

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HEPPNER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HEPPNER CITY HALL, 111 N. MAIN STREET, HEPPNER, OREGON
7:00 PM FEBRUARY 12, 2024**

NOTE: Where stated "Motion Carried" is considered unanimous, unless otherwise stated.

ATTENDEES:

**Corey Sweeney
Ralph Klock
Sharon Inskeep
Cody High
Ian Murray
Dale Bates
Adam Doherty (on Zoom)
John Doherty
Chad Doherty
Steve Rhea
Bill Kuhn**

Absent: None

Members of the Public: Barb Orwick, Emily Roberts, John and Diane Kilkenny, Andrea Fletcher, Doris Brosnan, Phil Sanfiorenzo, Kay Proctor

On Zoom: Heppner Gazette, Brandi Hanson, Lisa Klock, Brandi Sweeney

1. GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. Call to Order. Corey Sweeney called the February 12, 2024 meeting of the City of Heppner City Council to order at 7:00 PM.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance. Corey Sweeney led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- C. Announcements - None
- D. Correspondence – None
- E. Requests – Kay Proctor

Kay Proctor is requesting permission to put a pollinator garden on their property on Riverside that adjoins a small piece owned by the city. She would like to treat the entire area as one. She is asking for approval from the city so that she can apply for

grants from Amazon and WCVEDG. The plan is for low water and plants that deer will not eat. She will pay for the water. If they were ever to sell the property, the agreement would be ended. She intends to plant a tree and install a bench on her side, as a memorial for her daughter and son who recently passed away. The area is intended to be for the public to enjoy.

Motion to approve Kay Proctor to use city property for a pollinator garden by Cody High. Seconded by Dale Bates. Motion Carried

F. Presentations

1. Community Health Improvement Partnership of Morrow County: Andrea Fletcher
Andrea Fletcher represents Community Health Improvement Partnership of Morrow County (CHIP). They are a collaborative group that formed 14 years ago. They are medical providers, mental health providers, oral health providers, early child education, education and community-based organizations. Just about any organization in the county that has an interest in the health of the community. Not just personal health, it's population health, vitality of the community, and economic vitality as well. The Pandemic slowed some of their progress but they are getting back on track. They look at the health needs of the county, the unmet needs, where our assets lie, and to work together with the county to plan strategies to address the needs of the community. It takes conversation with the community to plan for services. They have organized a forum on March 13th at the Port of Morrow from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. They have invited all leadership partners, city managers, council people, and county leadership. They hope it will be a positive and proactive interaction of where we are at and where we need to go. She is here tonight to invite and encourage participation.
2. Morrow County Health District: Emily Roberts

Emily Roberts wants to talk about the ambulance service and give an update. At the last meeting between the BOC and MCHD was to set ground rules. The next meeting will be on February 13th at the Port of Morrow at 6:00 pm. The agenda is posted and there will be a lot to discuss. They are hoping it will be a productive meeting. The big question right now is why has the board decided not to extend the 90 day notice period. They don't think it is in the best interest of the county or the employees. This situation between the ambulance providers has been going on for about 3 years now. It is very tense. The staff and the community has been through a lot. Last April the ASA plan that they were operating under was determined not to be valid by the county. Since then there has been a lot of anxiety from not knowing what was going to happen. Being an EMT is a high stress job. This situation just adds to the stress and increases the likelihood of mistakes and puts their licenses at risk. They want to have an end point and know where they are going. They were working on the ASA agreement with the county and the

county submitted the final draft to OHA. In that draft, they changed the definition of "Board". They went from the board being MCHD, who owns all of the equipment and infrastructure, to the county. This is why they did the 90 day notice. They want to work it out but will not go more than 90 days without a contract. March 12th is the end of the 90 day notice. According to MCHD legal counsel the ASA is a type of legal contract. It is not a contract that everybody signs, it is a contract between OHA and the BOC that MCHD would operate under. They are very close to reaching an agreement, all that is left is to sign a contract with them to continue services. They are hoping to engage in an intergovernmental agreement with the county, which would negate the 90 day notice. MCHD wants to be the ambulance provider for the entire county. That's how their whole EMS service is set up. They have 8 full time in Heppner, 8 in Irrigon, and 8 in Boardman and an EMS director for a total of 25 full time staff. They have 35 occasional part-time staff. That includes quick response teams that are strategically placed within the county. All of the 25 full-time staff cover all of the positions within the county. If they were to split the services by a third, it does not work for them and makes it unsafe. It would cause the separate services to require more mutual aid. Not everyone has the ability to provide mutual aid at all times depending on how many calls are in their own area at the time. As a critical access hospital in Heppner, they can get cost-based reimbursements. Ambulance services is one of the places they can get cost-based reimbursement. If they didn't have cost based reimbursement, their losses on the ambulance service doubles. If another provider comes in within 35 miles of their hospital, they would lose that reimbursement completely, which is about 1.2 million dollars a year. This would drive up the cost of the ambulance service. You have to provide the equipment and pay the staff whether or not they are going out on calls. Payment is only received when they provide transport. They want to reach a mutual agreed contract to be the provider for the entire county so they can continue to provide the same high level of service.

3. The Neighborhood Center: Barb Orwick

In January they gave away 85 food boxes which fed 186 people. The limit for assistance is \$200.00 per year. Capeco also has programs for assistance. There was an incident where someone came in and saw that the food pantry was low on food. They are not out of food, the volunteers who stock it hadn't been in yet to do so.

2. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

John Kilkenny spoke about the importance of the services provided by MCHD. Heppner is a good place to live and retire. Having good healthcare services is very important. We don't want to see services decrease.

Kay Proctor said that she spoke to someone who recently moved here that regretted it as they are afraid that there may not be an ambulance service.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. January 8, 2024 City Council meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes by Sharon Inskeep. Seconded by Cody High. Motion Carried

B. Approval of Monthly Bills

Motion to approve the monthly bills by Ralph Klock. Seconded by Ian Murray. Motion Carried

C. Financial Statement – For information only

4. REPORTS

A. Fire Chief Report

- 11 Lift Assists
- 1 Secure Landing Zone
- 4 Motor Vehicle Accidents – Non Injury
- 1 Motor Vehicle Accident unable to locate
- 2 Motor Vehicle Accidents with injuries
- 1 Central Station Alarm
- 1 Flood Assessments
- 1 Chimney Fire
- 1 Body Removal
- 1 Public Assist with debris in the creek

25 Calls to date. 18 Chief Calls. 4 hour Zoom meeting with Skeeter on the Type 3 Engine for RFPD. Conducting Smoke Detector Installation. Picked up the pallet of Loose Equipment for the New Tender in Sale. New Tactical Tender delivery expected in March OSFM. Started Training Academy for NFPA Firefighter 1.

B. Morrow County Sheriff's Department – There were 432 hours for the month of January. There were no questions.

C. Public Works. Chad Doherty read the Public Works report.

Water Dept. – Replaced the meter box at 400 E Aiken St. Replaced water meters at 645 Hager, 615 Hager, 595 Hager, 195 S Court St. Received new 3" meter for the

Grade School. We will schedule to replace this during Spring Break. Cleaned the chlorine tank at reservoir #1. Replace the plumbing in two broken water test stations. Continued to manually adjust wells and reservoirs.

Sewer Dept. – The crew cleaned the contact basins once. Did 10 Septic dumps. Cleaned the sewer lines at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. Along with John, attended a zoom meeting with Anderson Perry and DEQ to get some clarifications on the Biosolids Management Plan. Attended the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) for Morrow County. Completed the Recycled Water Report and sent it to DEQ. The crew fixed the draft tube handle in the sludge pit at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Had an emergency weekend replacement fix of the trickling filter pump #1.

Streets Dept. – Received new street sweeper from Owen Equipment. Plowed streets multiple days for snow events. Removed snow from downtown parking on multiple days. Removed snow from city owned sidewalk on multiple days. Put down deicer multiple days. Removed Christmas decorations and tree lights from downtown. Blew off all sidewalks covered in rock. Repaired the stop sign near the High School. Removed an extra stop sign at the corner of Quaid and Main Streets.

Parks Dept. – Rehabbed street benches and park picnic tables on multiple days. Removed Christmas lights from Heritage Park.

Shop Dept.- Contacted some companies and inquired about CDL training. Drove sewer and water samples to Prineville as UPS could not get them there within the sampling period. Replace filter on City Hall heating and cooling systems. Greased the backhoe and dump truck.

D. City Manager Report

Participated in DEQ/Anderson Perry Biosolids Plan meeting.

Submitted public comments to: Business Oregon regarding CDBG, DOE regarding WagonTrail Solar farm.

Attended WCCC board meeting and updated signatures to “Municipal Reclaimed Water Registration Form.

Handled multiple complaints. Sent letters to residents in violation of code, had face-to-face conversations with some residents in violation.

HB2017: worked with Michelle Owen throughout the month and completed final invoicing or final reimbursement. The city should receive \$208,000.00, which is a 92% return.

Attended City/County/Port meeting in Boardman on Jan 10th. Lobbied for improvement to Mill Site.

Attended Heppner Chamber annual luncheon.

Met with Nikki Olofson with Pinegate Renewables regarding opportunities with COH, February follow-up meeting scheduled.

Several meetings with Kim Cutsforth regarding WCVEDG and mill site, Cross Hill water project, and floodplain zoning assistance.

Kelly & Lorrie Fox regarding zoning permit for project at their residence.

Work with Tamra Mabbott at Morrow County Planning on City & County zoning of Suburban Residential zoning and ADUs; still in-process.

MCHD – met with Emily & Nicole and they presented information regarding ASA and scheduled to present at Feb Council.

Attended POM monthly meeting via ZOOM.

Attended WCVEDG annual luncheon and monthly meeting.

Attended LOC Quarterly Small Cities Meeting via Zoom.

Attend weekly LOC Legislative updates via Zoom during OR Legislature short session.

Met with MCSO John Bowles and Brian Snyder regarding 2024-2026 service contract.

Held City Council Goal Setting meeting to work on 2024 goals of City.

Reviewed City payroll, budget, and bills.

Lone Pine Investments, had conference call with Don Leek and Heather Kelton to reinvest City funds on matured Treasury.

Police Commission – organized and attended Police Commission to review upcoming MCSO service renewal.

Researched New Councilors training information. Sent information and links from LOC and OGEC to Councilors Murray and Klock.

Held several meetings with Mayor Sweeney regarding CREZ, upcoming meetings, MCSO contract, etc.

OPRD Grants – Attended Zoom on 2024 program information. Met with Chad for preliminary planning on City Park improvements.

CREZ meetings; attended in-person, with Mayor Sweeney, at POM. Cities awarded \$600,000 infrastructure for 2024.

Attended LPSCC via Zoom due to winter weather.

Attended Merkley/Wyden CIP webinar for possible FY2025 funding of community initiated projects (infrastructure.)

Attended Morrow County administrators lunch with city and county administrators to discuss openness and assistance between cities and lay groundwork for future meetings and projects.

Completed Zoning Permit for Jennifer-Breidenbach Cote with Floodplain documentation and submit to City of Boardman.

Met with MCHD Joey Munkers, along with Chad, to discuss Thompson and Morrow Streets deterioration and erosion.

OSTF Board – Had review of COH Investment Policy and addressed recommendation from Board.

Attended several SMCSM luncheons.

Met with Representative Greg Smith regarding infrastructure funds for COH transportation projects. Met with Dawson Quinton, Rep. Smith's Legislative Director prior.

ODOT – Bob Greisen to discuss Main St bridge erosion repair, winter maintenance, and Main St signs.

Met with Bill Kuhn regarding City zoning.

CenturyLink/Lumen site visit with Chad and Lumen to discuss fiber optics project and revision.

Anderson Perry – several calls with Dane Maben regarding projects, timelines, information necessary, etc. Chad present for at least one call.

Attended OGEC Zoom trainings on 2024 changes to JC and SEIs. Revised COH information with new Councilors and setup profiles.

Worked on Transient Room Tax information for new short-term property owners and existing property owners who have not submitted reports.

GEODC – completed CEDS information for possible grants and legislative funding. Met with Tory Stinnett about accepting appointment to GEODC Board of Directors.

District Courthouse – Spoke with Matt Jensen regarding project timeline and PM/Architect hiring's. Call with Earl Eastman from Alliance Management on Construction Services to schedule site visit with COH including PW and Fire to discuss needs and permitting.

Attended MC BOC meeting on 02-07-2024.

Met with Steve Rhea several times regarding COH FD projects, buildings, expenditures, grant availability, and annual joint fire meeting.

Met with Ryan DeGrofft of Business Oregon about future projects and funding options.

Corey Sweeney thanked John for taking on everything that he has and attending important meetings. At the CREZ meeting the city was given \$600,000 which is up from the \$200,000 that we usually receive. The County Commissioners fought to get us more money with help from POM. The funds will help with infrastructure projects. The City of Heppner is very thankful.

5. BUSINESS

A. Old Business

1. Street Project Update – Covered during Managers Report

B. New Business

1. Resolution 1065-24, A Resolution Authorizing Application for Parks Grant

This is a Grant to help fund new playground equipment in City Park. A Resolution approving the application is required to apply for this Grant.

Motion to approve Resolution 1065-24, A Resolution Authorizing Application for a Parks Grant by Cody High. Seconded by Ralph Klock. Motion Carried

2. Resolution 1066-24, A Resolution Appointing the City Manager as the Budget Officer for the City of Heppner.

Motion to approve Resolution 1066-24, A Resolution Appointing the City Manager as Budget Officer for the City of Heppner. Motion Carried

3. Resolution 1067-24, A Resolution Adopting the City Council's Goals for 2024.

Motion to approve Resolution 1067-24, A Resolution Adopting the City Council's Goals for 2024 by Dale Bates. Seconded by Cody High. Motion Carried

4. Surplus 1993 Elgin Street Sweeper and a 2005 F350 regular cab and a Monroe spreader and Byers Snowdog plow.

The spreader and plow will be included with F350 pickup.

Motion to approve the surplus of the equipment by Cody High. Seconded by Ralph Klock. Motion Carried

6. MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETINGS – For information only.

7. REPORT FROM CITY ATTORNEY – Bill Kuhn reported that all the paperwork for the Cross Street Vacation is done, and it will be ready for a Public Hearing at the March 11, 2024 Council meeting.

8. REPORT FROM MAYOR, CITY COUNCILORS – Corey would like to schedule another work session to discuss the CREZ funds, Housing Development /Childcare, Sheriffs Contract. The council decided on Friday, March 1, 2024 at 10:00 am.

9. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM