

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES****May 23, 2023**

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Deborah Folden at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Deborah Folden, Susann Mills, John Kirby, Ken Hart, Penny Bakefelt, Sam Baker, and Eddie Melendrez.

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

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

AGENDA

This Agenda was posted on May 19, 2023. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

MILLS moved, BAKEFELT seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH INCLUDED APPROVAL OF DIRTY GIRL CONSTRUCTION MAYBERRY HOUSING INCENTIVES 2023-5, 2023-6, 2023-7, 2023-8, 2023-9, AND 2023-10**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan Burks, American Legion: *Thank you Mayor, and members of the Council. I live here in Ontario, Oregon, and am a member of the American Legion, Post 67. The American Legion recently put together a resolution and I'd like to read it for you guys, as we're passing it on to the City of Ontario. Resolution #1, titled Tom Pierce Day, Origin, the American Legion Post 67, and it reads, well, before I read it, I'm going to tell you a little story and it's real quick. Tom Pierce is an American Legion member who's a WWII veteran, turning 100 years old this year. When speaking with Tom about a year ago, I asked him "what do you do for fun?", and he said, "I drive around and go to senior centers, and I pick up on all the young chicks." I said, "Tom, you're going to senior centers looking for young chicks?" and he said "Dan, I'm 100 years old. They're all young." This is for him: WHEREAS, The American Legion Ontario Post 67 has supported veterans in the local community for over 104 years and; WHEREAS, the city of Ontario has honored and worked side by side with American Legion for over 104 years and; WHEREAS, those who fought in WWII are known as the greatest generation deserving of our deepest respect and admiration and; WHEREAS, Tom Pierce a WWII veteran turns 100 years old on July 27th 2023 making him one of our greatest generation and; WHEREAS, this resolution was passed unanimously at a regular American Legion Post 67 meeting held May 17th, is now recommended to the City of Ontario for favorable action, now, therefore, be it RESOLVED that the city of Ontario adopt this resolution and make a proclamation that July 29th 2023 be known as "Tom Pierce Day" in the city of Ontario, and therefore be it finally; RESOLVED the city of Ontario provide this proclamation in the form of a signed certificate to be framed and presented to Mr. Pierce July 29th during a ceremony in his honor.*



Dan Burks, American Legion: We spoke earlier about a veteran's committee, and I do apologize, as I stated at the last meeting, I've been all over the country, including DC and Indianapolis, and doing stuff, so I haven't been able to be fully diligent, but we do have about 5½ names for that committee. I say half because we have someone from Origin's Church who will be on the committee, we just don't know exactly which one yet. With that being said, we are looking to move forward and hold meetings at our post there at the Veteran's Hall. Again, we're reaching out to individuals from different areas such as the county veteran's service office, we have individuals from Project Dove, we have from the Boys and Girls Club, so we're getting a wide array so that they can feed us the information and we can provide these programs and incentives for individuals and citizens of Ontario. Whereas I don't walk around and meet all of them personally, I'd like to, but they don't let me out of the house very often, but that way we can get them. I have been reaching out to some of our educators here in Ontario. Unfortunately, at this point in time, we still haven't heard anything back from them. They haven't responded. We're hoping to get some of them on board because we do have assistance for, especially for children, called temporary financial assistance for houses that have children that are in need. We have several different scholarship programs and whatnot, so we're hoping to reach out in all different directions.

Patty Redland, Ontario, read a statement: My husband and I have lived in Ontario and paid property taxes for 50 years. Last week I had an appointment at the 541 Beauty Salon. This beauty salon is adjacent to the park on Oregon Street. The shop is located on NW 2nd, to give perspective to what I'm talking about. There are other businesses on the street. You have a restaurant, a bank, a beauty shop, insurance, and other things. All these businesses vie for the same limited parking. I went around the block three times, and finally was able to find a parking spot. I have had two full knee replacements and do have a limited walking ability. I go to the gym, and I work out; I've been to therapy forever and we're really trying to strengthen them, but it's an issue. After entering the shop late for my appointment – which I am NOT a late person – I began to apologize for being late, that I might have to take my business somewhere else, but it's so important to patronize our local businesses. We have way too many that are moving across the border. I was informed after talking in the shop that I need to call City Hall. The property where the service station and parking lot was previously at, is now being considered for additional space to accommodate the homeless. I don't know that for a fact, that's just what I had heard. Some homeless have shopping carts, others have vehicles. These vehicles are taking up spaces that are badly needed by people shopping, making, and using businesses. I believe there's a safety issue in the area. I have gone to a beauty shop and had a young lady that just stood at the end of the building she....(couldn't hear)....In closing, I ask that you might consider making an additional parking area in the downtown area. You might consider an area for the homeless, instead of the park that is the heart of Ontario. Thank you.

Norm Crume, Ontario: Was scheduled to speak, but as he wanted to address proposed Resolution #2023-107, he was asked to wait and speak during the public hearing on the action.

PRESENTATION

2023 Ontario Speedway Status Update

Ronda Gibbons stated: I am the General Manager at the racetrack. I wanted to take some time and update you on what we have been doing since last year and a lot of changes have occurred. We redid the entire track. What we learned from last year was that the track was a certain style of track that you see in New Zealand, typically, and we wanted to work with a different sanctioning body, so we've made the track wider, longer, faster, and we believe that we're going to be attracting a lot more boats, and we're working with some amazing people from Port Angeles, Washington. With that, we've created a series, so we have four events, four different weekends, and we start in Port Angeles, flip back and forth between Ontario and Port Angeles, and we'll be running finals, the championship, here in Ontario on September 30th and October 1st. We have just finished hydroseeding eight acres of seed and that's doing very well. We have a new watering system that's installed with the Rainbird type, we had them watering that, it's coming along, looks great. Tough to get grass to grow in a stubborn golf course that went to sleep many years ago. We just finished seeding 25 acres with perennial rye and timothy grass and the water line is being hooked up as we speak. We put in a new booster pump Leon Pumps, because we're boosting a well that's a lower pressure/high volume well, that will be used to water that area. We also have new electrical that's being installed and that was Fruitland Electric that came in and they've done a really, really great job on that. We have new panels and the area around the track will be electrified



because we'll have scoreboards that are attached to the sensing, so everyone will get to see the time by the hundredths of a second. So it'll be really fun to see that. We also are moving, there's a container out there, we're moving that. We're building, welding a rail on it and it'll be a lookout for announcing. We're going to do live (??/someone coughed) at that location, and we just learned that the final will be broadcast with MAVTV, which has changed ownership multiple times. It was Lucas Oil, MAVTV, now we're back to the original people at MAVTV. But they do a really good job, so we'll have a good product there. It'll feature some highlights about Ontario. So our marketing and promotion is underway. We're building a (??), the Boys and Girls Club tickets are produced, and we are awarding the local veterans their free tickets. There'll be more to show you. We are having a city day out there, and that will be June 9th, so everyone is invited. I'll be posting that on our Facebook page, that we want you to come out and see it. We're going to do some food and some beverage, just have you come see it. It won't be completely done, but I think you'll be impressed with where we are and where we're going with it. Thank you for your time, appreciate it.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #2023-108: GASB 54

Kari Ott, Finance Director, presented.

MILLS moved, KIRBY seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL. APPROVE RESOLUTION #2023-108, A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING POLICIES RELATING TO ENDING FUND BALANCES OF 2022-2023.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Resolution #2023-107: Amending Resolution #2022-142 Public Safety Fee

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

Dan Cummings, City Manager, presented. On April 26, 2023, the Budget Committee, consisting of the seven members of City Council and seven members from the community at large, following a 45-minute discussion, voted 10-4 to reinstate the Public Safety Fee. The motion was to begin collecting the \$5.00 Public Safety Fee again, and the proposed 2023-2024 budget was approved by the Budget Committee with the \$5 Public Safety Fee included. The Public Safety Fee policies, guidance, and collection guidelines were established under Ordinance #2741-2018, adopted July 12, 2018, and was still in place.

The city created Title 6, Chapter 10, of the Ontario Municipal Code adopting the procedures for collecting a Public Safety Fee. On August 21, 2018, the city adopted Resolution #2018-134 which established the Public Safety Fee at a \$5.00 fee for each dwelling or non-residential unit with an active utility account, collected per month, per the terms of Ordinance #2741-2018. Further, as part of the adopting ordinance, it was stipulated that the Public Safety Fee Program was to be reviewed annually as part of the city's budget process.

During the budget hearings in early 2020, the Budget Committee and Council approved the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget by collecting a Public Safety Fee at a decreased amount of \$3.63, and reflected the revenue and expenditures for the fee. During a Council Strategic Planning session in late 2020, because of the marijuana tax revenue, the Council, by consensus, directed the City Manager to create the 2021-2022 budget without the collection of any Public Safety Fee included; therefore, the budget was adopted without showing any revenue or expenditure for the Public Safety Fee. Subsequent to that, the 2022-2023 budget was approved with a \$0.00 Public Safety Fee. On October 25, 2022, the City Council approved Resolution #2022-142 setting the Public Safety fee to \$0.00 as there was no formal resolution adopted to document the reduction to \$3.63 in the 2020-2021 budget, nor the \$0.00 for the budget year of 2021-2022.

With any city fee increase, the City Council was required to allow public input, therefore, this current action was being conducted in a public hearing format. The City Council has the final vote on reinstating the fee which, by the newly adopted Charter, required a super majority vote to increase any fee, which was a minimum of five (5) Councilors to vote in favor of the fee. The action has several financial impacts if not approved, which



would require adjustment to the approved budget by the Budget Committee before it could be adopted by the City Council. The fee was included in the budget at \$226,525, which would be used to fund a new police officer and to set aside funds for fire equipment.

Councilor Bakefelt asked Chief Iwai to give his thoughts about the Public Safety Fee.

Mike Iwai, Police Chief, stated OPD had a lot of momentum with building community trust. There were things like significant calls for service involving the homeless. The numbers continually grew, and those numbers would shock the Council. There were also a lot of issues pertaining to traffic safety, with a lot of racers on Friday and Saturday nights. There were also issues that would need addressed with the Collective Bargaining Unit. He would have much more statistical detail for the city once the new RMS system was in place. They currently had a very archaic system. As more research was done, the numbers became much more troubling. However, this was not just about the police department; it also included the fire department. With the building of new homes in Ontario, it was troubling to worry about being able to provide services. If they continued to piecemeal, changes to call responses would have to change. He didn't want it to come to that, but he had been transparent about the possibility.

Councilor Bakefelt asked how many officers were needed to adequately staff the Ontario Police Department.

Chief Iwai stated not just the one with this, but he could use four more officers. He also wanted another detective.

Councilor Bakefelt stated since Chief Iwai had been on staff just over a year, what did he see, moving forward, to be the largest challenges regarding public safety in Ontario?

Chief Iwai stated if his staffing didn't increase, the biggest concern was the welfare of his officers. When they were working, they were overworked. If he had one at discretionary times for traffic safety issues, some issues would be resolved. For all comparables, Ontario outperformed them by calls for service by at least two to one.

Councilor Bakefelt asked Chief Benson his thoughts on the Public Safety Fee.

Clint Benson, Fire Chief, stated he fully supported the fee for both departments. For fire, it meant revenue, which equaled safety. Having that revenue source available helped them grow. The community was growing, with a lot more multifamily buildings, which were a challenge for the department. As they tried to grow the department, any extra revenue going their way helped them. Without revenue, there was no growing. He had worked these streets for many years, and knew what both fire and police, along with EMS, faced, and it was very dangerous. As the Chief now, he thought about having to inform a spouse of a fallen firefighter, and that brought things into perspective. Funding towards public safety equaled safety for his people, which was very important to him.

Councilor Bakefelt asked him to explain some of the challenges he was facing with emergency response.

Chief Benson stated his department was understaffed. There was no mid-management, as recommended by the ICMA study. The lieutenants were line lieutenants, which meant they did everything a firefighter was supposed to do. If he was gone, that became a challenge. However, when a page went out with an all call for firefighters to respond, if it was 9:00 a.m. on a Monday, there might be only two or three responders because everyone had a regular job. There were only nine full time staff, for which he was extremely grateful, but when that call for help went out, it was a roll of the dice. It was the same for mutual aid calls. It was getting more difficult. Nyssa, for example, would probably not respond to a mutual aid call from Ontario because they were in bad shape. Staffing was a large challenge. They also looked at things on the public safety side as potential. He viewed the community, and saw the railroad, and the river, and the hazmat that was here, and the things that came through this town. He saw a lot of potential for disaster. Did he have the people to confront that disaster right now? Probably not on a major disaster, but if there was a major incident or structure fire, he would have to rely on Treasure Valley clear over to Boise to get responders to help. That was the reality. OSHA rules stated there were supposed to be two in, two out, which was when two firefighters went in, and two other fighters were supposed to be suited up to go in after them if a problem arose. Today, they only ran with



two people; most the time it was three. In a private business, it would have been shut down. He knew there was only so much money, and they were doing the best they could, and would continue to do that, but they were behind the curve. His goal was to get them safer, more productive, and more efficient for the community. But that took funding. This fee was hope for his department.

The Hearing was opened for public testimony.

Proponents:

Norm Crume, Ontario, stated: *Nobody wants an extra fee, but we just heard from Chief Iwai that he needs, right now, five more people. Hopefully this one can do for right now, and then four more. While I was on the Council, we battled with this problem the whole time. I had to shut down the library, shut down the swimming pool, shut down the golf course, and shut down the Recreation Department. That was a horrible experience for anybody to have to deal with. Being on the Budget Committee this year, I saw that the budget is exactly the same as it was back when I got on the Council in 2009. We're out of money, and we're relying on the marijuana money already, which everybody wanted a majority of that money to go to PERS, and this year it couldn't be done because we had to buy widget arms to protect the city and keep everything running. Revenues are down and all of our expenses are up because of inflation. You folks have the choice to either cut, like I had to do year after year after year, or find new revenue streams. That's the only two choices you folks have. \$5 on this Public Safety Fee is a pittance for most people; it will hurt some people. But today, it will at least be a start of putting it in the right direction that as you heard from the Chiefs, it's not near enough. You're going to have find more. And next year's budget is going to be damn tough to go through. There were people on the Council at the time that I was there that wanted 75% of the marijuana money put aside, by resolution, for PERS unfunded mandates. Where would this city be today if that was enforced? We'd be up a creek. I can remember I voted against raising franchise fees. Franchise fees, right now, are about double what they were when I started on the Council. I don't know where you guys would be, or the city would be, if we didn't have those fees raised. Those fees are all paid by all of us citizens. It's just absorbed in. We all have to pay for what we need in this community. We need more public safety; we need more cops. So, please do what's right for the city and thank you for your time.*

Lynn Johnson, Ontario, stated: *Madam Mayor and members of the Council and the public at large, I live here in Ontario and am Chairman of the Parks Committee and also a member of the Budget Committee with Norm and all of you. I speak in favor of the Safety Fee. Nobody wants another silent tax, and I get the argument that it's a silent tax, but at some point, we, as the citizens, have to step up and take care of our city. I believe this is a way where ten members of the Budget Committee felt it was important to keep that \$5 per month fee on the books. So, I know the power is there to do the right thing, but whether or not folks are going go ahead and do that is certainly your prerogative, but I have not encountered any negativity to this fee within my sphere within the community. The vast majority of the feedback that I've taken in from individuals, was that they fully support the \$5 per month fee as the fairest way to spread the load over the majority of the citizens within this city. So it becomes a \$5 fee per water meter, not per person. So I would urge the Council to dig deep – I know there's some strong opinions to go the other way – but I would urge you to listen to what the ten members of the Board said, and the feedback that we've been receiving in the community. Thank you for your time.*

Opponents: None.

There being no further Proponent and no Opponent testimony, the Hearing was closed, and opened for Council discussion.

Councilor Mills stated one thing she looked at when funding was needed, was where the money was going to come from. She had spoken with the Finance Director as to whether there was any way, anything, anywhere, that this could be financed other than the \$5 fee, and she was assured that the amount of money needed each year could not be guaranteed by anything the city had currently, other than the PERS, which she did not feel ought to go for a police officer. She was for the fee because, for one, this city was changing. There was a lot of traffic, there was a lot of homeless, and many of those were maybe mentally challenged. The two departments that had to respond were the Fire Department and the Police Department, and that took them away from their normal duties when they had to deal with a lot of other situations that the city did not ask to have, but every



city was dealing with. She felt the \$5 fee was a necessity, and she was sure the public felt that public safety was number one. When a citizen made that call, they wanted a response. They heard from both Chief Iwai and Chief Benson that their departments were understaffed due to traffic and the responses they had to do for public safety. They needed more people on board. She supported the action, and she hoped the rest of the Council did, too.

Councilor Kirby stated at the Budget Committee meeting, he had been the opponent for this, and voted no and his two cohorts who felt the same way were on screen, so he got the full brunt of the animosity of the committee. He served on the committee with the county looking at state authority coming in for housing for the homeless, and he had attended Time, Place, and Manner meetings that the city had, and they were all dealing with homeless. They, as a Council, were working at a feverish pitch to address the problem, and it was going to be horrible. No one could imagine the liability that the city would get when that happened. He would be changing his vote, to vote in favor of the fee, but not without a lot of soul searching. He had people for and against it, get in his face. He was going to support it, but this next year, they had to change the way they budgeted. They needed to look at what resources and assets the city had, and whether they set money aside in savings, continued to operate within a budget, because they would be in the same situation the city was in back when Norm was on the Council. They could not afford to do that. There was money coming in, and they had taken the side account down to \$490K, the PERS account, that was the best way to get the million dollars back. As long as the Council was on target and in unison, they'd be better off. People thought that people were smoking less marijuana, but that was not the case. It was just that the wholesale prices dropped. The city was contending with drug problems, and homeless problems, and this was going to be a costly year, but they had to change. He was going to change his vote and vote in favor of the \$5 fee.

Mayor Folden spoke to those on the Council who were against the \$5 fee, asking why they didn't support the fee, when the Consumer Price Index had increased by 6.5% from 2021 to 2022, food prices increased 10.4% and gas prices were still around \$4 per gallon. With everything on the rise, how could they sacrifice public safety fee funds in the future. What was planned for next year to fund the police and fire departments? Where would the city get the funds for contingency items? Property taxes were stagnant, along with decreasing marijuana revenue. With marijuana revenues unpredictable and steadily decreasing, the Council had to prioritize the PERS debt. They'd used marijuana funds for personnel, so why were they changing their position now? Why were they questioning the Budget Committee's recommendation to initiate the Public Safety Fee?

MILLS moved, BAKEFELT seconded, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION #2023-107, A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION #2022-142 SETTING THE PUBLIC SAFETY FEE TO \$5.00. No vote.

Councilor Hart stated he wanted it clear that he didn't disagree with what almost everything had been said, especially from the Chief. He sat on the Board for TVCC and at their last meeting they saw a significant increase in security guards and their activity. The question was what happened, what caused the spike over the past two months? It was specifically related to the homeless and incidents on campus. Yes, they saw an increase throughout the community, so he agreed. But, the disagreement he had had nothing to do with adding additional officers or supporting officers. He believed the department was down three, so they'd be adding three, plus an additional one, so there'd be four more than currently on staff. He looked forward to that, and he supported adding an additional officer and looking to the future to see what the Council had to do. However, he did not believe that the City of Ontario, currently, should add a new fee, a new silent tax. He understood support for a new fee or new tax if the city was out of funds, but it wasn't, in his opinion. He believed the City of Ontario had enough taxpayer money already to fund a much needed additional police officer. The other budget priorities he'd offset to fund a new officer this year so not to impose a new tax, and as he reviewed each item in the budget that was up for approval, he asked if he would go to the taxpayers and say he wanted to increase their fees to pay for "this" thing. They were all good things, if the city had the money, but if they were getting ready to ask for more taxes, he believed they were telling the taxpayer that there wasn't enough money, and now needed more from them. There wasn't enough money, however, they were going to spend \$25K next year on the sidewalk incentive program. That was a great program, but if he had to go out and say he was going to raise taxes to do a \$25K sidewalk incentive program, he wouldn't vote for that. There was \$25K for the Ontario Promise, which he thought they'd already set aside and put into contingency, to say they needed to select, to prioritize as a Council, where they spent the dollars. There was \$30K in a playground match fund. That was great, when times were good and there was additional marijuana money, but they were



now saying they were going to tax people so the city could put \$30K into a playground fund. There was \$200K in the budget for new equipment and vehicles. And because he was on the tv and not there in person, he had not sufficiently asked questions about those funds, and why they needed to spend \$200K. Maybe it was all needed, maybe it wasn't. There was \$80K in the budget for a grant writing firm from Washington, DC, that only focused on federal grants, not on state grants. He consistently voted against that. Lastly, there was \$350K in the budget to pay down on the PERS debt. He had been one of the strongest advocates in doing that, when there were excess funds. It was getting to the point where there were no longer excess funds to do everything they wanted to do. He asked that they prioritize some of these other expenses, and look to reduce those expenses first before going to the public, asking for more tax money, specifically because of the items that the Mayor just noted. Taxpayers were spending an exorbitant amount already on groceries, housing, etc. That was exactly why he hoped the Council would pause and not add one more burden. Even in Portland, the Mayor said to the Council to please stop taxing the people, they were running people out of town because of that burden. The City of Portland was going to cease increasing taxes, and the City of Ontario, a conservative area, was ready to increase taxes. He wasn't trying to change anyone's vote; he was trying to explain his vote against. In his opinion, there was not one item that he could look a taxpayer in the eye and tell them he needed more money from them in order to pay for any one of those items. If the city had all the money, it would be great, but they had to learn how to tighten belts before going to the taxpayer, asking them for more money. He did not believe they had tightened their belts enough yet. He asked that the city do what they asked the citizens to do, which was to prioritize and live within their means. It was important to remember that the funds were especially tight this year because they had to pay, and were happy to pay, for a new ladder truck, \$625K. That was not something that would occur every year. Next year, that \$625K in the marijuana fund could be prioritized and decisions made. This was a unique year. Lastly, he had heard some concerns about the future cost of the plan to address the homeless in Ontario. He was also very concerned, but they'd not seen a plan, as it was still being worked on, and they hadn't seen a price tag yet. There were plenty of items on his list that he mentioned as ways to pay for the officer. It was about \$700K on the list to be able to pay for an additional officer and anything related to the homeless if it came to that. He supported adding the funding of an additional officer for the City of Ontario. If the resolution imposing the new fee did not pass, he would ask that they fund the new officer by reducing how much additional was being paid to PERS this next year, and use those funds to reprioritize to make sure there was enough money for a new officer. He just wanted to reiterate as there was not too much new from what he said during the budget hearings. If it passed, they'd move forward and support the police officers and fire department. But, at this time, he believed there was enough money that they should reprioritize and not ask the citizens for more tax money.

Councilor Bakefelt stated she appreciated what Councilor Hart said, but a lot of the expenses he mentioned, such as the playground, were one-time expenses that should be reevaluated, but an officer would be an ongoing cost. She would see that as a challenge next year especially. She mentioned that the Argus poll showed a 66% support for the safety fee, vs 33%, and she thanked the Argus for running that poll. She supported the fee. Vale currently had a \$10 fee, and she'd heard the Mayor was considering raising that fee to something higher. What the Mayor had alluded to, all costs for everything was increasing, public safety included. There was probably going to be an increase in crime because things were tougher. She appreciated Councilor Hart's opinion, but she was in support of the fee.

Councilor Baker stated he was a local businessperson, and over the last few years with the drugs and homelessness situation, his business had been hit, costing him tens of thousands of dollars. Against popular belief, he was in support of a new officer; however, he also hated new taxes. He didn't want to burden the taxpayers with a new tax. At this point, however, he would have to agree that something needed to be done, but would also agree with Councilor Kirby in that they needed to reevaluate this when things got straightened out next year, after the fire truck was paid off, and that type of thing. This action when against everything he had in him.

Retyped Motion w/Vote:

MILLS moved, BAKEFELT seconded, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION #2023-107, A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION #2022-142 SETTING THE PUBLIC SAFETY FEE TO \$5.00. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-no; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/1/0.



Resolution #2023-109: State Revenue Sharing

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

Kari Ott, Finance 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, BAKEFELT seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION #2023-109, A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CITY'S ELECTION TO RECEIVE STATE REVENUES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

Resolution #2023-110: Adopt City of Ontario 2023-2024 Annual Budget

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

Kari Ott, Finance 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, BAKEFELT seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION #2023-110, A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AND APPROPRIATE THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR 2023-2024, IMPOSE THE TAXES UPON TAXABLE PROPERTY, AND CATEGORIZE THE TAXES IMPOSED FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS**Verde Light Community Solar Project – MOU – Grant**

Dan Cummings, City Manager, stated on December 14, 2021, the City Council passed Resolution #2021-140, authorizing city staff to collaborate with Fleet Development, LLC, to research, draft, and submit an application for the Oregon Community Renewable Energy Program. On November 17, 2022, the city was selected as a first-round recipient of a program grant in the amount of \$900,000. On December 13, 2022, Council gave consensus to accept the grant, along with authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum Of Understanding with Verde Light Solar, LLC, after the City Attorney had reviewed, revised, and approved the MOU. On May 11, 2023, the City Manager signed the Performance Agreement with the Oregon Department of Energy for the \$900,000 grant and the document was sent back for final DOE signatures. On May 17, 2023, the Performance Agreement with DOE was returned fully executed. Now that the DOE Agreement was signed, the City Attorney was making the final changes to the MOU to insure compliance to the DOE Performance Agreement and would be sending the final version to Verde Light Solar for signatures and remittance back to the city for final signatures. Verde Light hoped to begin construction this summer, and all costs associated with administering this grant would be paid by Verde Light Solar, LLC.

Councilor Baker asked if there was a new location for the panels.

Mr. Cummings stated they were going to Option B, which was on the same property but was now on the west side. That was a newly negotiated area with the current area of the property. The agreement was for several different locations, most on the east side. The current owner preferred it on the west side. Therefore, it was still on the same property, just at the SW corner of the property.



Councilor Mills confirmed the compensation for the city was \$20K, plus the 10% discount, estimated at around \$50K annually.

Mr. Cummings stated that was correct.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES

Finance: Monthly Report

Kari Ott, Finance Director, presented.

Airport: Semi-Annual Report

Andy Wood, Airport Manager, presented.

Public Works: Quarterly Report

Al Haun, Public Works Assistant Project Director, presented.

HAND-OUTS

Minutes:

Tater Tot: 03-08-2023; 03-22-2023; 04-12-2023

County Court: 05-03-2023; 05-10-2023

Check Register

April, 2023

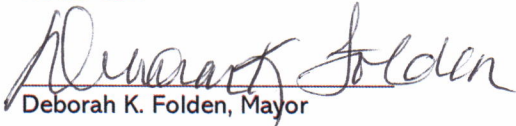
CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- Councilor Kirby stated coming up was the greatest spectacle in racing. There were several instances where this valley had prominence, such as Davey Hamilton, a racer in Meridian; Art Sugai, who had owned the Eastside Café, almost sponsored Art Pollard, and the Ozawa brothers were the pit crew for Janet Guthrie. On the 28th, there was Payette native Sting Ray Robb, who qualified to race in this year's Indianapolis 500. It was hoped that this community, even if not racing buffs, would watch and support him in that race.

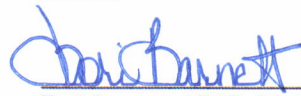
ADJOURN

MILLS moved, BAKEFELT 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

