



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES December 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, December 27, 2022, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were John Kirby, Riley Hill, Michael Braden, Ken Hart, Susann Mills, Sam Baker, Eddie Melendrez.

Members of staff present were Dan Cummings, Tori Barnett, Corinna Hysell, Clint Benson, Michael Iwai, Andy Wood, Casey Mordhorst, Paul Woods, and Al Haun.

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 December 23, 2022. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

BAKER moved, MILLS seconded, **TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Susanne Berg, Ontario, stated: *So I've never spoken at City Council before. I found myself in a unique situation not yesterday Monday, but the Monday prior. I had my water shut off. Never in my life have I had a utility shut off. I can tell you I'm a hard worker, I'm a bill payer, try to follow the rules. Well I missed my November payment. When I called to find out what happened, because I thought maybe there was actually a broken pipe, I was told that I received a letter in the mail, which I hadn't quite yet, and that I hadn't paid my bill. So I promptly paid the late fee and paid whatever needed to be done to get my water turned back on, but the reason why I'm here today is not because of my water – that will not be a problem every again, for me – but the fact that it was a problem for me, I feel like that's something that the city should address. I feel like the current policy is not a good policy. The lady that I spoke to was very kind, but she said there was nothing she could do, she said you need to talk to the City Council, I said well I'll do that, I will do that. She said that there is a 45-day leniency, but, you know, for someone that misses a bill, I actually work 60+ hours a week. I work a lot. I missed my bill. I'm the bill payer in the house, so if I miss it, it doesn't get done that month. If you miss one bill payment, the very next bill you are in short danger of being shut off. I missed my November payment, but I made my December the moment it came in the mail, I saw that I had a payment and I paid it. Well as it turns out, my bill pay didn't get there quick enough. I brought "this" (blue letter) because I wanted to show the City Council, "this" is my shut off notice. It was received on the 23rd of December. A full week after my water was actually already shut off. To me, I actually, in my job I care for elderly, I'm the administrator at a memory care facility, I feel like this is horrendous. If somebody missed their bill and had their water shut off the week before Christmas in freezing cold weather, you have serious problems. So I just want to be in front of you and I want to propose that you take this seriously. Like I said, it's never going to be a problem for me again. There are other people this is going to be a problem for. You know, the lady that I spoke to, she said I hate sending notices in December, I hate shutting it off, and she mentioned that they don't have manpower. Well she had manpower to come shut my water off, she also had manpower to turn it back on the next day. I think there's manpower to make some different policies, different changes. I don't know what that is. I thought of a couple ideas. You know, I'm happy to pay a fee.*



If I don't pay my bill, I'm happy to pay a fee, and I think most people would do so, most people would be happy to do so, but there's plenty of different ways, but just shutting the water off, without even receiving the notice, that really did not feel well at all. I'm actually really calm right now. I was not very calm when I got home at 5:30 at night and I had no water. It was not a good, my husband did not have a very happy wife. So, anyway, that's all I wanted to say. I don't have any complaints. I'm a happy Ontario citizen. We'll be here for a while, but I'd love to see this change for other people 'cuz it kind of stinks. Thank you.

Dan Cummings, City Manager, confirmed staff would check into it.

CONSENT AGENDA

MILLS moved, KIRBY seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH INCLUDED A LIQUOR LICENSE CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP-THE GROCERY OUTLET.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

NEW BUSINESS

City Commitment to Valley Family Health Network Planning Grant

Councilor Ken Hart presented. He indicated he was currently the Interim CEO of Valley Family Health, but there was no conflict with this proposed action.

KIRBY moved, MELENDREZ seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL TO GIVE THEIR COMMITMENT TO VALLEY FAMILY HEALTH'S APPLICATION FOR A HRSA-23-036 NETWORK PLANNING GRANT AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE COMMITMENT LETTER ATTACHED.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

PUBLIC HEARING

Appeal of Planning Commission Decision to Uphold the Hearing Officer Denial of a Conditional Use Under Planning Actions 2022-07-27CUP and 2022-09-31A being Planning Action 2022-11-33A, Scott Inc.

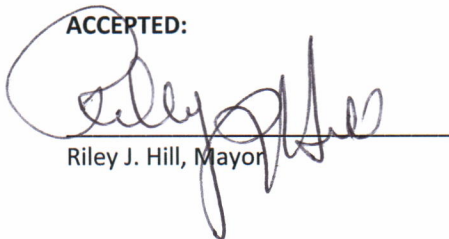
Garrett Chrostek, City Attorney, stated the Public Hearing was cancelled due to a Writ of Mandamus being filed with the Malheur County Circuit Court, who took jurisdiction over the matter. A new notice would be sent of if the city regained jurisdiction. Was the Council interested in going into an executive session to discuss the Writ further?

Council consensus to not hold an executive session.

ADJOURN

BRADEN moved, HART seconded, **THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

ACCEPTED:



Riley J. Hill, Mayor

ATTEST



Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder