**CITY OF JOHN DAY**

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES JANUARY 14, 2025**

**COUCILORS PRESENT:**

**COUNCILORS ABSENT**

Sherrie Rininger, Mayor

Chris Labhart, Councilor

Eric Bush, Council President

Edwin Newby, Councilor

Ron Phillips, Councilor

Bradley Hale, Councilor

Heather Swank, Councilor

David Holland, Councilor

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Melissa Bethel, City Manager

Rob Gaslin, Contract Finance

**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 except Councilor Holland.

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

Mayor Rininger would like to add the acceptance of Councilor Holland’s resignation rather than doing his Oath of Office.

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

**Agenda Item No. 5—Oath of Office to newly elected officials—Councilor Holland, Labhart and Swank**

***Councilor Bush moved to accept David Holland’s resignation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed 5-1 with Councilor Labhart being opposed.***

Councilor Labhart asked if his letter of resignation was going to be read for the record. He was informed it would be a part of public record.

***Bethel presented the Oath of Office to newly elected officials Councilor Labhart and Councilor Swank.***

**Agenda Item No. 6—Appointment of Council President**

***Councilor Phillips made a motion to have Councilor Bush continue his Council President position. The motion was seconded by Councilor Swank and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 7—Public Comments**

Terry Davison: He would like to know what the procedure is for filling David Holland’s vacant Council seat. Mayor Rininger stated Council will be appointing someone to fill that position at a later date.

**Agenda Item No. 8—Consent Agenda**

1. Accounts Payable through 12-11-24
2. Minutes of 12-17-24 will be approved next regular meeting

***Councilor Bush made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 9—Public Hearing Ordinance 24-2040-16: An Ordinance of the City of John Day Establishing Camping Regulations and a Campsite Removal Policy**

Councilor Labhart asked if this Public Hearing Ordinance has been advertised in three different location. Bethel stated it can be done by title only if no councilor objects or you post it ahead of time in three places. Councilor Labhart stated he was not objecting to the ordinance but feels the City does not have the right to approve based on not advertising correctly. Bethel stated she has conferred with the Attorney and he stated the City may approve by Title only if no councilor objects.

***Councilor Bush made a motion to open the Public Hearing Ordinance 24-204-16: An Ordinance of the City of John Day Establishing Camping Regulations and a Campsite Removal Policy. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed 5-1 with Councilor Labhart being opposed.***

There were no public comments

Mayor Rininger closed the Public Hearing for Ordinance 24-204-16.

***Councilor Bush made a motion to approve Ordinance 24-204-16 by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hale and the vote was 5-1 with Councilor Labhart being opposed.***

Bethel stated she will check the code since the vote wasn’t unanimous this might need to be brought back.

**Agenda Item No. 10—Approval of IUOE CBA Union Contract**

This is the contract between the union employees and the City of John Day. This is the first contract that will be in place until 2026, then negotiations will start again. Bethel stated she is happy with the final outcome and the employees approved it.

***Councilor Labhart made a motion to approve the IUOE CBA Contract. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 11—Strategic Planning and Goal Setting discussion**

Bethel put this on the agenda because it has been brought up in public meetings before by the Council about having goal setting and strategic planning as a mechanism to move into the next year and also for budgeting. Bethel has been checking with consultants to come in and do goal setting and then follow up with strategic planning and would like a consensus from council whether they would like her to continue to do so.

Council came to a consensus to allow Bethel to continue in that direction.

**Agenda Item No. 12—RV in designated camping area discussion: Councilors Holland and Labhart**

Councilor Labhart would like to get rid of the RV that is by the City Hall. He stated that state law says abandoned motor homes or vehicles can be noticed and then moved away.

Bethel stated once the camping ordinance and law enforcement is in place then the City will be able to tag it then it can be enforced.

**Agenda Item No. 13—City Manager Comments**

Before the March 25th Council meeting there will be an open house for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This is an opportunity for Council and the Engineers to answer all of the public’s questions.

Bethel would like Council to take a tour through the sewer plant and needs them to decide on a date.

Canyon City if getting their meter calibrated so the City of John Day is also going to get theirs calibrated on the same day that way they can split the mileage cost.

Bethel and some Councilors are going to Capital Day on January 28th

Elected Essentials Workshop is January 31st in Baker City.

**Agenda Item No. 14—Mayor and Council Comments**

Bethel will advertise for the vacant Council position, it will be on the radio and website. Those applications will be due by February 4th, 2025.

The next regular meetingis February 11, 2025

**Adjourn:**

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

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Melissa Bethel, CM