**CITY OF JOHN DAY**

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES DECEMBER 17, 2024**

**COUCILORS PRESENT:**

**COUNCILORS ABSENT**

Sherrie Rininger, Mayor

Chris Labhart, Councilor

Eric Bush, Council President

Ron Phillips, Councilor

Bradley Hale, Councilor

Ed Newby, Councilor

David Holland, Councilor (Not Excused)

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Melissa Bethel, City Manager

Rob Gaslin, Contract Finance

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**

Mayor Rininger stated all Councilors were present besides Councilor Holland who is not excused.

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

Agenda Item No. 12 needs to be removed from the agenda due to Parks and Rec not being able to make it to the meeting.

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

**Agenda Item No. 5—Public Comments**

Heather Swank: Swank has noticed that the stop sign at the end of North Canyon Boulevard has been knocked over and hasn’t been fixed in weeks. She wanted to bring that to Councils attention.

**Agenda Item No. 6—Consent Agenda**

Items on the consent agenda for approval:

1. Minutes of 11-26-24
2. Accounts Payable through December 2, 2024
3. 2024 Certified Election Results Grant County

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

**Agenda Item No. 7—Public Hearing for Property Sale and Exchange**

***Councilor Labhart made a motion to open the Public Hearing for the proposed sale of property at 241 W. Main Street.***

1. Proposed sale of property at 241 W. Main Street

Councilor Bush recused himself from this topic due to a conflict of interest.

***Councilor Labhart made a motion to open the Public Hearing for the proposed sale of property at 241 W. Main Street.***

The City received a letter of intent to purchase the building from R3. The Council agreed to enter into negotiations with R3 but they decided to not move forward with the purchase of the building. This hearing will allow the City to proceed with private offers to purchase the building.

***Councilor Labhart made a motion to conclude the Public Hearing.*** ***The motion was seconded by Councilor Hale and passed unanimously.***

***Councilor Phillips made a motion to move forward with the sale of property at 241 W. Main Street. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hale and passed unanimously.***

1. Proposed exchange of property on Brent Drive – Nodine

***Councilor Labhart made a motion to open the Public Hearing for the proposed exchange of property on Brent Drive. The motion was seconded by Councilor Newby and passed unanimously.***

Ms. Nodine is proposing to exchange the city owned property directly in front of her shop for water front property along North Brent which will have little financial impact.

***Councilor Labhart made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilor Newby and passed unanimously.***

***Councilor Phillips made a motion to move forward with the proposed exchange of property on Brent Drive. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hale and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 8—Public Hearing Ordinance 24-204016: An Ordinance of the City of John Day Establishing Camping Regulations and a Campsite Removal Policy**

Mayor Rininger opened the Public Hearing for Ordinance 24-204016.

Bethel stated that the Sheriff’s Office has agreed to enforce the camping ordinance. Councilor Labhart asked Bethel if this Ordinance was posted at 3 different locations. She said she will check into that and make sure that it is done correctly.

***Councilor Labhart made a motion to read Ordinance 24-204016 by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.***

***Councilor Bush made a motion to table this until next Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hale and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 9—Resolution No. 24-913-06: A Resolution of City of John Day adopting certain water and sewer service fees effective January 22, 2025**

***Councilor Labhart made a motion to read Resolution 24-913-06 by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush and passed unanimously.***

***Councilor Labhart made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-913-06. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hale and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 10—Resolution No. 24-914-07: Clark’s Disposal Request for elimination of fuel tax and rise of rates for net zero impact to customers**

Clark’s Disposal is requesting that the current fuel surcharge percentage be removed and the current rates and prices be adopted. The last official rate increase request was in the final quarter of 2019.

***Councilor Bush made a motion to read Resolution 241-914-07 by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hale and passed unanimously.***

***Councilor Labhart made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-914-07. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 11—IGA for Law Enforcement Services; subject to minor legal revisions**

***Councilor Hale made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for law enforcement with the Sherriff Department subject to legal review. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 12—Timber Trucker Light Parade Community Grant request: $100.00**

***Councilor Phillips made a motion to grant the Timber Trucker Light Parade the grant request of $100. The motion was seconded by Councilor Newby and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 13—Council approval of Engineering Services RFP**

The City of John Day is soliciting for City Engineers to provide engineering services as independent contractors to the City. Councilor Labhart asked where the funding for this is coming from. Bethel stated it would be coming out of Professional Services.

***Councilor Bush made a motion to approve the RFP solicitation for engineering services as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Newby and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 14—Ducote Consulting; Project Update**

1. Wastewater Plant – Council decision regarding funding path

USDA has adopted the environmental findings. The first few months of Final Design Engineering has been completed. Ducote would like to know if Council would like to abandon the pursuit of USDA funding or continue the process.

***Councilor Labhart made a motion to have Ducote Consulting apply for Clean Water State Revolving Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hale and passed unanimously.***

1. Broadband – Council decision regarding EDA and BTAP grants

Ducote presented the current status of the EDA Grant and the BTAP Grant to Council. Ducote needs to know if Council would like to proceed with the EDA Grant or proceed with the BTAP Grant.

***Councilor Bush made a motion to have Council direct the City Manager to work with staff to dissolve this project and take the appropriate steps necessary to give this money back to the United States Treasury and do what we can to support our private sector in the installation of this infrastructure that has been promised to the citizens of John Day. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hale and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 15—Rob Gaslin, CPA Financial Update**

Gaslin presented Council the budget to actual report. Councilor Labhart asked when they would be able to see the audit reports. Gaslin let him know that auditors have been hired and have been to the City Hall but the City has not heard back from them.

**Agenda Item No. 16—Discussion regarding a prohibition of Jake brakes within city limits**

Councilor Labhart is asking for an Ordinance be put in place stating no person shall apply engine brakes when operating a motor vehicle on the street or highway within city limits. He believes we need an Ordinance for this as it has been an ongoing issue. Council agreed to move forward with this.

**Agenda Item No. 17—City Manager Comments**

Bethel and a few Councilors will be attending Capital Day.

There is a meeting with DE set up in February, they’ll be on the ground with the City’s engineers to talk about the project.

**Agenda Item No. 18—Mayor and Council Comments**

Councilor Bush spoke about the Wastewater Treatment Plant and how they can enable moving the project forward. He also brought up the Community Development fee on everyone’s water bill and would like to have a discussion regarding that fee go toward the WWTP. He brought up positions that need to be filled in Public Works and would like to look at different options on how Public Works is managed.

**Adjourn:**

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

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Melissa Bethel, CM