

Janet Robertson: Ms. Robertson expressed how she is in favor of the City selling this building. She feels like it is a liability to the City.

***Councilor Bush moved to have the Council direct the City Manager and City Attorney to negotiate a potential purchase agreement with R3 for the sale of the building because the City has no use for it and it is in the best interest of the public. The motion was seconded by Councilor Labhart and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 10—League of Oregon Cities 2025-26 Legislative Priorities (pick top 5 issues)**

Councilor Holland asked for more time to look through this because there are several good things in there and would feel more comfortable if he had more time to look into it deeper.

**Agenda Item No. 11—Strategic Planning**

Councilor Bush gave a presentation on strategic planning. He elaborated on what the Cities vision statement is and thinking about what the goal is for the future.

**Agenda Item No. 12—City Manager Comments**

1. **Camping Ordinance Update**

The City is still working on the camping ordinance.

1. **Website update**

Civic plus is doing a platform update for our website and asked the City not to post anything the week of the 26th so the August 27th meeting will be cancelled.

**Agenda Item No. 13—Mayor and Council Comments**

Councilor Labhart has been addressed by the public regarding the sidewalks and who is in charge of that. Bethel stated it is an ODOT project and they ran into underground issues they weren’t anticipating and will try to get an update for Council.

Councilor Holland asked Councilor Bush how he got copies of his emails that was brought up a couple meetings ago. Councilor Bush responded that he filed a public records request.

**Adjourn:**

There being no further business before council, Councilor Labhart moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush and passed unanimously.

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Melissa Bethel, CM