



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES September 14, 2021

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Riley Hill at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present in person or by call-in were Riley Hill, Sam Baker, John Kirby, Eddie Melendrez, and Ken Hart. Michael Braden was excused.

Members of staff present in person or by call-in were Adam Brown, Tori Barnett, Dan Cummings, Terry Leighton, Steven Romero, Kari Ott, Larry Sullivan, Al Cablay, Paul Woods, and Marc Berg. Larry Sullivan departed the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

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 September 10, 2021. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

BAKER moved, HART seconded, **TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. Roll call vote: Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Braden-out; Hart-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 5/0/1.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Castro-Shrader, Ontario, stated: *Good evening everybody. I'm Michael Castro-Schrader, long time resident of Ontario, Oregon. Moved here in 1989. I've owned a house here since 1992. I've pretty much tried to keep on top of what's going on in our community. I think that's important. I do take the local papers; the one I don't take, I got a neighbor who shares it with me, or I go to the library. I don't know whether it came out, but I missed out on who the members were of the ad hoc committee with reviewing the city ordinances and I'm wondering what Council members, and if the Mayor is included in that, and how that's going and what kind of timeline you're looking at. And then the other thing is I'm hoping you don't rush that and I'm hoping, unfortunately, I think we're losing a good Police Chief in Chief Romero. We finally got a Chief who knows that there's some problems, long term problems with the city when it comes to ordinances and other issues. I hate to see the Chief go, and hopefully you'll be open to whatever feedback he gives you and you approach him concerning that before he leaves in October. I think he can, I'm kind of concerned about the, and I wanted to know what the status of, and again, I don't know whether it appeared in the papers or if I just missed it, on the city's decision on what they're going to do with the city civil penalties and forfeitures concerning city ordinances. I know that was still up in the air and I'm just wondering what the status of that is and when a decision might be made and from personal experience, I think it's important that the city not eliminate that because the city needs a variety of tools for the police department and our ordinance officers, as well as the city, to enforce city ordinances that are blatant and done consistently by people who've been warned numerous times and gone through the process so I'm curious on that. Unfortunately, the papers kind of gave a lot of press for the people who came forward and said oh, we've been over-fined and it's unfair, but unfortunately, I can't get the local newspaper to interview me and some of my neighbors who've dealt with long-term issues with neighbors that have been allowed to continue violating the ordinances and the problems is a lot greater than the net. I've discussed it at quite some length with Chief Romero and Adam Brown, the previous Police Chief, so many Council members previously have been around, so you know some of the issues and the documentation that I've proposed. I'd*



recommend that before you change any of the city ordinances, there's a reason why they were created. Most of them were done for a reason and I'll be out of the area in October, but I'm going to put together something for Adam Brown to share with you guys concerning some suggestions I have on some changes concerning a few of them. But I would also recommend that Adam Brown and the Police Chief, before he leaves, gives you all the documentation that I have provided over the years to the previous Chief as well as to the previous City Council and some of the current City Council members and Mayor concerning the one neighbor in particular, the long-term problems that we have had and what I attempted to do and my neighbors so you guys do understand the need to enforce the ordinances and the significance of having strong ordinances and ones that can be enforceable by both a Patrol Officer and the Ordinance Officers, and the need to have more than one Ordinance Officer in this city. It's pretty obvious that we need more than one Ordinance Officer. So, anyway, if you could give me some feedback concerning the questions I asked, I'd appreciate that.

Jackson Fox, Ontario, stated: *Honorable Mayor and Council, Jackson Fox, I live right here in Ontario. I rise tonight with a few questions for the Council. I recently learned back in March, \$600,000 went missing from the city's coffers, and the city's tracking system didn't even find it. \$600,000. Luckily, for the city, the local contractor that the \$600,000 was incorrectly transferred to was honest. But weeks had passed before the construction firm reconciled its bank account and found it. The city didn't find it, the construction firm found it. Not being used to this level of incompetence, I have questions. Number one – will the Council please check into the financial safeguards of the taxpayer's money? Number two - did the City Manager inform the Council of this \$600,000 event? Number three – is the City Manager supposed to inform the Council of all matters of the city and does not doing so violate the City Charter. Thank you, Council. May I approach?*

Councilor Hart asked who was the contractor, and how did Mr. Fox find out?

Mr. Fox: *I'm not going to make that public tonight because of this quorum; however, if any Councilors want to talk to me, I will share that information. But that's what I was asked to do, so hopefully, with respect, that's what I will do. Just give me a call. Adam Brown has my cell number.*

Mayor Hill stated he signed checks, most often, that were over \$5,000; he wondered if his name was on the check that went out.

Mr. Fox: *The \$600,000 wasn't in a check form.*

Kari Ott, Finance Director, stated for everyone's information, the transaction that Mr. Fox was discussing, the city had written a check to a contractor for the correct amount. The bank had the error, in that they added an extra zero. They messed up the digits. Yes, it was caught by the contractor first, but the city had not reconciled the bank accounts at that point. That was coming up, and that error by the bank would have been found. It was caught quickly after it occurred, and the money was returned. It was not the city's error; it was a bank error.

PRESENTATION

Community Needs Assessment

Councilor Melendrez stated this was a request to the citizens of Ontario, if they had time, to please fill out the needs assessment that Community in Action had. Every three years, Community in Action participated in a Community Needs Assessment. The purpose was to gather a cross section of information from residents, community partners, non-profit entities, and other groups that could provide valuable information regarding the community needs. After the survey was completed, it would be analyzed to determine gaps in services to address areas that might need additional focus for future planning. It would be incorporated into the Community in Action Strategic Plan to assist low-income residents of Harney and Malheur County. Regarding the demographics of those who already completed the form online, showed 58% identified as non-Hispanic/White/European Americans, 18.5% Latino or Hispanic Americans; 4.4% identified as more than two races, and some identified as other. Community in Action would like more Latino or Hispanic community members to take the survey. They would be at the Mexican Independence Day



event at Four Rivers Cultural Center on Saturday, at about 2:00 p.m. He was also asking, as a Mexican American, that his fellow Mexican Americans, that they needed to access the assessment, which was on the Community in Action website, and urged them to complete it. This would help Community in Action get more services to that community sector. www.communityinaction.info

Councilor Kirby asked if this document was just for use by Community in Action or for use by other organizations and government entities.

Councilor Melendrez stated he thought it might be just for Community in Action initially but believed every other agency could access the same results or statistics. However, he was not sure.

Mr. Castro asked if there were hard copies available.

Councilor Melendrez stated it was on the website.

Mr. Castro stated there were many, like himself, who didn't have a home computer, and to maybe have some printed out for people to get.

Councilor Melendrez thanked Mr. Castro for his suggestion and stated he would look into it.

Adam Brown stated he would provide a hard copy to Mr. Shrader, but the best way to get it out was to have it available at Community in Action. However, the city would produce some and have them here if anyone came to City Hall requesting a copy.

OLD BUSINESS

Appointment to Vacant City Council Position

Councilor Kirby addressed the letter submitted by the Diversity Advisory Committee endorsing James Grissett for the vacant position on the City Council. There was also an endorsement of Susann Mills from the Citizens Coalition of Ontario.

Councilor Melendrez thanked all the applicants and nominated James Grissett for the position.

Councilor Kirby nominated Susann Mills for the position.

HART moved, BAKER seconded, **THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.** Roll call vote: Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Braden-out; Hart-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 5/0/1.

Mayor Hill asked for a vote on the two nominees: Melendrez for Grissett; Baker for Mills; Hart for Mills; Kirby for Mills; and Hill for Mills. Susann Mills was selected by a majority vote.

Tori Barnett, City Recorder, administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Mills, who then took a seat on the Council dais.

The Council thanked all the candidates for their interest in serving, and for taking the time to submit an application for the position. They were all encouraged to put their names on the ballot in the next election, as there would be three seats up for election.

Council Appointment: DAC Liaison and Audit Committee Member

Councilor Melendrez asked to be removed as the liaison to the Planning Commission and placed as the liaison to the DAC Committee. In doing so, he would still be serving on three committees.

Councilor Mills agreed to sit on the Audit Committee.



Councilor Hart agreed to take the liaison position on the Planning Commission.

Mayor Hill appointed Susann Mills to the Audit Committee; Councilor Hart as the Planning Commission liaison; and Councilor Melendrez as the DAC liaison.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Improvements for Street Lights, Sewer Line Flow Pacing, and Water Treatment Plant Pump and Motor Controls: Ameresco

Paul Woods, City Engineer, introduced Lon Inman and Wyeth Crawford of Ameresco, who conducted a PowerPoint presentation. *(PowerPoint attached)*

Council requested to bring this back for action at the September 28th meeting, and to present a clear motion, specifically as related to where the funds would be utilized.

Appoint Councilor to Ontario Rural Fire Protection District Negotiating Team

Mayor Hill appointed Councilor Braden to the position.

Contract Award: CKS, LLC for Engineering Design of Water and Sewer Line Extensions to Support Airport Economic Development

Adam Brown, City Manager, presented.

KIRBY moved, HART seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL AWARD AN ENGINEERING DESIGN CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$65,940 TO CK3 FOR WATER AND SEWER LINE EXTENSIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE AIRPORT AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE CONTRACT.** Roll call vote: Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Braden-out; Hart-yes; Melendrez-yes; Mills-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance #2793-2021 – Planning Action 2021-03-13AZ: A Request by Paul and Stacey Gehrman for the Annexation and Rezone of Property from Urban Growth Area Residential (UGA-R) to City Single Family Residential (RS-50) to Allow Connection to City Services and Withdrawing Said Territory from the Ontario Rural Fire Protection District #7-301; and the Ontario Rural Road Assessment District No. 3

It being the date advertised for public hearing on the matter stated above, the Hearing was declared open. There were no objections to the city's jurisdiction to hear the action, no abstentions, ex-parte contact, and no declarations of conflict of interest.

Dan Cummings, Community Development Director, presented.

The Hearing was opened for public testimony.

Proponents: None. Opponents: None. There being no Proponent and no Opponent testimony, the Hearing was closed.

HART moved, BAKER seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE FINDING OF FACTS FOR THE ANNEXATION AND REZONE OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY FROM URBAN GROWTH AREA RESIDENTIAL (UGA-R) TO CITY SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (RS-50), AS SET FORTH IN ACTION 2021-03-13AZ BASED ON THE INFORMATION, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS SET FORTH IN SECTIONS I THROUGH IV OF THIS REPORT AS APPROVED AND RECOMMENDED BY THE ONTARIO PLANNING COMMISSION.** Roll call vote: Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Braden-out; Hart-yes; Melendrez-yes; Mills-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

HART moved, BAKER seconded, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE ORDINANCE #2793-2021, AN ORDINANCE PROCLAIMING THE ANNEXATION AND REZONING OF CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE CITY OF ONTARIO, BEING A PARCEL WITHIN THE NW¼ SW¼ SECTION 5, TOWNSHIP 18 SOUTH RANGE 47 EAST, W.M., AND WITHDRAWING SAID TERRITORY FROM THE ONTARIO RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #7-302 AND THE ONTARIO RURAL ROAD ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 3. ON FIRST READING BY TITLE ONLY. Roll call vote: Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Braden-out; Hart-yes; Melendrez-yes; Mills-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

HART moved, BAKER seconded, THE CITY COUNCIL WAIVE A SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE #2793-2021m AN ORDINANCE PROCLAIMING THE ANNEXATION AND REZONING OF CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE CITY OF ONTARIO, BEING A PARCEL WITHIN THE NW¼ SW¼ SECTION 5, TOWNSHIP 18 SOUTH RANGE 47 EAST, W.M., AND WITHDRAWING SAID TERRITORY FROM THE ONTARIO RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #7-302 AND THE ONTARIO RURAL ROAD ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 3. Roll call vote: Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Braden-out; Hart-yes; Melendrez-yes; Mills-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES

Fire & Rescue: Quarterly Report *(Attached)*

Terry Leighton, Fire Chief, presented.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Economic Impact Study for Additional Bridge into Idaho

Council consensus to have the City Manager research the cost to complete a study and have that information ready for the Council at the next meeting.

Housing Incentive Program

Dan Cummings, Community Development Director, stated the city had 36 housing incentives approved, and numbers 37 and 38 just went before the committee for advancement to the Council. However, he needed to provide an update. The Loan Fund Committee suggested that \$150K be reserved in the fund should a business want to apply for use of the funds. In the two years since that discussion, there had been no applications for that. At the last meeting the committee submitted a recommendation to the Council to allow the committee to continue funding the housing incentive, using the remaining \$150K. With the approval of application #38, it brought the account to \$155K. Without consent to move past the \$150K threshold, #38 would be end of the project until funds were added in. Currently, the fund was receiving approximately \$87K a year paid back into the fund. He was requesting the Council allow the committee to continue with the program, which would provide funds for 15 more homes without any additional funds added. There was no formal action needed, just a consensus.

Councilor Hart asked for the history of the funds.

Mr. Cummings stated the original funds were received in 1984, when an economic development loan was received from the state to pay for a portion of the newly constructed bowling alley, as well as improvements to Sunset Drive. Once completed, the funds were reimbursed by the developer, and the state allowed the city to retain the funds, approximately \$180K, to use for economic development. The Council at that time placed the funds into the Business Loan Fund to assist in funding commercial entities coming to Ontario, using it for gap financing. Over the years, the account built up, with a few bad loans mixed in, growing to around \$600K. There had been \$380K expended towards the Housing Incentive Program.

Councilor Hart was in favor of removing the cap for the \$150K, to allow the committee to continue funding the \$10K for the Housing Incentive Program. He'd also like staff to consider this for the next budget cycle to see if there was a need to put more funds into the Program.

Mr. Brown stated when a proposed budget had been presented for the ARPA funds, there was a blocked allotment of around \$200K-\$300K, which could be used to infuse the Housing Incentive Program. The ARPA funds had to be expended within two years.

Consensus to remove the cap and allow the remainder of the funds be utilized for the program.

HAND OUTS

Monthly Department Stats (Attached)

Fire & Rescue, Public Works, Police: August, 2021

Minutes (Attached)

County Court 07-07-2021; 07-12-2021

Public Works Committee 06-08-2021

SREDA (Attached)

Agenda 09-07-2021

Report 09-07-2021

Snapshot

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORT

- Councilor Melendrez he was sad to see Police Romero leaving. He had brought a lot of value to the community. He had never seen a Chief so involved with a community for things like the wrestling program, the Boys and Girls Club, the Kiwanis Club, he started a Community Advisory Council for law enforcement, but he understood it was tough. He had a great mentor when he started on the Council to give it a year because it was tough, but he wished he had spoken up about the Chief's character and discussed some of the things he'd witnessed in the community. He had heard that he was planning to move on from the beginning, and he agreed that he'd move on too if he had been treated the way he'd seen or heard about. It would be difficult to stay after all that. From him, he apologized for some of those things. Going further, he thought it ironic that two weeks before the Mayor's attorney said some of the things he said about the way their accusations were targeting the Mayor, etc., but two weeks before that, the Council sent a letter to Salem saying the city supported law enforcement and were in opposition to defunding the police. Then the very next week, they were going after the Police Chief. They could all praise fire and police, but their actions were something else. They hadn't even supported the Fire Chief on his training center. He thanked the Chief for his time. Ontario wasn't ready for him, but he wished they were. Chief Romero had a lot of vision, and he wanted to see change for the better. So, again, his apologies.

Chief Romero thanked him for his comments, but no apology was needed. Public service was a calling you did because you wanted to, not because you had to. He thanked everyone who had supported him on staff and in the community.

- Councilor Kirby stated he spoke with Sue Jones last week, and she was in attendance that night, but in a letter she wrote to Adam Brown, she commented on the north entrance to the cemetery. So, what was the status of the cemetery gate?

Mr. Brown stated staff had comments open for the past two months, and there had not been complaints, so staff was leaving the gate open.



- Councilor Melendrez stated at a previous meeting, he felt he'd been grilled, and at the end of the meeting, felt a bit speechless, had no words, but he had been mocked. In thinking about it, and hearing comments from citizens, they also indicated they believed the Mayor had been making fun of him. After processing that, and thinking about it, when he brought up that conversation and used the word "grilled" and talked about a toxic environment, the Mayor saw that as an opportunity to say that word instead of reflecting on how the Council's action could be affecting the employees.

Mayor Hill said he was glad that Councilor Melendrez brought that up because there was no intent to mock him or anything else. He knew Councilor Melendrez felt strongly that the Council was pushing hard on some members of staff, but it was the job of the Council to ask those tough questions. Asking tough questions was not grilling someone. He apologized if that was taken wrong because he didn't mean it that way.

Councilor Melendrez thanked the Mayor, and accepted the apology; however, where he felt a disagreement with that because, for example, when Erik Hartley's last presentation, when asked about some issues he was dealing with regarding the Airport Committee, Councilor Kirby publicly said he disagreed with Mr. Hartley, and to him, that went above. When Councilor Kirby stated he spoke with the committee, and they said different, to him, that was going above. That was almost embarrassing that staff member. That was a conversation that could occur behind closed doors or let him know it was coming. But he saw Erik's face change from excited to being let down. People were saying he left for whatever reason, but he knew that had an impact on why he left. Going back to earlier, asking the tough questions, that's great, but before he came on City Council, he attended some trainings and he learned that when there were those tough questions, get them beforehand so whoever was presenting could be prepared. Have the conversation before the presentation. Doing it the way it was being done currently was not the way to do it. Let the person know those questions were coming so they could be prepared.

Councilor Kirby responded while Councilor Melendrez was correct, there was more to the story. He was the airport liaison, and there had been an issue there regarding vendor fees, mainly in the agricultural sector. The night Mr. Hartley presented a proposal that a \$1,000 fee be attached to each of those vendors. He was immediately contacted by the members of the committee, and was unfortunate that happened, but that's why he mentioned that the committee was not supporting him in his suggestion. At the subsequent airport meeting committee meeting, he apologized to Mr. Hartley, but chastised the members of the committee for placing him in an awkward position. There had been no intention for subterfuge. There were other issues, however, that brought about Mr. Hartley's departure from the city. For what happened to Mr. Hartley, he apologized, but that committee was moving forward to manage that \$1,000 issue.

Councilor Melendrez stated it was great that Councilor Kirby apologized to Mr. Hartley, but while he couldn't say how Erik felt, either embarrassed, frustrated, or disappointed with the comments made by Councilor Kirby, it was one thing to embarrass someone in public, then apologize in private. Apologizing in private didn't hold the same weight. He should have apologized in public.

Councilor Kirby stated he had apologized publicly.

Mayor Hill stated no one on the Council had been more mocked, beat up, chastised, or made fun of more than him.

- Mayor Hill commented on the ordinance violation issue by reading a statement into the record: *First of all, it was important for you to know that I did not sue the city. I followed the city's appeal process, and then I petitioned for a Writ of Review. The whole debacle was never about weeds. I believe former City Councilors Crume and Capron and Ordinance Officers and Leslie Thompson of the Argus Observer orchestrated a plan*



to personally and politically embarrass me because I questioned and was critical of some city policies. I have to assume city administration was aware of this. The Ordinance Officer did not follow the procedures prescribed by city policy. In fact, Officer Brockett told the Argus Observer that procedure was followed, which was absolutely untrue as proper procedure and processes were not followed. The property was occupied by squatters at the time. In our country, squatters have rights, which required me to go to court to get an order to evict them. The next step was to pay the Sheriff's Office to get the squatters removed from the property. The entire process took many months. The picture that the Argus put on the front page is when the property was occupied by squatters. I also think it's important for you to know that the city is bound by the same ordinances and fines as individual property owners. However, the city does not follow its own ordinances. When I asked about that issue, the answer was "we don't have the time, the money, or the resources to do so". As I looked further into these things, it was apparent to me that the way city operated was unfair, unjust, illegal, and probably unconstitutional. People's rights, not just mine, were being trampled on. Tell me how \$40,000, \$50,000, \$60,000, \$227,000 fines levied on people and property is fair, especially to people living in poverty or with limited resources, forcing people to sell just to pay the fines. For the reasons I have just described is why I decided to bring the issue to the light of day. Fortunately for the citizens of Ontario, the current Council and the judge recognized the harassment and intimidation by the Ordinance Officers and administration to me, as well as other property owners. This could have all been avoided as I made a settlement offer to the city. I said I would personally donate \$500 to a homeless project and drop the appeal if the city would vacate the fine against my company. Well, the judge did that. The city would release records of the other fines and appeals. Well, the city was forced to do that. They didn't do it on their own. The city would separate the Hearings Officer from the Police Department. Fortunately, the Council saw what was going on and they put a stay on it. And, the Police Department would apologize to the incorrect statements in the Argus Observer. Well, under oath, Officer Brockett had to retract his statement and tell that his statements were incorrect and that he had not followed proper procedure. That was never retracted. Let's hope that the ad hoc ordinance committee makes some reasonable recommendations that protects all citizens and we move on and concentrate on doing positive and good things for Ontario, such as the things that I've been working on – the bridge, Tech Fair, water and sewer projects, that we have put contracts out for engineering so that we can get federal infrastructure money when that comes about, we opened a new street today, the River Trail, trails to downtown, \$2,000,000 that we paid down on PERS – all of these things I have worked on intimately as the Mayor. He'd like to see work on those things and get this other thing behind them and have the ad hoc committee develop something that worked instead of punishing the citizens.

- Councilor Melendrez stated he asked the City Manager a few meetings back about doing some type of land acknowledgment for the first people that lived in this area. Councilor Kirby had voiced that he didn't want any of them to go that way, mentioning something about further legal action perhaps by a specific tribe wanting to return to take back the land or make some type of demand. He wanted Council to research that whole request further, noting that they respected the first people that were here. Also, comments were made that it happened a long time ago, or that those people were no longer here. However, he knew they were here. He had personally spoken to a Native American woman who lived in the park because she was homeless, but those people are here, but we refused to see them. They needed to respect those who were here first and recognize the injustices that were done to them. Looking at history told us why they were not here, because they were forced out. The same way the Basque community was honored, the Japanese culture and community, they should also be celebrating the other cultures that were here, too. Councilor Kirby stated the was afraid of that because it was a new topic, but he'd like Councilor Kirby to speak to that.

Councilor Kirby stated in going through Four Rivers Cultural Center, it began with the story of the Piute Indians, and then their forced removal from the land. The money for the building came from the story being told about the Japanese Americans who came to this community. That story went to the United States Congress, who donated \$4,000,000 to the project. The Japanese Americans said they were not the only culture in this area and asked to honor all of the cultures here. Many might say they received \$25K in redress money, but those people were still alive when President



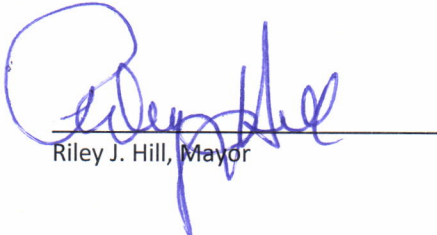
Reagan proposed that redress fund. With that, there were funds set aside for education. When the community moved forward to get those funds to educate not only our citizens but all across the United States about the injustices that could happen by government, they were awarded \$4,000,000 to do that. The story then expanded to Norther Europeans, which included the Basque people, and the Irish, the Scottish, Norwegian, Swedish, the Dutch, people who populated this area. But they also told the story of the forced removal of the Piute. When he took the then Catholic Bishop of Eastern Oregon through the Center to show him the display, when they arrived at the section of the Piute being removed from this area, the remark was made that injustice didn't leave anyone unscathed. At that time, the Hines family complained that the Catholic Priest in Burns was helping the Piute Indians and that they didn't like that. They complained to the Archbishop in Chicago. They took away that priest's ability to say mass because he wasn't in compliance with what they considered to be the way to do things at that time. His family resided in Richland, Oregon at that time, and Chief Joseph, head of the Nez Pierce Tribe, was making war with the United States Calvary. His last statement included the comment "I will make war no more forever" [sic] His sister was married to the first territorial Governor for Oregon, and he had a family member buried right next to him. They needed to be good to the Piute people. But to reimburse them when they were not alive, he personally believed, would be an error. There were currently people removing dams to facilitate fish, but the government wanted to raise the tax on natural gas, so people needed to depend on electricity. If the Council took the statement, they were in support of that, they could not speak freely about the future. They only needed to say the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, as one nation.

- Councilor Melendrez stated he had a few other issues he wanted to address, but he would bring them up at the next meeting.

ADJOURN

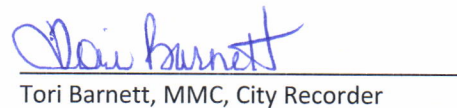
BAKER moved, HART seconded, **THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED**. Roll call vote: Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Braden-out; Hart-yes; Melendrez-yes; Mills-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

ACCEPTED:



Riley J. Hill, Mayor

ATTEST



Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder