

CITY OF JOHN DAY
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES NOVEMBER 12, 2024

COUCILORS PRESENT:

Sherrie Rininger, Mayor
David Holland, Councilor
Chris Labhart, Councilor
Eric Bush, Council President
Edwin Newby, Councilor
Ron Phillips, Councilor
Bradley Hale, Councilor

COUNCILORS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT:

Melissa Bethel, City Manager

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 Newby and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 5—Public Comments

Jon Meiling: Mr. Meiling has issues with some Ordinances within the City, specifically the no leash law for dogs.

Paul Smith: He spoke about the stoplight issue. Smith would like Council to consider taking a position to retain the stoplight for public safety reasons.

Agenda Item No. 6—Consent Agenda

Items on the consent agenda for approval:

- a) Minutes of 10-8-24 and 10-22-24
- b) Accounts Payable through October 31, 2024

Councilor Bush moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hale and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 7—Community Grant Request by Painted Sky Center for the Arts in the amount of \$2,000

Kim Randleas spoke on behalf of Painted Sky Center for the Arts. This grant would be used to upgrade their ticket fundraising and website platform. They are hosting a fundraising gala on November 23rd

Councilors Bush and Mayor Rininger questioned the appropriateness of the request and if a software update meets the intent of the grant program. Both Councilor Bush and Rininger stated they are in support of Painted Sky but would like to see the request more community orientated.

Councilor Holland made a motion to grant Painted Sky Center for the Arts their request for \$2,000 to help the community and help them update their system. The motion was seconded by Councilor Labhart and passed 5-2 with Councilor Bush and Mayor Rininger opposed.

Agenda Item No. 8—Mahogany Ridge

Josh Walker and Russ Comer presented a timeline regarding some of the challenges they have been facing with the development of The Ridge. There is a strong need for housing in the community and while they have been trying to move forward with development they have encountered some obstacles and issues that they would like everyone to be aware of. They were required to execute a performance bond stating they would complete the remaining public improvements consisting of the top layer of base rock and paving of The Ridge, which has been complete. They are asking to be released from this performance bond as it has costs them thousands of dollars.

Another issue they have is the delays in the land use and structural permits. There was a 7-month timeline from submitting the land use application to receiving structural permit approval which has severely delayed the project. They would respectfully like to ask Council to take action, correct the course and help to achieve the shared goal of creating much needed housing in the community.

Bethel stated she started in January and had to make sure that everything was done correctly moving forward which took some time. Council was very apologetic. Walker asked Bethel if she had an estimated timeline on the overall development approval. She said she would get it done.

Agenda Item No. 9—City Manager Comments

The next regular council meeting will be November 26th, 2024 which will be the rate study review. She informed Council that R3 has withdrawn from purchasing the downtown John Day building.

Agenda Item No. 10—Mayor and Council Comments

The unofficial results from the election came in and Mayor Rininger congratulated Councilor Holland, Councilor Labhart and Heather Swank.

Councilor Bush thanked Councilor Newby for stepping up and volunteering to be on Council.

Adjourn:

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

Melissa Bethel, CM