



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 9, 2022

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Riley Hill at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were John Kirby, Riley Hill, Michael Braden, Ken Hart, Susann Mills, and Sam Baker. Eddie Melendrez was excused.

Members of staff present were Dan Cummings, Tori Barnett, Terry Leighton, Justin Zysk, Kari Ott, Casey Mordhorst, Al Haun, Paul Woods, and Mike Iwai.

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 August 5, 2022. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

Mayor Hill amended the Agenda to include item 10D regarding the Ontario Promise 529 Plan for students.

HART moved, BAKER seconded, **TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS AMENDED** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-out; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Maeda: *Thank you for having me, Council, I appreciate it. I'm here tonight to talk to you a little bit about the Ontario Middle School softball project and just on the Recreation District's side of things and why we fully support this project in our community. A lot of these projects send out a couple different side of things that we tend to forget about or don't see the impact in our community. Of course, on the Recreation District's side of things where it's going to help us grow our program significantly. I remember a time in Ontario when I was a part of the Little League, Sam Baker was one of my coaches at that time, and it was a large organization in Ontario that competed at a large level as well, through All-Stars and travel tournaments. But that program had a ton of community involvement, parent involvement, a lot of that. And that's something that we want to get back to as a Rec District. The need comes with the facilities for the Rec District. The formation of Little League is not very difficult, but the requirements for fields is pretty substantial. Currently, our Rec District has two fields at Beck-Kiwanis that we are working on in getting on up into a good standard for games, and then two at the TVCC softball facilities. That is it. Our Rec District has about 34 teams encompassing about 360 kids, just right now, and that can easily grow every single year. Because of the limitations of our fields and our ability to host games while also having practices for our teams, we complete in a league through Payette County Recreation District. There is a total of 123 teams in that district, and in their softball facility complex at Mesa Park, you'll note they have four fields out there and they are all standard softball fields, bare infields, so the 50-foot fields could be adjusted to 75 for a bigger field. Those specifically, 123 teams, pay \$400 a team to be a part of that. On top of four tournaments they held, so a total of eight days, on teams paying \$425 per team to be a part of those tournaments, included, and that is adult softball league, which pays \$300 a team. So in one year's time, over eight days of a tournament, a five-week season for our baseball/softball program, and then a five-week program for adult softball league, they brought in about \$89,200 for those facilities as well. That did not include concession items, which are probably one of the largest sellers that we see at the Splash Park and amongst most of*



these softball facilities. The adult and softball facility that we see in Caldwell as well, runs pretty significantly off just their concession stand items, which is not included in this. So we fully support this project, specifically because what it will do economically for our community as well, in being able to host some of these tournaments and to provide growth for our program at the Rec District. Thank you.

CONSENT AGENDA

MILLS moved, BAKER seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH CONSISTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 26, 2022; AND JULY 26, 2022, CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-out; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

SPECIAL ACTION

Middle School Softball Field

Fran Halcom, Ontario, stated: *Thank you so much. I want to thank you, Mr. Mayor and Council, for allowing me to speak to you tonight and to present a few of my asks. I come before you on behalf of Ontario Friends of Softball. I started this project in the summer of 2018 because, as Andrew stated, we simply do not have enough fields in our community for our kids, for softball or baseball. Because of the lack of a facility, we've even had to bus our kids to Fruitland and that costs the school district extra money, extra time for the kids, it's really been difficult to play in their league games. This project is not only going to provide fields for Ontario High School, but as Andrew stated, it's much needed for our Recreation Department. He stated how desperate they were, I mean, when I started talking to him, they said can the fields be ready tomorrow? That's how bad it is. The completion of this project will allow for tournaments, which will help us pay for the maintenance of fields, and Andrew was great enough to give some information and provide what the numbers are for the revenue in our community. It's huge! It's not only for the kids, but it's for the motel tax that will come back that will help us in the city, the dining in our restaurants, Burger West, you know, the stores. They'll go to the grocery stores; they'll buy extra Gatorade; they'll go to Big 5; it really creates a lot of revenue to the community. This has also been an opportunity, could be an opportunity, I believe, for prospective newcomers who are viewing Ontario to look at as far as having a sporting facility like this in our community. We're hoping that the City Council could help in some way the Friends of Softball by supporting us in some monetary way. The first being, we're looking at some backstops that would actually, we could get the fields up and running for our kids. That cost is about \$25K, but any amount would be greatly appreciated. I want you to know that. This is getting close to being finished, and believe it or not, it's been a hard road, not only working with three entities that in addition to that, Covid for two years. I got some statistics I wanted to tell you, so you understand why I'm asking. It's been, we've done a lot already. We received grants in the total of \$40,970; we've personally, the Friends of Softball, have had three fundraising events and raised over \$85,700; I have gotten windows, doors, donated paint, the painting, the steel for the roof, the sprinkler system, and many other miscellaneous items for over \$25,508. To date, the building that's standing there, I put \$90K of our fundraising money and grant money into, and we still have some money left in our bank account. But, of course, as you all know, the difficult part about any of this is getting people to give you bids to get work completed. Every time I get a bid, and then I wait two or three months and then I go back and get a refreshed bid, it has gone up due to fuel and rising costs. It's an ongoing, and as far as I can see, basically, it could be from week to week or month to month, but, the cost of the backstops, I checked today, the price has not changed. We would appreciate any help. We're asking for a small amount, I think, compared to what I'm looking at. Just the asphalt alone for that facility, is \$150K, the last time I got the bid. We are making some changes to cut some costs, but I want it to be a building that will be here a long time that we can be proud of. I actually spoke to Don Atkinson, he's one of the people over at the Guys building in Caldwell, and they make substantial amounts of their concession building. That building will pay the maintenance for the fields; it's going to be an asset to our community. I'm open for any questions. I did bring with me a copy of the plans and the fields for the entire Council so you could each have a copy, and I'm open for questions.*

Mayor Hill stated he had reviewed the plans and picked up a copy from CK3. He believed they paid \$20K to draw them. He had also reviewed the backstops and had others review them as well, making sure they were substantial enough for what was wanted. He supported what they were doing and loved all the entities working together to benefit the community. He believed they might have to help incrementally if the Council moved forward on the request. Andrew mentioned they had brought in \$89K – where was the money going?

Ms. Halcom stated that money could be used towards the refs, or some fees, some to the department, the costs of running the tractors and the fuel, or purchasing trophies.

Mr. Maeda stated the money that came in, generally was used for all supplies and maintenance of the facilities.

Mayor Hill stated because he did not see any representation from the school district, he wanted to make sure everyone was working together and there wouldn't be a hiccup later with people squabbling about the maintenance.

Ms. Halcom stated that had been discussed. During the school playing time, the school would maintain 100%. The Rec Department had been using TVCC fields and had been very responsible. Number one, it was the school district's property, and as long as she was around, she'd watch over it. The softball coach had also made the commitment to ensure the fields stayed in working condition. Ins peaking to the concession building, she had been told that after all expenses were taken are, they'd clear \$1,200 per game. They built the concession building first because it was during Covid and she had been able to get that done with the funds they had already raised, thankfully, because the cost of that material now would be a lot more. They had the foundation, they just needed to finish it up.

Mayor Hill knew the Council wanted Ontario to grow and be a destination, to rebuild it back to what it used to be.

Councilor Hart stated getting something in writing from the school district, since it belonged to them, stating they were on board with this project, would protect the city and the district.

Ms. Halcom stated she had asked that question. She had asked for it in writing, that they had the agreement. They had all the right people, a great rec department, a great coaching staff, and they were going in the right direction.

Mayor Hill informed Ms. Halcom that the Council would have this as an action item at the next meeting.

Badge Pinning: Jordan Watts; Charlotte New

Terry Leighton, Fire Chief, introduced new Firefighter Jordan Watts, and Fire Administrative Assistant Charlotte New, and pinned their department badges on them.

Water System Service Award: Jacobs

Mayor Hill stated the City of Ontario wanted to recognize the Public Works Department, who were contracted through Jacobs, for their hard work in the water department. They were recognized by the Oregon Health Authority with a certificate for "Outstanding Performance". This certificate meant this system would not have another state Sanitary Survey for 5 years because there were no significant findings or violations during their recent audit of their records, facilities, treatment, and other metrics. This was an evaluation of the water treatment plant and distribution system. This was a great achievement and showed the dedication of each operator. What a tremendous accomplishment for their whole team! Thank you to each and every one of them.

PRESENTATION

Group HRA Update: Waldo Insurance, Inc.

Dave Waldo, Field Waldo, presented.

Councilor Hart stated they had been hoping to get sign on from the Police Union to make the larger pool. Since the police had opted out, what was the risk?



Mr. Waldo stated they modeled these around approximately a 30% utilization. They modeled this one at 100% and were still saving about \$1,400 a year over what was being paid currently. The 3% selection was a significant savings to the city. So, between 30 and 100 was probably where they'd land.

Councilor Hart stated, if appropriate, the school district representative was now at the meeting, and it would be beneficial to hear from him regarding the ball field project.

Josh Mink, Athletic Director, Ontario High School: *I apologize. A lot of meetings happening as we're getting ready to roll out a new school year and excited about a lot of new things. I was joking with my coaches today about I'm on year four, but it feels like year one. I came in 2019, and as we all know, 2020 was our shutdown, so I've yet to have a normal school year as the Athletic Director at the high school, so we're excited about what that looks like this year. Happy to answer any questions. We're excited to work with Fran on this project. Obviously, coming in by the middle school, you all know where it is, and school property and things as Fran and I talked, of course, the school district is going to be taking over once the fields are done. Obviously, we maintain, and we water, and we mow, and we will do all the things that we need to do to make sure that those playing fields are kept up to the standard that we want them to be kept up to. Much like the high school baseball field is kept up to a very good standard as well. So we're excited about the project; we're excited all the work that Fran has done so. She's worked really, really hard. I'm sure she's thinking the same thing I am, she's in whatever year but it feels like year one 'cuz of all the covid slowdowns and things like that. So, anything that the district can do to help support Fran, we want to do. I know we've already got foul poles ready to go, be installed, that we purchased two years ago; we've got a lot of the safety railings that go on top of all the fencing. Once we can get fencing put in, it's all ready to go. We've got baseball, we've got pitcher's rubbers, we've got bases, we've got all those things that are ready to go. Obviously, there's the big-ticket items that just take a little longer for fundraising and that are kind out of my budget to purchase, like backstops and the diamond dust. I'm sure Fran talked at length about the cost of those different things, but I'm happy to answer any questions that the Council may have.*

Mayor Hill stated the Council was looking for an informal, written memorandum of understanding of the things just stated by Mr. Mink.

Mr. Mink: *Okay, we can work on that as well, and we can get it from...I can write it, I can put it on letterhead, we can get the building principal, myself, Superintendent Albisu can sign off on it, whatever you guys want, we can get. Like I said, we're just excited to get the process going. Softball at TVCC is a blessing, but we want our kids back on our campus. Thank you. I appreciate your time.*

Mayor Hill stated the MOU that would be put together, the Council would be meeting again in two weeks, so would he be able to provide that by then so the Council could take action?

Mr. Mink: *Yes. I can provide that for you. Email or I can bring it down to City Hall, or all of the above. Thank you.*

Dan Cummings, City Manager Pro Tem, stated unless he was told differently from the Council, he was prepared to enter into a contract to initiate the new insurance program for all the employees who agreed to join. That was all employees, including fire, but unfortunately not the police. When their contract was due, it would have to be negotiated for it. It was something the City Manager was authorized to do, but he wanted to make sure the Council had no issues.

Mayor Hill stated it appeared he was good to proceed.



NEW BUSINESS**Resolution #2022-132: Airport Pavement Rehabilitation Grant Match**

Justin Zysk, Airport Manager, presented.

KIRBY moved, MILLS seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2022-132: A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL GRANT MATCH FUNDING FOR THE AIRPORT PAVEMENT REHABILITATION PROJECT.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-out; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Airport Pavement Rehabilitation ODA Grant Agreement

Justin Zysk, Airport Manager, presented.

HART moved, KIRBY seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE AIRPORT REHABILITATION RUNWAY, TAXIWAYS, AND APRON (AIP 19) GRANT AGREEMENT NO. COAR-2022-ONO-00021 AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER PRO TEM TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-out; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Addendum #1: Airport Landscape Service Agreement

Justin Zysk, Airport Manager, presented.

MILLS moved, KIRBY seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE ADDENDUM #1 TO THE ORIGINAL AIRPORT LANDSCAPE SERVICE AGREEMENT.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-out; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Resolution #2022-133: Create Tater Tots Trail Ad Hoc Committee

Dan Cummings, City Manager Pro Tem, presented.

MILLS moved, HART seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2022-133, A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A TATER TOTS TRAIL AD HOC COMMITTEE.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-out; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Intergovernmental Agreement: Programming of City Recreation Facilities

Dan Cummings, City Manager Pro Tem, presented.

KIRBY moved, HART seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ONTARIO RECREATION DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF ONTARIO FOR THE SCHEDULING OF RECREATION FIELDS AND FACILITIES AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-out; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Acceptance of Public Utility Easement: KZ Investments, LLC

Dan Cummings, City Manager Pro Tem, presented.

MILLS moved, BRADEN seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL TO ACCEPT THE TWO PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENTS AS ATTACHED AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENTS AND FURTHER INSTRUCT THE CITY RECORDER TO RECORD SAID EASEMENTS WITHIN THE MALHEUR COUNTY CLERK'S LAND RECORDS.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-out; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.



Malheur Council on Aging and Community Services Funding

Kari Ott, Finance Director, presented.

BAKER moved, KIRBY seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE REQUEST TO SPEND THE REMAINING FUNDING ON ELECTRICAL UPGRADES AND MEAL PURCHASES, AND ANYTHING ELSE THEY NEEDED.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-out; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

PUBLIC HEARING**Resolution #2022-134: Harrah Heights Reimbursement District**

It being the date advertised for public hearing on the matter of Resolution #2022-134, the Hearing was declared open. There were no objections to the city's jurisdiction to hear the action, one abstentions, no ex-parte contact, and one declaration of conflict of interest.

Mayor Hill recused himself due to a conflict of interest. President Hart ran the public hearing.

Dan Cummings, Community Development Director, presented.

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

BRADEN moved, KIRBY seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE AMENDED DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR HARRAH HEIGHTS REIMBURSEMENT DISTRICT.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-out; Hill-recuse. Motion carried 6/0/0/1.

MILLS moved, KIRBY seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION #2022-134: A RESOLUTION CREATING THE HARRAH HEIGHTS REIMBURSEMENT DISTRICT AS DESCRIBED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO SIGN.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-out; Hill-recuse. Motion carried 6/0/0/1.

Mayor Hill returned to the Council dais.

DISCUSSION ITEMS**Update: Dump Truck**

Casey Mordhorst, Public Works Director, stated the Council had requested that he bring back quotes to upgrade the hydraulic system and the sander for the 1999 truck. He had provided the quote from the shop where they purchased dump trucks for a stainless-steel sander, for approximately \$23K, the hydraulic package was around \$20K, to have everything removed from the existing dump truck, retrofitted, and to add the new items would be just over \$77K.

Councilor Hart asked if there was a timeline of how long it would take if the changes were approved that night, to when it could be completed vs. the purchase of a new truck.

Mr. Mordhorst stated he wouldn't be able to get a quote for a chassis until November, early December. From there, it would be 365 days out. If they received a purchase order the next day, it was between 16 and 20 weeks for the retrofit.

Councilor Hart stated they could get something quicker for public works to use and save taxpayer money.

Councilor Baker stated in reviewing the quote, the box was not just for this truck, it was for something the department could be utilized on other trucks. Was that correct?



Mr. Mordhorst stated that was correct.

Councilor Baker stated maybe he misunderstood, but the engine and transmission in the truck, had that been fixed, or would that be another expense?

Mr. Mordhorst stated when the truck was purchased, it had the engine rebuilt within the first month. The engine runs well. There had been some fuel issues, and it had been over to Peterbilt multiple times, who had replaced the fuel pump, among other things. Currently, the truck ran okay.

Mayor Hill stated that he favored the retrofit, which would also allow the movement of funds, perhaps towards some things for the softball fields.

Update: Evidence Room

Michael Iwai, Police Chief, presented a PowerPoint presentation. The department was still working on the evidence room update. As a result of a criminal investigate, and lacking the infrastructure and updates needed specific to storage, and the Records Management System (RMS) and the FTE, this was where they ended up. He thanked the Council for investing close to \$54K to provide the necessary updates, but there were costs coming up, including internet connectivity.

Mayor Hill stated the connection was going to be low enough that the City Manager could approve it, so that was good news.

Chief Iwai stated they did not know the costs associated with the connectivity was going to be.

Mr. Cummings stated before he approved it, it would be brought before the Council. He believed it would be more than he was authorized to sign for. The cost was still unknown.

Councilor Kirby stated in the future, the city would have the opportunity to look at putting in upgrades to communication. There was empty conduit going into parts of the city. The company that had offered to give the service to the city free, would that be a potential vendor of that type of utility, which could result in a conflict with other bidders?

Mr. Cummings stated he was not sure who had been talked to about getting free work.

Chief Iwai stated it was Kevin Hill, who was a volunteer with the fire department, and he had connections with the company, and because of the amount of conduit being requested was such a small amount, his company would donate that to the police department.

Update: Homelessness

Michael Iwai, Police Chief, stated: *I'm going to preface my comments carefully because August 23rd, I'll be providing the City Council with an in-depth look on the issue surrounding homelessness in the City of Ontario. I will tell you that I'm currently looking at a lot of statistics. I've been asked by the City Manager how's the police department going to solve their part in this, and I want to be very clear- we have a part in this, but we are not the solution. We really aren't. When you look at the issues surrounding homelessness, we have to ensure that we have ordinances that are in place in order to stand up against scrutiny. And that is still something that I am waiting to hear from, specifically from the attorney, and to actually look at the ordinances and where we're going to move forward. We're going to have to have proper signage and when we have proper signage allowing people to be in public areas at specific times that's good, but we also have to have a place per the Governor's directive by the end of June of next year. We have to have a place identified where they can go. So our challenge, City Council, I have to start putting this together and I am pulling a lot of data on this, so you'll have a lot of information in the next few weeks. We have to have that place identified by June of next year; otherwise, it will be difficult for us to cite and to prosecute folks that are trespassing if we do not provide a spot for homeless to go. And I've talked to the Mayor, and I've talked to the City Manager*



about this, it's nothing new. You've all had the information from the attorneys, and I know that the attorneys are looking at this from different perspectives. I must reiterate, though, a lot of the challenges every community is facing because it has not been put to the test yet, which means it has not been litigated and we do not have case law one way or the other. Another issue that I will tell is going to be a partnership, and that's with the court. When we do cite folks for trespass, we have to ensure that they are going to be convicted or held accountable, and if they're not being held accountable, that is further going to cause issues within the community. The other part of this, another huge part, is on the social services that we provide. It seems like we are a bit fragmented. As I do this research, I'm looking at the number of calls and how it's affecting all of my police officers, especially my Code Enforcement Officer. I will tell you that Officer Reyna just for last year between July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, he covered nearly 1,300 calls himself. As a police department during that same time, we were over 5,000, so that tells you that this is not just Rick Reyna that is looking at these issues. It's affecting the entire police department. And I will also tell you, I'm giving you kind of a glimpse on what's going to be coming very soon, some of the calls that a Code Enforcement Officer is responding to, I don't think he should be going to those calls. He is not a police officer, he does not have a gun, and most of the homelessness issues that we deal with, they are either suffering from substance abuse or mental health, and that's not good to have an unarmed officer at these incidents.

Mayor Hill wanted to be clear that the 1,300 that Officer Reyna responded to, and the 5,000 with the department, those were all homeless calls.

Chief Iwai: No, not exactly. Officer Reyna's calls, yes. 100%. The officer calls, it's very difficult in JUSTICE pulling data, but I wanted to find out how involved my police officers have been over the last year, so this is going to be the best guess estimate that I can provide, but I will tell you that is a significant quadrant of what our police officers are responding to. It's not going to be all of them, but it is a significant amount. And I think it'll make more sense to you, Mr. Mayor, it may not answer your question 100%, but a lot of this issue really surrounds our ability to pull data out of our records management system. It's 25 years old and having somebody having to look at each case, per officer, is the only way that I can do this. There is no other way for me to get this data, so it is labor intensive. So, I'm telling you, I don't think code enforcement is going to be the answer moving forward. It's going to take someone that can handle any type of call. But I've got some ideas. I want to say thank you, publicly, to Jacobs. As I start looking into our data, they are involved in a lot of this. For every area that we clean up, it's Jacobs that's doing that. All the graffiti, with the exception of Councilwoman Mills and her specific incident, is Jacobs. So, there's a lot of partners here that really, I should be speaking more to, and I will before the next City Council meeting. But Jacobs was an oversight for me, and as I was looking at the reports, I'm thankful for the services they are providing our community. So I will tell you, this is not just a law enforcement issue. Right now, what Ontario has, is a significant increase in homelessness, and it's pocketed throughout the City of Ontario. So do you want it all in different pockets of Ontario, or do you want to designate a space where they can go? But I will provide a lot more detail to you in two weeks. Don't be mad at me.

Councilor Hart stated wanted to know if they were Ontario people that, through no fault of their own, had become homeless, or were these people coming here from other areas.

Chief Iwai stated it the latter. They were from Portland, Seattle, California, and they were going to continue to come here.

Mayor Hill asked if they were coming here because of the decriminalization of hard drugs?

Chief Iwai stated yes. He had attended the National Night Out in Fruitland, and without stating who he spoke with, the individuals stated he was seeking funds from his Council, and the statement made was "if you want us to look like Ontario, Oregon, which is lawless, then don't give my people a pay raise.", then added "no offense". That's the reputation that Ontario currently has. It could not be the police department alone cleaning up the situation. That would not work.

Councilor Kirby asked how culpable was the State of Oregon in creating the problem in Ontario?

Chief Iwai stated speaking from experience, when the legalization of marijuana came, it didn't come to Oregon overnight. There were a lot of funders that were pro marijuana, but the measure failed the first time. Then it came back, more money was put into it, and when there were multi-million dollars put in to get marijuana in the state, and only \$167K was put towards opposition, they knew they were going to win. Marijuana took two years, and in looking at data prior to the legalization of marijuana, from 2014-2016, and recreational marijuana was phased in. It was difficult to look at one calendar year. During 2014-2016 and make any inferences from that data, because it was constantly changing. He looked at 2013-2014, then 2014-2015, and then 2020, 2021, and 2022. That's the data the Council would receive in two weeks. Marijuana was a gateway drug, which many argued, but marijuana was the Ranch of all drugs – it went with everything. Unfortunately, all the homelessness seen lately, it went to substance abuse as the primary motivator for being here. When BM110 basically restricted the ability to hold possession of hard-core drugs as a crime and opened the flood gates. Senator Findley will be intown coming up very soon and I sent the information over to Dan Cummings, City Manager, and I'm hoping that some of you will attend. It will be at Matsy's, and he's asked me to talk about some of the problems that we're experiences because of BM110. I'm happy to see that there is a group in this room that is actually receiving some money from BM110 because the last time I checked, we had \$300M available and it was, remember, brought under the auspice of prevention and treatment, yet not one treatment facility has been built in the State of Oregon. Not one! And, what you see now, you see the officers not wanting to fine anybody for PC, Meth, or heroin, or other hard-core drugs. So yes, the state is extremely culpable in where we are at right now.

Mayor Hill stated he suspected that the hard-core drugs that were, over the past two years, had driven the homelessness here because they were not going to be sent to jail.

Chief Iwai stated they were not supposed to go to jail, but receive treatment, and the numbers he would be sharing were ridiculous. They were not getting treatment.

Mayor Hill stated he saw, out of BM110, their hotline was set up and in a year's time were only nine calls to that line, and four of those nine were police officers. There had been only one call that asked for treatment.

Chief Iwai stated the majority of the phone calls coming from police officers were asking what to do with the situation. He would show them some numbers on that, but he didn't want to take away from the issue. The issue affecting them currently, marijuana was here, BM110 was here, and collectively they needed to be asking where the money was going and how was it being reinvested back into the community. The other big part was the community partners in Ontario that were tired of seeing this. The police department was not going to be able to solve this problem alone. He would need the court on board, and he'd already spoken with Justice Court. He believed they had support there. He brought up an idea of having a corrections-type set up with the Justin Court, meaning if they could not pay, or were indigent, they could maybe help Code Enforcement and help clean up yards. The Judge thought that was a great idea and believed she could institute something to that effect. That was another program and who would run that? The police department was already short-staffed. There were many issues before them, and it needed to be a collaborative approach. This was not a police department issue. It was a state issue.

Councilor Kirby stated with regard to the marijuana measure the second time, his group "No Pot Ontario" raised \$15K to oppose that. The Secretary of State had on file \$150K the proponents fought with. Basically, 10 to 1, his group was overwhelmed.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES

Public Works: Quarterly Report *(Attached)*

Casey Mordhorst, Public Works Director, presented.



Ontario Promise/529 Plan

Ken Hart, Council President, stated he was looking for a consensus from the Council, if they were okay with the proposed revisions. He handed out a document to the Council and stated the ad hoc committee had not met to meet so this was just based on a discussion he had directly with the Oregon Treasury Department. The idea had been moved around about how to make this as easy as possible for the kids and families to set up the Oregon Savings Plan for college or tech school. The Treasury Department was a key partner in the program. At the beginning, the city was going to give \$100 to every child that was in Ontario in five different grades. That would be all city money that had already been appropriated for this current year, as well as next year. What the Treasury Department was asking was to help in simplifying the program, that way every child in Ontario would receive a funds. It was about 2,600 kids through the 13 grades. Their idea was that if the City of Ontario would put up \$50 for every child, they would match that. Essentially, the Oregon Treasury Department would give Ontario \$100K to match the city's \$100K for two years. It appeared to be a good deal. They wanted to partner with the city. This was a very unique program in Oregon, as well as the nation, and they wanted to highlight this program. They understood they were asking the city to make some changes. He wanted to take the Department up on their offer and take that back to the Committee. They were currently working on marketing materials. The idea was to unveil this in September, early October, this year, and have it open for the entire school year. They were going to have to do a paper form at the beginning, but ultimately it would be online. He wanted to know if there were any concerns, or this was in line with what the Council would like to do. He could take that back to the ad hoc committee and get it locked in so it could move forward.

Mayor Hill stated this was a better deal than what they had started with in two ways. The city was getting was receiving \$100K from the state, and they were going to administer the program themselves.

Councilor Hart stated he had asked for an MOU to commit to the \$100K, and they agreed.

Council consensus to move forward.

HAND OUTS**Monthly Department Stats:** *(Attached)*

Police, Code Enforcement, Fire, Public Works – July 2022

Minutes: County Court *(Attached)*

July 20, 2022; July 27, 2022

EXECUTIVE SESSION**ORS 192.660(2)(a): Consider Employment**

An executive session was called at 7:43 p.m. under provisions of ORS 192.660(1)(a) to consider employment of an officer, employee, staff member, or agent. The Council reconvened into regular session at 7:56 p.m.

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**HR Manager**

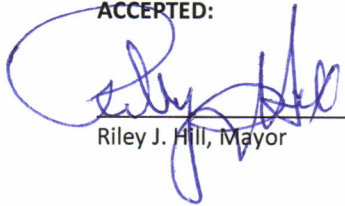
KIRBY moved, MILLS seconded, **THE COUNCIL AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER PRO TEM TO HIRE A CANDIDATE FOR THE HR PERSON AND AS AN ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER, AND THAT CANDIDATE IS JUSTIN ZYSK.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-out; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.



ADJOURN

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

ACCEPTED:



Riley J. Hill, Mayor

ATTEST



Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder