



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2023

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Riley Hill at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present or attended via Zoom were Riley Hill, Susann Mills, Sam Baker, John Kirby, Michael Braden, Eddie Melendrez, and Ken Hart. Also present were Mayor-Elect Deborah Folden and Councilor-Elect Penny Bakefelt.

Members of staff present were Dan Cummings, Tori Barnett, Corinna Hysell, Clint Benson, Kari Ott, Casey Mordhorst, Al Haun, Jon Laurenson, and Andy Wood.

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

AGENDA

This Agenda was posted on January 6, 2022. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

KIRBY moved, BAKER 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 COMMENTS

Kellie Weaver, Ontario: *I'm speaking on behalf of Freddy Rodriguez. He is not able to be in the room at this time because of a restraining order so I have a statement to read from him. (Transcribed from submitted letter) Hello Mayor and Council people, thanks for having me and allowing me to make a statement. I'm here today to say two things. Two very important things that need to be said. I'm a make it short and sweet. First off I want to say a big giant thank you to our outstanding outgoing Mayor. Mayor Riley Hill, I can honestly say we have been so lucky the past four years to have such a hardworking, dedicated, and knowledgeable Mayor. He spent countless days and dollars to try and make Ontario great. It's definitely no easy task, but Mayor Hill has done his absolute best. No one else on Council had the courage to stand up for the innocent like he did. Mayor Hill can definitely leave office with his head held high as Ontario has not been led by a strong leader like him before. That being said, I wanna congratulate our new incoming Mayor and hoping the Mayor's shoes can be somewhat closely filled. I'm excited to see what happens. Lastly, I'm also here to address the discomfoting news our community has been dealing with since New Year's. I'm sure it's no surprise that I am here to comment on this next topic I am no stranger to talks of unbecoming behavior of an elected official. Mainly because of all the preaching that was aimed at me before. One of the biggest critics I had was Councilman Melendrez. He was the one Councilperson who "per Malheur Enterprise" had the courage to stand up and demand I resign. Driving under the influence kills over 10,000 Americans a year. There is a national organization aimed at trying to end drunk driving due to the irreparable damage it causes in families: Mothers Against Drunk Driving. I'm not here to condemn Council Melendrez before his day in court but, I mean...we all read the arrest details including what you admitted to. Making a dangerous decision like that is definitely unbecoming of an elected official, especially one who works so closely with highly impressionable youngsters. I'd like to see your supporters tell a victim impact panel that this isn't a big deal. Imagine if you'd won the Mayor seat. Tonight we'd be looking at swearing in a freshly arrested Mayor. I won't go on, but I will say this: Eddie, please take your own advice and resign from the seats you occupy and let a more knowledgeable and wise decision maker fill them. Good night everyone.*

Deanna Sue Brown, Ontario: *I wanted to discuss the park safety at Beck Kiwanis with the pond. I'm concerned. I had a grandson pass away in that pond, drowned in that pond. It's irrelevant how all that happened. I just feel like if there, it appears to be danger because there's no signage or fencing or any type of safety items put in place at that park. There's going to be another child that will drown there, and I don't want that to happen, ever, to anyone, or their family, or anything else subsequently that went on with my family. What would I have to do as a citizen to work on getting a fence put around that pond. Or some signage, or some life jackets?*

Mayo Hill reminded Ms. Brown that those questions could not be answered right then, but staff took note of her comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

MILLS moved, KIRBY seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH INCLUDED THE 2023 FISCAL YEAR CITY MEETINGS CALENDAR; AND COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 28, 2022; DECEMBER 13, 2022; AND DECEMBER 27, 2022.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

NEW BUSINESS

Outgoing Mayor and City Councilor: Riley Hill And Michael Braden

Dan Cummings, City Manager, and Tori Barnett, City Recorder, presented Mr. Hill and Mr. Braden with a plaque, thanking them all for their service to the City of Ontario.

Mayor Hill stated it had been his honor and privilege to serve the citizens of Ontario over the past four years. He was proud of the things they'd accomplished. He then presented incoming Mayor Deborah Folden with the gavel.

Councilor Braden stated the City Council was a four-year commitment, and the past four years had been very difficult on personal and professional levels for everyone who served. In those four years, he entered the Council because of the influence and deep appreciation for former Mayor Ronald Verini. He thanked him for his service and for talking him into stepping up. In his years there, he got to know the staff, worked with staff, and appreciated the staff. From Tori Barnett, to Dan Cummings, to former CM Adam Brown, along with Mayor Riley Hill and the rest of the Council, working with those people as tirelessly as he had, and they did, appreciation was built for one another, and he appreciated them all. The future was Penny Bakefelt and Debbie Folden, and he was thankful, and had an opportunity to speak with both of them for what they wanted to step up and do for this community. They were fine ladies who would do wonderful things for this area. He was thankful for the future of Ontario.

Casey Mordhorst, Public Works Director, presented Riley Hill and Michael Braden with certificates of appreciation from JACOBS for their service to the city.

Swearing in New Mayor and City Councilors: Deborah Folden, Ken Hart, Penny Bakefelt, and Susann Mills

Tori Barnett, City Recorder, swore Ken Hart, Penny Bakefelt, Susann Mills, and Deborah Folden into their positions as Mayor and City Councilors.

Councilor Hart apologized for being unable to attend the meeting in person that night, but he and his wife were in Texas meeting their daughter who had been deployed to Poland for the past seven months. She would be home tomorrow, and they wanted to be there for her when she arrived.

Mayor Folden stated: *It is a great honor and pleasure to have all of you here this evening. I will serve the community by being committed to perform my duties to the best of my ability. My goal is to work hard and keep and improve our quality of life by keeping our neighborhoods safe for our children and our families. Our children are our future. Let's work together for our future generations, for a brighter tomorrow, with a commonsense mission of diversity, integrity, and justice for community with abundant offerings and optimal living for a safe, inclusive, welcoming city.*



I will provide strong leadership that listens and works alongside with the department heads and the Council to keep a destination of order with principles and integrity by keeping trust in our highly qualified management positions to lead our city. Thank you.

Councilor Bakefelt presented Mayor Folden with a Mayoral gavel.

Election of Council President

Councilor Hart nominated John Kirby for the position of Council President.

Mayor Folden nominated Penny Bakefelt for the position of Council President.

MILLS moved, BAKER seconded, **THAT THE NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL PRESIDENT BE CLOSED.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

Tori Barnett, City Recorder, called roll, asking each Councilor to state the name of either John Kirby or Penny Bakefelt for the position of Council President. Mills-Kirby; Baker-Kirby; Hart-Kirby; Bakefelt-Bakefelt; Melendrez-Kirby; Folden-Bakefelt; Kirby-Kirby. Councilor John Kirby was declared Council President in a 5/2 vote.

Altruistic Recovery: Introduction and Letter of City Support

Annette Volk, Director, Altruistic Recovery, stated: *I did not bring enough flyers. If I may set these at the end of the counter, they are business cards. It has a list of all of our services, our mission statement, that kind of thing. So those of you that haven't heard of us can read about the stuff we're doing in the community. We're addressing the City Council today as we are, February is our second year of business in Ontario. We provide mental health services, substance abuse services, domestic violence classes, anger management classes. We're also a certified DUI program and we have a MAT program, which is a medication assisted treatment program, and for those of you that don't know, it is an opioid medication assisted treatment for opioid users. As we seek funding, a lot of the grants require support from the City Council. I did forward Mr. Hart a letter earlier, so hopefully everybody's had time to review that. And it'll be an article that we will send in with our grant when we apply for the grant. There's a few letters of support from community members, and they like to see the support of the City Council as well. If anybody has any questions, I'm here, Mark's here, we can answer any questions about any of our services that we're providing. Thank you.*

Councilor Hart stated he had received the letter, and it was ready for the Council. He was hopeful that the Council would support the letter. Altruistic had done some wonderful things in the community, and the city was in desperate need for their services, especially MAT, which was very important. He urged the Council to support the letter to allow them to receive other grants to help meet those needs.

HART moved, KIRBY seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL SUPPORT THE LETTER AND HAVE THE MAYOR SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Request Representative Owens and Senator Findley Continue to Pursue a Higher Local Split on Dispensary Revenues for Cities like Ontario

Dan Cummings, City Manager, stated Councilor Hart asked this be added to the Agenda to see if the Council wanted to continue – the previous Mayor had pursued trying to get a larger share of the state revenues for the City of Ontario since Ontario sent so much money over there and they returned very little back. Councilor Hart wanted to discuss this issue to see if the Council wanted to continue to ask Representative Owens and Senator Findley to pursue the action.

Councilor Kirby stated they had been through two legislative sessions with the local legislators fighting for this, including paying for a lobbyist to speak on the city's behalf. There had been majorities on both sides, just not at the same time. The current formula was based on population, not revenue submitted. Larger communities, like Portland, were receiving the money, but Ontario was sending the largest dollar volume in the State of Oregon. With Measure 110, a portion of the money was taken from Ontario. If the city was going to have marijuana in the community, they also needed to have the volume of dollars come here because the need was here, causing stress on the community through law enforcement and mental health, along with other issues that came before the community. He wanted the Council to move forward with the attempts to get his passed during the next legislative session.

KIRBY moved, HART seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL REQUEST THAT REPRESENTATIVE OWENS AND SENATOR FINDLEY CONTINUE TO PURSUE A HIGHER LOCAL SPLIT OF DISPENSARY REVENUES FOR CITIES LIKE ONTARIO.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

HAND-OUTS

Monthly Department Stats (Attached)

Public Works; Fire & Rescue; Police; Code Enforcement

Minutes: (Attached)

County Court: 11-30-2022; 12-07-2022; 12-14-2022; 12-21-2022

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

Councilor Bakefelt had a few items:

- She thanked Chaplain Rhoades for the invocation and blessing;
- She thanked the citizens of Ontario for putting their faith in her;
- She thanked Liz and Gabriele for helping with her campaign. She hoped the community would remain engaged, because together they could do some good things;
- She thanked city staff Dan Cummings and Tori for always being available and helping her get up to speed on topics. That was a great team;
- She thanked Michael Braden for his service. It was bittersweet to win the seat because she unfortunately bounced Michael out. He had a great job for the city, and while she did feel bad about that, she was also glad to be on Council;
- She completed the six-week Malheur County Sheriff's Citizens Academy. The classes were in Vale, and had started mid-November, running through December. Each class was three hours in duration, along with a Saturday range day. She met department heads, toured the jail, went to the shooting range, and learned about the various departments and how they worked together. It was very informative and encouraged all the citizens to take that class. She also thought it would be great to have that type of program in Ontario;
- December 19th, she hosted the first National Night Out committee meeting. The 19 member team signed up for various tasks, and they were moving forward on the event. It was citywide, bringing first responders and the public together for a family fun and educational experience. It was scheduled for August 8, 2023, 4-9pm at Treasure Valley Community College;
- January 8, 2023, the first Neighborhood Watch training course was held at the Terry Leighton Training Center. Lt. James Swank took the lead, and there were two officers who volunteered to teach. Officer Mitchell taught situational awareness class and Sgt. Bolyard taught how to be a good witness. There were over 50 people in attendance. She thanked the Ontario Police Department, Lt. Swank, Officer Mitchell, and Sgt. Bolyard for doing an excellent job; and
- She congratulated Sheri Smith for her 34 years with the Ontario Police Department.

Councilor Mills stated she had enjoyed working with Mayor Hill and Councilor Braden. They had been assets to the city. She hoped they stayed involved with city functions and committees because they had a lot of knowledge and experience and that was very important when serving on a committee. She also commended Councilor Bakefelt for her work with the Neighborhood Watch. She had attending the Sunday training and they did a fabulous job. She also commended Lt. Swank, Officer Mitchell, and Sgt. Bolyard, for doing such an excellent job of making the attendees aware of what their surroundings were regarding safety in the community. It was a volunteer situation, and an organization that was separate from the city, but it was worthwhile, and anyone interested, there were six precincts, and they were trying to get a group in each area. It was good for the city, and volunteers were needed.

Councilor Bakefelt stated there were eight areas with coordinators, but they were always looking for more.

Dan Cummings also thanked Mayor Hill and Councilor Braden for their service, and for everything they had done for the city. He also welcomed the newly elected Mayor and Councilor, along with the returning Councilors.

Dan Cummings stated the City Attorney was going to be in Ontario on February 7, 2023, and he asked that the city set up a special meeting as there were multiple actions before them that would be best discussed with him in attendance, to include the newly revised nuisance ordinance, the Silverhawk FBO lease at the Ontario Airport, and to begin discussions regarding the TPMs for homelessness. Those three issues would be lengthy, so with the approval of Council, staff would move forward with that. Was the Council amenable to beginning meeting earlier?

Councilor Baker confirmed that was not a regularly scheduled meeting.

Mr. Cummings stated no, it was week prior.

Councilor Bakefelt stated she would be out of town Feb 6-19, for an event that was planned before the election.

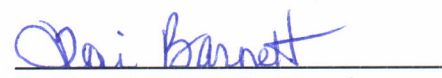
ADJOURN

BAKER moved, MILLS seconded, **THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

ACCEPTED:


Deborah K. Folden, Mayor

ATTEST


Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder