



## CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES March 23, 2021

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Riley Hill at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present in person were Riley Hill, Freddy Rodriguez, Sam Baker, Ken Hart, and John Kirby. Michael Braden and Eddie Melendrez were excused.

Members of staff present in person or by call-in were Adam Brown, Tori Barnett, Peter Hall, Dan Cummings, Terry Leighton, Steven Romero, Kari Ott, Al Cablay, Larry Sullivan, Erik Hartley, and Paul Woods.

The meeting was recorded, and copies are available at City Hall.

Mayor Hill led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### AGENDA

This Agenda was posted on March 19, 2021. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website [www.ontariooregon.org](http://www.ontariooregon.org).

KIRBY moved, BAKER seconded, **TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-out; Melendrez-out; Hill-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Lynelle Christiani, Ontario, stated: *Good evening, gentlemen. Thank you for allowing me to speak this evening. In February, the Fair Board submitted a proposal for a city grant. We learned this last week that this grant has not been given to us. I would like to provide some information this evening so the City Council, I would hope you'd reassess and approve this grant proposal. City Councilman Marty Justus made a statement a few years ago that every city in Malheur County benefits from the Malheur County Fairgrounds. Why would I ask for funds from the City of Ontario and why not ask Vale, Nyssa, Adrian, and Jordan Valley. I explained that when we have an event at the Fairgrounds with 250 cowboys, they are not going to go to dinner in Nyssa, they're not going to go to Vale to stay in a motel, they're not going to go to Jordan Valley or to Adrian to pick up supplies or get fuel. They're going to spend their money here in Ontario. Because of those 250 cowboys, the economic impact figures, the City of Ontario businesses would reap \$18,750. Most people think that Malheur County Fairgrounds is funded by the county. Unfortunately, this is not true. The Fairgrounds receives \$0 tax dollars. The Fair Board is required to generate our revenue. Our revenue comes from the County Fair and renting out the facilities in our off-season. In the big picture, we are financially solvent, but fall short in facility repairs and improvements. In the last five years, we have spent over \$250K from grants and donations on facility improvements, mostly aesthetic, in the hopes of increasing our bookings. We have gone from 35 bookings to 100 bookings, in addition to our County Fair. In 2019, we had nearly 50,000 people attend one or more of those events at our Fairgrounds. Those people injected money into this community. The grant that the Fair Board submitted for is \$14,014.75. A majority of that money would replace wooden fence that runs NW 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue next to Kiwanis Park. The fence has gone from being an eyesore to a safety issue. The Fair Board is asking you to reconsider the Budget Committee's decision and to please fund this project. The Fairgrounds wants to be an asset to Ontario and not be an eyesore and a danger to the community. Investing in our facility will improve the appearance of the community and bring money into the City of Ontario. Does anyone have any questions, or does anyone want additional information that was included in the packet that I submitted to the Budget Committee?*



Mayor Hill thanked Ms. Christiani for her presentation. At the Budget Committee hearings, the general consensus was that the county did fund them with a certain amount.

Ms. Christiani stated she wished they did. This past year, their budget was over \$500K, but they only received \$20K from the county. That was not tax money; it was Economic Development money. That went right into the maintenance budget. They had been working for five years on trying to educate people, but nationwide, people all thought the counties funded all the Fairgrounds, but the name was misleading.

Councilor Rodriguez asked, less the \$20K from the county, where did a majority of the remaining funds come from?

Ms. Christiani stated the state gave every county \$53K to conduct an annual County Fair. That paid for around 80% of the Malheur County Fair. They brought in approximately \$120K from gate proceeds during the Fair. They rented out facilities, going from 35 to 100 events, every weekend, from March to October, there were events scheduled in the Commercial Building, the Red Barn, or Irvin Hall; there were rodeos, ropings, barrel races, anything anyone wanted to hold, that was legal, they'd be glad to have them. That was the only way to make money. When she came on, the budget was \$225K, but when she submitted it this year, it was \$569K. Everything they made went back into the facility for pain, repairs, or anything needed.

Councilor Rodriguez verified the Cannabis Festival brought in some proceeds.

Ms. Christiani stated absolutely. The money that came from the state was lottery money; it was not tax money. Anything legal, they'd house. That was how they kept the doors open.

Councilor Baker asked which fence Ms. Christiani was referencing.

Ms. Christiani stated the white fence along 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, north of the gravel parking lot.

Councilor Baker stated it was the old racetrack fence, between the ballfields and the Fairgrounds.

Ms. Christiani stated that was correct. They leaned it back up last year, but it was in very bad shape.

Councilor Hart asked if the Council were to consider making the change, what was the process?

Mr. Brown stated the Budget Hearing was on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and that was when people could attend to make requests or provide comments. The City Council could make changes prior to adoption at that meeting.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

HART moved, KIRBY seconded, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH INCLUDED ITEM 5A) BID AWARD: 2021 CHIP SEAL OIL, FOG SEAL OIL, DISTRIBUTION, AND FREIGHT. Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-out; Melendrez-out; Hill-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Bid Award: Wayfinding System**

Adam Brown, City Manager, stated he had been in contact with the Oregon Contractor Board, which informed him the low bidder, ACSM, would need to get a license to operate in Oregon. He had spoken with a representative from ACSM and was assured they would make that happen.

Mayor Hill verified that the award could not be made until the license was obtained.



Mr. Brown stated that was correct.

KIRBY moved, HART seconded, **TO TABLE THE BID AWARD FOR THE WAYFINDING SYSTEM UNTIL A CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE WAS OBTAINED.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-out; Melendrez-out; Hill-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **CK3 Task Order for Survey for Treasure 200 and Navarette Infrastructure Design Project**

KIRBY moved, BAKER seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE CK3, LLC TASK ORDER FOR FIELD SURVEY WORK TO SUPPORT WATER AND SEWER EXTENSION TO TREASURE 200 AND NAVARETTE DEVELOPMENT PROPERTIES FOR UP TO \$20,000.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-out; Melendrez-out; Hill-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

##### **Anderson-Perry Water System Modeling to Support water and Sewer Extension to Economic Development Projects (Treasure 200 and Navarette)**

HART moved, BAKER seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE ANDERSON PERRY TASK ORDER FOR WATER CAPACITY MODELLING TO SUPPORT WATER EXTENSION TO TREASURE 200 AND NAVARETTE DEVELOPMENT PROPERTIES FOR \$6,000.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-out; Melendrez-out; Hill-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

##### **Task Order for Keller Associates for Sanitary Sewer Modeling in Support of Infrastructure Extension to Economic Development Properties (Treasure 200 and Navarette)**

KIRBY moved, HART seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE KELLER ASSOCIATES, INC. TASK ORDER FOR SEWER CAPACITY MODELLING TO SUPPORT SEWER EXTENSION TO TREASURE VALLEY 200 AND NAVARETTE DEVELOPMENT PROPERTIES FOR UP TO \$10,000.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-out; Melendrez-out; Hill-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

##### **Task Order for Jacobs for Design of Water and Sewer Infrastructure Extension to Economic Development Properties (Treasure 200 and Navarette)**

BAKER moved, KIRBY seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE JACOBS ENGINEERING TASK ORDER FOR WATER AND SEWER EXTENSION TO TREASURE VALLEY 200 AND NAVARETTE DEVELOPMENT PROPERTIES FOR \$105,000.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-out; Melendrez-out; Hill-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

##### **Resolution #2021-109: Funding Infrastructure Project Design**

KIRBY moved, HART seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION #2021-109: A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT DESIGN.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-out; Melendrez-out; Hill-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **Mental Health and Policing Service Delivery Under Ballot Measure 110**

Adam Brown, City Manager, stated Councilor Hart had requested this item be placed on the Agenda. Staff brought together a task force and had their first meeting last Friday. The team consisted the Police Chief, City Manager, and the COO and CEO of Lifeways. Lifeways indicated they would use them as an initial steering team to start the broader community focus of how to address going after the pool of funds and potentially the use of the funds, which would come from Ballot Measure 110. BM110 took about 75% of the state's local government revenue sharing from cannabis sales and it went into a pool of funds that would be eligible through grants. The idea was to have some type of joint service model between police and mental health services to respond to emergencies where mental health was a factor. Councilor Hart pointed him a model that was in Eugene. Lifeways would be researching that, as they had more resources. The group wanted to engage any other agencies that needed to be in the partnership.



Mayor Hill stated Lifeways dealt with mental health, but there were also going to be some medical issues that would arise. Part of the discussions should include St. Alphonsus.

Mr. Brown agreed. The state was in the process of developing administrative rules for the grant dollars. One of the needs was a treatment center. Currently, people were being transported to Hermiston for a residential treatment center. With the decriminalization of Class I drugs, there was much more of a need for a local treatment center.

Councilor Kirby stated he had been approached and given a card from an individual who informed him he was a new provider in town. He provided Councilor Hart's number to the individual. It was his understanding they were located upstairs in the Oakes' building, across from St. Alphonsus.

Councilor Hart requested regular updates on this project, as it was one way the community would be made aware that something was being done.

**Response to Citizen Concerns Voiced at a Prior Meeting**

Mayor Hill stated the Council who requested this item on the Agenda was not in attendance. To his mind, the City Attorney provided an adequate briefing on the issue at the last meeting, and he saw no reason to take it any further.

**CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS**

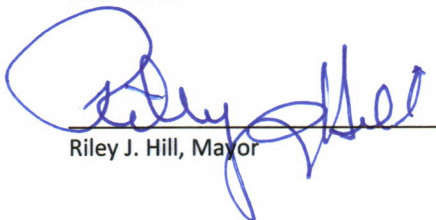
- Mayor Hill stated he wanted to see a five-year synopsis of money that went out and monies that were received on the support of Skyline Farm. He understood it was needed for the city to discharge wastewater, but he wanted to see some numbers.
- Mayor Hill stated as asked by the Council before, he wanted a report on the financing of the Municipal Court. Mr. Sullivan provided good background at the last meeting, but he wanted to see a financial model.

Councilor Kirby stated he spoke with County Commissioner Don Hodge about it, and he stated it seemed to work and fund itself, but the state got their hand in the pot first and received the largest portion of any proceeds derived from the court.

**ADJOURN**

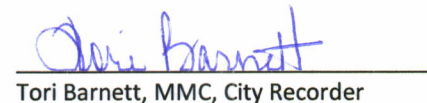
BAKER moved, KIRBY seconded, **THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED**. Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-out; Melendrez-out; Hill-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

ACCEPTED:



Riley J. Hill, Mayor

ATTEST



Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder