**CITY OF JOHN DAY**

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES MARCH 25, 2025**

**COUCILORS PRESENT:**

**COUNCILORS ABSENT**

Sherrie Rininger, Mayor

Chris Labhart, Councilor

Eric Bush, Council President

Bradley Hale, Councilor

Ron Phillips, Councilor

Vern Pifer, Councilor

Heather Swank, Councilor

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Melissa Bethel, City Manager

Rob Gaslin, Contract Finance

Nick Ducote, Contract grant writer and 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 would like to add 2 items to the agenda. One being putting up video camera at the rest area. The next one being discussing regarding water credits.

***Councilor Labhart moved to accept the agenda with those two additions. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 5—Public Comments**

Bethel read into the record a statement by Katy Nelson. Nelson’s statement pertained to her opposition to the statute “The Promise Land” and her willingness to serve on an Art’s Commission if one is ever created within the City.

**Agenda Item No. 6—Consent Agenda**

1. Accounts Payable through 3-13-25
2. Minutes of 3-11-25 (will be available 4/8/25)

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

**Agenda Item No. 7—Resolution 25-01: A resolution of the City of John Day approving the sale and transfer of certain city owned industrial property under Ordinance No. 21-192-03**

This is a piece of Industrial Property that the City owns. Council was approached by an individual who has a grant to construct a USDA certified processing plant.

***Councilor Hale made a motion to accept Resolution 25-01 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Labhart and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 8—Discussion and/or approval of a Strategic Planning Firm**

Bethel reached out to different Strategic Planning Firms. She is encouraging Council to pick a firm they want to go with that way they can start negotiating the scope of work.

***Councilor Bush made a motion to approve Jensen Strategies as the consulting firm for Strategic Planning for the City of John Day. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pifer and passed 5-2 with Councilor Labhart and Councilor Hale being opposed.***

**Agenda Item No. 9—Financial Update**

Gaslin presented a budget to actual report to Council.

**Agenda Item No. 10—Wastewater Plant Presentation**

Ducote gave a presentation on the Wastewater Plant. Construction funding applications with the state, federal government and DEQ-CWSRF were applied for in February 2025. The first few months of Final Design Engineering are complete. The Rate Study is complete and the Rate Resolutions were adopted by Canyon City and John Day.

Flagline Engineering showed a 3D video of what the Wastewater Plant will potentially look like.

**Agenda Item No. 11—Approve award of Pre-Purchase Package #1 UV Disinfection System Equipment to Xylem Water Solutions, Inc**

The total proposal price for the UV Disinfection System Equipment is $503,727. The equipment will be purchased using Community Development Block Grant with funding already secured and required to be expended by August 2025.

***Councilor Bush made a motion to accept the proposal from Xylem Water Solutions, Inc for the UV Disinfection System Equipment for $503,727. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 12—Approve award of Pre-Purchase Package #2 Headworks Screen Equipment to Kusters Water**

The total proposal price for the Headworks Screen Equipment is $161,817. The equipment will be purchased using Community Development Block Grant with funding already secured and required to be expended by August 2025.

***Councilor Labhart made a motion to approve the award of Pre-Purchase #2 Headworks Screen Equipment to Kusters Water in the amount of $161,817. The motion was seconded by Councilor Swank and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 13—Video Cameras at Rest Area**

Councilor Labhart saw photos that had been taken at the rest area on Main Street and suggests getting video cameras put up because of the conditions they are being left in.

**Agenda Item No. 14—Water Credit**

Councilor Labhart said in past practices the City would give a small credit to the water users in the City that keep their water dripping to prevent freezing. Bethel stated this wasn’t done last year and asked how they would distinguish who is letting their water run and who isn’t. Also, some federal funds don’t let you subsidize your bills.

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

Bethel thanked all of the Engineers and Consultants for showing up as well as Gaslin and Ducote.

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

Councilor Phillips was very enlightened by the open house and wanted to thank Bethel for setting it up.

Councilor Bush wanted address how the City’s digital records are managed and would like to see those become more organized.

**Adjourn:**

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

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Melissa Bethel, CM