



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES September 27, 2022

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Riley Hill at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were John Kirby, Riley Hill, Michael Braden, Ken Hart, Susann Mills, and Eddie Melendrez. Sam Baker was excused.

Members of staff present were Dan Cummings, Corinna Hysell, Terry Leighton, Justin Zysk, Kari Ott, Mike Iwai, Casey Mordhorst, 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 September 23, 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 added Old Business to the Agenda, to include 7A: Accepting Funds for Training Center; and 7B: Grant Writer Contract Extension (Merchant McIntyre).

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

CONSENT AGENDA

KIRBY moved, MILLS seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH CONSISTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2022**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-out; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

PRESENTATION

Ontario Promise/529 Plan

John Valley, Outreach Director, Oregon Treasury Savings Network, stated: *I believe I'm just kind of giving a little brief overview of just what happened at our kickoff event. I think there were several of you there. I'm here tonight because I was part of the, or at least was able to witness the kickoff event that the Mayor and several of the Councilmembers were able to attend along with other community leaders to celebrate the launch of Ontario Promise, where the city has dedicated funds to help open accounts for young students, actually anyone under 19 in the 97914 zip code, get a \$100 contribution for an Oregon College Savings Plan. Myself and everyone else at Treasury are so excited about this partnership. Treasurer Read himself was unable to be at the kickoff event. I know he was disappointed he couldn't be here for him to talk and really reach out to the community for their leadership and everything that's been done by this City Council and the community as a whole. So, I just want you all to know that I will make myself available to do virtual presentations. If it's important for me to come out here in person, I'll do my best to come out here in person. I want to make sure everyone here knows that the Oregon College Savings Plan is a wonderful tool to help save for a post-secondary education. It probably won't pay for everything, but it'll help, and we encourage people to take advantage of it, learn about it. There's plenty of informational flyers around schools and community, I don't know*



where else Kathy's put them, but I think there are some at the library, and other places. I was able to speak at the Chamber yesterday. I was also able to talk with some staff at DHS, so the community's really come together to help get the word out. With the City Council's leadership, we hope other people will take advantage of this program. I don't want to get too much in the details. I know you've heard me present before. Are there any questions from anyone on the City Council about the program?

Mayor Hill asked Mr. Valley to give a quick recap of the program.

Mr. Valley: I just want to be respectful of everyone's time. Basically, what is going to happen is, if you have a student who lives in Ontario and they go to their school and get a paper application, they fill it out, they'll turn it into the school, which will then go to the district office. They will mail it to our financial partners back East, and then what will happen is, with that 97914 zip code to the beneficiary, \$100 will be triggered to be contributed to that account. That's a split between the city's fund that have been dedicated, as well as the State Treasury funds for that \$100. We're going to be doing that for the entire school year. We encourage people to do it sooner rather than later. But the benefits of the program, you can use it for any type of post-secondary education expense. For those not familiar, you can use it for a four-year school, you can use it for a two-year school, you can use it for a trade school, you can use it for a school in Oregon, or outside of Oregon. The only criteria is that the school is accredited, which means that it's eligible for federal financial aid. You have that money in the account, all the interest you're earning is tax-free. Again, as long as you use it for a post-secondary education expense, which is anything required to go to that school. So if you're going to be a chef and you go to a culinary institute, you can use it for pots, pans, knives, anything that's required to go to that institution. The account owner is also eligible for a state income tax credit, so \$300 if you're a joint filer, \$150 if you're a single filer. Other people can contribute to the account. They'll also be eligible for a state income tax credit. We have an e-gift feature. I was just talking to members of the City Council. It's a great gift idea. I use this example all the time: I don't need anymore Lego toys cluttering up my holiday, can you email friends and family, and they can make a contribution to your and Todd's savings plan. They'd be eligible for that state income tax credit. It's a great program. Again, another tool that will help pay for post-secondary education expenses. Still will get scholarships, still will get grants, but also with the Oregon College Savings Plan, especially through Ontario.

Mayor Hill stated he wanted everyone to know was that during the Goal Setting Session, the City Council wanted to align themselves more with the schools and education. Councilor Hart convened Tom Greco, the Chair of the Board, and established a committee. Through the process the city set aside \$130K of seed money, which was taken from marijuana funds. Now the state has agreed to match that \$100K and they would do all the paperwork, so the city saved \$30K. And this would run more than one year.

Mr. Valley: I think the key thing that we wanted to commit, I think the original proposal, we went through some reiterations as the Council probably knows, is that there were certain tiers of grade levels that were originally going to be funded, and we thought that was just going to be very complicated and messy trying to let certain parents know that you'd be eligible, but if you had a sibling you wouldn't be eligible, so just to make it simpler, we just thought it should be eligible for everyone. In order to make that happen, we had to sort of be willing to contribute some additional funds to make that happen. So now, every student would be eligible for that, and we were happy to make that contribution and match those funds.

Mayor Hill stated everyone would know the Council was good guardians of their money, and they had received money from the state to double their efforts and they appreciated the state's help.

Mr. Valley: *Okay. Any other questions or comments?*

Councilor Mills stated she thought it was important to explain that it could be handed down to siblings.

Mr. Valle: Yes. To be honest, I do this presentation, short, long, and so many times I forget sometimes where I say one thing and then another things, so I'd be happy to repeat it. One of the most common things that I get as a question for someone interested in opening an account is what happens if my son or daughter turns 18, decide they



don't want to go to school, what happens to the money? It's always important to remember, we just had a conversation offline about this, it's always the account owner's money. If not when the beneficiary turned 18, they inherit it and they go spend it on whatever they want. The account owner controls it. If that 18 year old decides they want to drive across the country, figure out what they want to do with their lives, and come back when they're 20, 25, whatever that is, there's no age limit of when the money needs to be used, so it can still keep on adding interest. If for whatever reason they get a full scholarship, they don't need the money in the account, you can transfer it or roll it over into another account. I have two kids. I have a son and a daughter. My son's older. So if my son doesn't need the money, I can put it in my daughter's account. If there's money left over in the account, and he wants to go to graduate school, he can use it for that. He can keep it in the account and if he has kids, I can change it to a future grandson or granddaughter. You can always change the beneficiary within a first cousin, so there's a lot of flexibility. One thing I will say, or did that just answer your question? I can go on and on about this. I want to be respectful of everyone's time. Was that the point you were hoping I was going to make? Okay, hopefully I made that clear.

Councilor Mills stated he had.

Councilor Hart voiced his thanks to Mr. Valley. Without him, they wouldn't be where they were, because they had been struggling with the committee on how to move forward. They appreciated Treasurer Read, because he had to approve it, but they all knew that staff at the city did the work, and the staff at the Treasure Department did the work. A big thank you also – a student from Four Rivers Community School had spoken that day, Stephan Madero, who is a junior, and his comment was that he was a junior who hadn't really thought about how he was going to pay for college, and now all of sudden he had \$100 in a fund. That's what the committee was going for, getting other students to think about what it might be to be able to continue on.

Mr. Valley: *You're very welcome. Again, it wouldn't have been without your leadership and bringing the proposal forward that we would even have been able to partner, so thank you. Have a great night.*

Accept Findings on Training Center

Terry Leighton, Fire Chief, stated: *I have some amazing news, especially for you, sir. So, Mayor and Council, I was very blessed to receive this news just the other day, and I passed it on to the City Manager Dan Cummings, and also to Kari Ott, and we wanted to tell you about this news. It's something I've been working on for a while. It is, they don't call it a grant, but I call it a grant, or a gift, and to me, it's a huge gift. But, the state, just like the Mayor has asked for other funding agencies, the state has told us that we can have \$328K for the training center. So, about three or four months ago, I met with actually the official Fire Marshall and her top deputy and walked through the whole place, and she said you need to ask for money, and you need to ask for money to have some of the work done by other people, not yourself, because they saw me swinging my hammer and all of that. So, this to me, is just a Godsend, it truly is. This is going to go to pay back some of the money that we've already been using that the city gave us, and the Rural gave us, and the Firefighter's Association, to pay some of those things, and that way, some of those monies that were going from the city's money that we have in the budget, we'd be able to continue to pay operating costs, maintenance costs, those kinds of things that we will have in the future. In order to get those funds, I had to write a budget for it, and in order to get those, there's four different, four or five, four different steps, so that funding will come, and those are the steps that I have write the budget for those steps. The first part is the biggest one, it's \$150K. It covers a lot of the stuff we have done already, the tables, the TVs, the alarm, those type of things that we've already installed, the cameras. And then another one is involving seal coating the whole parking lot, the training tower, and the burn cell, all of those are in different steps. Like I said, this is a Godsend, a \$328K gift from the state is amazing and I just wanted you guys to know that and with that, I just ask for the approval for me to sign this Intergovernmental Agreement, and I also did want to say that this was actually a five-year plan, and it starts September, 2022, and goes through September, 2027.*

Mayor Hill stated it appeared there was no match required.



Chief Leighton: No. What they are encouraging and what they were so excited about was being able to train firefighters on this side of the state. They said they may store a cache of a little bit of their equipment in one of those pole barn areas, and that was just a possibility, but we have plenty of room to store their stuff. They were just so excited about the plan. We have already been able to bring many firefighters and police officers from all over the state here and had some come from the west side of the state for NFPA classes and that. I do have numbers if you guys are interested in what we spent so far on it, if you're interested in that, but I'm just happy to tell you that we got a huge gift.

HART moved, MELENDREZ seconded, **THE COUNCIL GIVE PERMISSION TO THE FIRE CHIEF TO SIGN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT RECEIVING A LARGE GRANT FROM THE STATE.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-out; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Grant Writer Extension

Justin Zysk, HR Manager, stated: *I will give kind of a precursor to the reason why we're doing this, and then Mr. Cummings will fill in any gaps. So, a while back, you, as a Council, tasked staff to search for other grant writers for the reason that you were not happy with our current grant writers. What we have done is create a new extension of the contract, it was just a 30-day extension to kind of buy some time. In that time, we are going to be publishing out a new RFP, which is a Request for Proposal, for a new grant writer. The reason why we are extending the contract as opposed to just stopping the contract when it essentially terminates at the end of the month, is because we have seven total grants that are being processed at various stages of their life, some of which have key deadlines that would be missed if we stopped working with the grant writers we have currently. That would detrimentally affect some big funding opportunities for the city. So, essentially, we are asking for your blessing to extend the contract for 30-days and allow us to find a new proposal.*

Dan Cummings, City Manager, stated the Mayor had the proposed new contract, which had been written to be a month-to-month contract with Merchant McIntyre, which would continue until the city had the RFP out and new proposals submitted.

Mayor Hill stated the contract read \$6,000 per month, but the previous was \$6,500.

Mr. Cummings confirmed it was the \$6,500 per month.

Mayor Hill asked for the justification for extending the contract when the city had received no deliverables so far.

Mr. Cummings stated they did not have to approve the contract; they could let it expire at the end of the month. At that point, Merchant would cease all work on any grants currently being worked on, and the city would stall until new proposals were received, reviewed, and a selection made for possibly a new firm.

Mayor Hill stated his concern was that if the city didn't extend the contract, and there were things currently being worked on, and the city selected another firm, would they pass the work they'd been doing on to the next firm?

Mr. Cummings stated he'd have to review the original contract, not the extensions, to see if that was part of the original contract. He could step away and research that now if the Council wanted that information before making a decision on the extension.

Councilor Kirby stated when they requested the RFP from Merchant McIntyre, he thought they didn't want to do a month-to-month extension. He thought they wanted a three-month, six-month, contract.

Mr. Cummings stated Councilor Kirby was correct. On this last extension they gave MM, the 90-day extension, they didn't want to do a month-to-month, so he was the one suggesting it. It expired at the end of the month, and there was nothing received yet regarding the RFP. He suggested the month-to-month so the existing grants in process didn't just stop, and so they'd continue working on them. He believed MM would submit a proposal.



Councilor Kirby verified an RFP was sent out, but it was not successful, or was it an inadequate RFP, or what?

Mr. Cummings stated the RFP was in the process currently.

Councilor Kirby asked if the RFP read that there was a 30-day, 60-day, 90-day timeframe to submit a proposal?

Mr. Zysk stated all steps of the RFP process would be completed by the end of October. The closing would be October 18th; staff would determine responsibility and responsiveness of the bids; they'd be scored; and attempt to award and negotiate a contract, all done by the end of October.

Mr. Cummings stated as the current contract ended end of September, did they want to stop there and stall until the RFP process was complete?

Mr. Zysk stated staff had spoken with Merchant McIntyre, and they were amendable to the 30-day extension. They understood the city's position.

Councilor Hart asked Chief Leighton if Merchant McIntyre was involved in his \$328K grant the city just received?

Chief Leighton stated they were not; however, they were involved in the process for a new ladder truck, and the SAFER grant, and were also assisting him in writing two other grants through the State of Oregon for a fire engine and a Tinder.

Councilor Hart stated there was a lot of state money out there, and to spend this amount of money and only have a federal focus was where he'd like to find a firm that had both state and federal focus. He also didn't want to spend \$6K on a firm for *just* federal, and another \$6K for a firm focused *only* on Oregon. With Merchant McIntyre, the city had not seen any financed in that they were only federal focused. He was worried that they might not get any proposals through the RFP process, so the city could stay in this situation. The Council needed to decide how much they continued to spend with no results.

Mr. Cummings stated the RFP was seeking a firm that focused on both federal and state opportunities.

Mayor Hill asked if the Council wanted to postpone taking action until Mr. Cummings determined if MM would pass on the information if they were not successful in the bid process?

Councilor Braden stated he'd like to extend it to keep the continuity.

Councilor Hart asked how long it would take Mr. Cummings to find out about ownership of the work.

Mr. Cummings stated he would research that during the next action item.

Councilor Braden stated he wanted them to make a decision that night.

Mayor Hill stated they'd postpone a vote until they had an answer from Mr. Cummings.

NEW BUSINESS

Letter to State: Ballot Measure #110

Councilor Hart stated he believed they needed to do a lot more to go upstream and determine why there was an increase in crime, an increase in transient homeless, and he believed Ballot Measure #110 that was passed by the voters to decriminalize hard drugs in Oregon, was a reason. He'd like the Council to so sign the letter to let the State know that BM 110 had a detrimental impact.



Councilor Kirby stated he'd like the letter published in all the major newspapers in Oregon, and he provided a list of those outlets.

KIRBY moved, HART seconded, **THE LETTER FROM THE CITY OF ONTARIO REGARDING BALLOT MEASURE #100 AND ITS CONSEQUENCES BE SENT TO THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OREGON AND THE FORMER HOUSE MINORITY LEADER CHRISTINE DRAZAN, FORMER HOUSE SENATOR BETSY JOHNSON, AND FORMER OREGON SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE TINA KOTEK, AS WELL AS THE ATTACHED LIST OF NEWSPAPERS IN OREGON, TO INCLUDE THE OREGONIAN, THE REGISTER-GUARD, THE STATESMAN JOURNAL, THE BEND BULLETIN, ALBANY DEMOCRAT, GRANTS PASS COURIER, HERALD AND NEWS-KLAMATH FALLS; CORVALLIS GAZETTE-TIMES; EAST OREGONIAN; THE DALLES CHRONICAL; MAIL TRIBUNE-MEDFORD; THE DAILY ASTORIAN; ASHLAND DAILY TIDINGS; BAKER CITY HERALD; THE ARGUS OBSERVER; MALHEUR ENTERPRISE; BLUE MOUNTAIN EAGLE-JOHN DAY; BURNS TIME HERALD; AND THE LAGRANDE OBSERVER.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-out; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Mayor Hill stated he contacted Councilor Baker, who was unable to attend the meeting that night, and he informed the Mayor he wanted his name on the letter.

Councilor Braden stated Councilor Hart had drafted a good letter, and was getting some work done for the city, but did it need to be run by the City Attorney before posting?

Councilor Hart stated it was a political document, written by a Councilor and voted on by the Council, so there was no reason.

Councilor Hart read the letter: *An open letter from the City of Ontario to: Oregon Governor Kate Brown; Former Oregon House Minority Leader Christine Drazan; Former Oregon State Senator Betsy Johnson; and Former Oregon Speaker of the House Tina Kotek*

The City of Ontario needs your help.

The passage of Ballot Measure (BM) 110 in 2020 has disastrously impacted our community. As a border town with the State of Idaho, Ontario has seen a significant increase in crime and homelessness in the past few years. During a presentation to the Ontario City Council by Ontario Police Chief Michael Iwai, he noted the negative impact of BM 110 and the decriminalization of hard drugs in our community. Ontario is attracting individuals from outside of our community specifically due to this decriminalization.

We acknowledge BM 110 does provide for some additional funding to assist with addiction treatment. The City of Ontario would rather reverse the decriminalization of drugs and return the addiction treatment funds (which according to Police Chief Iwai will result in a grand total of seven new beds in all of Malheur County). Our local police feel overwhelmed by the increase in crime and homelessness resulting in a request of more police resources – not the decrease in police resources as envisioned with the passage of BM 110.

The City of Ontario understands that BM 110 was passed as a grand experiment by the people of Oregon and not by the Oregon Legislature (BM 110 failed in Malheur County 61% to 39%). The community of Ontario believes that the experiment has been a catastrophic failure. BM 110 is negatively impacting our citizens' quality of life and we ask that you do all you can in your power to overturn this misinformed policy in any way you can including sending this back to the voters for reversal or allowing Ontario to be carved out from its implementation.

Ontario is a proud and compassionate community and we do not want a handout from the State. However, as a rural border community of 11,080 we can no longer afford to bear the burden of being the drug use destination of our neighboring state and expect to continue to maintain the quality of life our citizens expect and deserve.

The City of Ontario needs your help, and we thank you for your consideration.



(RETURN TO) Contract Extension: Merchant McIntyre, Grant Writers

Mr. Cummings stated the original agreement was silent about turning over any of the records. That would be something that would have to be negotiated. However, he noted in the existing extension the fee had been reduced to \$6K per month, which was what was in the proposed month-to-month agreement.

HART moved, KIRBY seconded, **THE COUNCIL EXTEND THE CONTRACT WITH MERCHANT MCINTYRE FOR ONE MONTH FOR \$6,000 PER MONTH WITH THE STIPULATION THAT THE CONTRACT INCLUDE LANGUAGE RELATED TO THE CITY OF ONTARIO OWNING THE WORK PRODUCT SO IF A TRANSITION WAS MADE TO ANOTHER ENTITY, ALL THAT WORK WAS NOT LOST.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-out; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Ordinance #2815-2022: Codifying Ontario's Municipal Charter

Dan Cummings, City Manager, presented.

MILLS moved, KIRBY seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #2815-2022, AN ORDINANCE CODIFYING THE ELECTORS' DECISION TO AMEND THE CITY OF ONTARIO'S MUNICIPAL CHARTER.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-out; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Ordinance #2816-2022: Codifying OMC 3-11 Increase Transient Lodging Tax to 10%

Dan Cummings, City Manager, presented.

KIRBY moved, MILLS seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE ORDINANCE #2816-2022, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO (A) CODIFYING THE ELECTORS' DECISION TO INCREASE THE TRANSIENT LODGING TAX, AND (B) AMENDING TITLE 3, CHAPTER 11 OF CITY OF ONTARIO'S MUNICIPAL CODE TO REFLECT THE TAX INCREASE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-out; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Resolution #2022-139: ATF Equitable Sharing Funds

Kari Ott, Finance Director, presented.

MILLS moved, KIRBY seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION #2022-139: A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING UNEXPECTED DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EQUITABLE SHARING PROGRAM FUNDS.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-out; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

PUBLIC HEARING**Accept Right of Way for a Portion of Alameda Drive, per Approved Plat of Mayberry Subdivision, Approved Under Planning Action 2021-03-12 SUB**

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, and no 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.

MILLS moved, KIRBY seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE DEDICATION OF THE RIGHT OF WAY FOR A PORTION OF ALAMEDA DRIVE AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT OF MAYBERRY SUBDIVISION, SAID SUBDIVISION BEING APPROVED BY AN ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION ON DECEMBER 14, 2021, UNDER PLANNING FILE 2021-03-12SUB AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE HIS SIGNATURE ON THE FINAL PLAT ACCEPTING THE DEDICATED RIGHT OF**



WAY. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-out; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATE

Finance: Monthly Report *(Attached)*

Kari Ott, Finance Director, presented.

Mayor Hill stated based on the information provided, the city could be \$500K-\$750K short on projections.

Ms. Ott stated that was correct. The Council would need to review the list and recommend not doing a particular project or postponing a project.

Councilor Kirby stated the Council became aware of the situation through an article out of K2 news in Portland. Did the news media in the valley report anything else that Ontario was experience. Was this a continuing issue statewide or was it just this last two quarters.

Ms. Ott stated Oregon had been legalized for a few years, so the market was going to adjust. It would eventually adjust to where it was going to be, based on pricing and demand, and they would have to price more competitively.

Mr. Cummings stated he contacted three local dispensary owners and asked their opinion. He guessed that their sales had not decreased, based on traffic and volume at the stores, but they had to adjust their prices because the market was stabilizing and there was such a huge number of people who were growing and processing. He asked them if he was guessing correctly that sales were still there, but prices went down? He had that confirmed, 100%.

Councilor Hart stated they had made an estimate in the budget, so he'd like staff to get together and determine a new estimate of what they thought the marijuana revenue was going to be, and to present at the next Council meeting with a few options of what staff really needed and or what could be modified.

Community Development: Quarterly Report *(Attached)*

Dan Cummings, Community Development Director, presented.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Uber/Lyft Transportation

Dan Cummings, City Manager, asked Councilor Hart to provide a brief introduction as this was an issue he had asked to be brought forward.

Councilor Hart stated he received an email from Dina Ellwanger, President of St. Alphonsus Hospital, Ontario, and the hospital continued to hear about the difficulty getting transportation for people in the community to health care, whether it be appointments or in the ER and needing a ride somewhere. He asked his community health workers if they experienced the same thing, and they said absolutely. Many patients in the community did not have access to reliable vehicles, had a difficult time getting to and from appointments, and one barrier was that Uber and Lyft could deliver someone from Idaho into Ontario, but could not Uber or Lyft could not originate in Ontario. They heard the reason was that it was tied to a city ordinance or the way they were established as a taxi service. He asked Mr. Cummings and Chief Iwai to research that. It would be huge benefit if they could figure out a way to allow Uber and Lyft to operate in in the community, which would help in many ways, but especially on health care situations.

Mr. Cummings stated they had reviewed it, and the taxicab code required anyone that was out for hire had to have a taxicab license. Even though Uber and Lyft did not classify themselves as a taxi, and those companies conducted all the background checks on their drivers, and ensured it was all above board. It was staff's opinion there were two



ways to deal with the issue. First, staff could update the existing code, adding verbiage for these Uber/Lyft type rides, or second, tell Uber and Lyft they could license the main company as the taxi. The city would recognize in the code all the insurance, etc., that taxicabs had to have, and would require the same from Uber and Lyft, including background checks, etc., but the main company itself would obtain the taxicab license. That would be a way to handle it to get one in place immediately. Option #2 was his recommendation - to modify the existing code, recognizing that under the license, they were being told they had to ensure they were doing all the requirements on the drivers, and they'd be licensed under the existing one. Or, hold off and direct staff to review and update the existing code to include those types of transportation. Also, it was difficult in this urban area for a driver to afford to pick up someone in Ontario to take them to Boise, because of what could actually be charged. Overall, he was not that well versed on the issue.

Mayor Hill asked how many taxicabs were currently licensed in Ontario.

Mr. Cummings stated the city was down to one, and that was not currently being operated.

Councilor Kirby stated he believed there were three shuttle operators in this area, and they transported Ontario to Portland, Ontario to Bend, Ontario to Boise, for medical purposes. Was this a role they might be able to add on?

Councilor Hart stated he was just relaying what he'd been told; that Idaho had a system and they had been cancelling most of those rides, so when someone thought they had a ride, it was cancelled. He didn't want to hurt any other transport businesses, but he'd heard from the President of the hospital, as well as his own staff, that what was being done currently was not working. He saw this as another option to provide people a way to do something. It was a request, and he'd like the Council to support it. Any barrier that could be removed to allow people to get access to health services was important.

Direction given to staff to research the situation.

HAND OUTS

Minutes: County Court (Attached)

09-07-2022; 09-12-2022

Check Register: (Attached)

August, 2022

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- Mayor Hill stated when the Chief gave his report last meeting, he spoke of no coordination between the different agencies that handled the homeless, so he talked with a member of the Border Board to see if they had thoughts or money. He took the Chief's comments to Shawna Peterson, who gave this feedback: *Thank you for taking time to meet with me today. This confirms our conversation about the homelessness and mental health issues in the border region. The Border Board discussed ideas to address that issue at our most recent meeting. While I cannot commit the Board or any funds at this early stage, the Board did indicate strong interest in supporting a coordinator hired to do the following: liaison between the various entities with resources that the community (Lifeways, EOCIL, DHS, etc.) source and secure federal and state funding to address these needs. We envision this being housed at the City of Ontario whether as an employee or a contractor with the reporting relationship to the City Manager and some measure of accountability to the Border Board. We believe the most successful structure would be a two to three year partnership between the City and the Border Board to create and fund this position. On behalf of the Border Board, I look forward to exploring this further and to a potentially fruitful collaboration. Shawna Peterson, Executive Director.* He wanted to let staff know they were not ignoring what the Police Chief presented earlier.



- Councilor Kirby stated the Chief had also asked for a transportation fund for people who broke down, etc. Years ago, the city had that type of fund, which had been funded by the various churches in the community. That was administered by the Police Department. It was his understanding that was no longer in place. He spoke with his own Pastor, who indicated he thought that was something his church could support, but it had not gone before the finance committee. Maybe the city needed to get an interim program in place, something that various churches might assist in funding. He'd like to see something like that explored.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ORS 192.660(2)(a): Consider Employment

An executive session was called at 7:51 p.m. under provisions of ORS 192.660(2)(a) to consider employment of an officer, employee, staff member, or agent. The Council reconvened into regular session at 8:44 p.m.

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

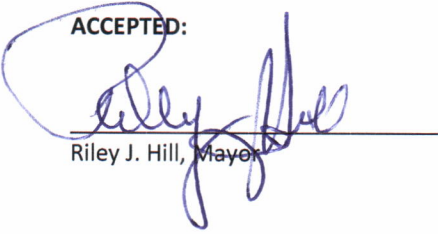
City Manager Appointment

HART moved, KIRBY seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL ENTER INTO AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH AMENDMENTS FOR DANNY K. CUMMINGS TO BE THE CITY OF ONTARIO CITY MANAGER.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-out; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

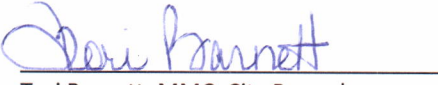
ADJOURN

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

ACCEPTED:


Riley J. Hill, Mayor

ATTEST


Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder