



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES July 25, 2023

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Deborah Folden at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 25, 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, Corinna Hysell, Clint Benson, Kari Ott, Casey Mordhorst, Michael Iwai, Al Haun, and Andy Wood.

Also present were members of the city's Diversity Advisory Committee: Billy Carter, Janet Kamoto, Antonio Sunseri, Thomas Moreno, and Mario Grimaldo.

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

AGENDA

This Agenda was posted on July 21, 2023. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

HART moved, MILLS seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH INCLUDED APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 11, 2023; LIQUOR LICENSE – JACKSON'S FOOD STORES, INC.; AND LIQUOR LICENSE – CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL, INC.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Antonio Sunseri (reading a letter for Freddy Rodriguez), Ontario: *Ladies and gentlemen, I am Freddy Rodriguez, a proud and dedicated citizen of Ontario, Oregon. Today, I stand before you to lend my unwavering support to the indispensable Diversity Advisory Committee and its profound impact on our wonderfully diverse population.*

In our vibrant community, we embrace the richness of our diverse backgrounds, where various languages and cultures intertwine. However, we must acknowledge that some segments of our population face language barriers and may be hesitant to engage with parts of our community they don't fully understand.

As elected representatives, you cannot afford to be complacent and assume you comprehend the needs and concerns of every citizen, especially those hindered by language barriers. It is your solemn duty to preserve the sole city-run diversity mechanism available, the Diversity Advisory Committee, as dismantling it would be a grave oversight.

By maintaining this essential committee in robust operation, we open a vital channel of communication with our diverse constituents, fostering a stronger bond between us. Therefore, I urge our esteemed city leaders not only to maintain but also to actively participate in the committee's meetings, dutifully reporting back to the council. Simultaneously, the council member should liaise with the committee to ensure seamless coordination.

The positive ramifications of this collaborative synergy between the council and committee members cannot be overstated. Our community's collective well-being hinges on our ability to embrace diversity and demonstrate inclusivity. By standing united in this endeavor, we empower our city to flourish as a harmonious and thriving hub for all its extraordinarily diverse inhabitants.

Thank you for gracing me with your valuable time and consideration. Together, let us forge ahead on the path of progress and unity, celebrating the diversity that enriches us all.

Mel Baldwin, Ontario: *Last winter, my wife learned that a cat gave birth to kittens in our backyard. Well, it was wintertime, she felt sorry them, so she said, Mel, go out and get a box so we can put mama and babies in this thing, so they'll have some shelter. Well, that kindness was a mistake because I learned that once you feed or give water or shelter to a cat, a feral cat, you become a caregiver and if you did that, you better read city code, so you find out what your responsibilities are. There's quite a few. In 2009, the Ontario Feral Cat Project was begun. I'm not sure, but I'm going to guess that there's been probably 5,000 feral cats that have been trapped, neutered, and returned. The problem with this is the neutering, I think, because first you gotta catch the little buggers, and it isn't too hard, with the right cage and enticement, then the cat has to be neutered or spayed, and the people that do that are our veterinarians. Well, we lost one fairly recently, Lindsey Norman, who retired, and so that left us with two here in the city. When Lindsey Norman retired, her clientele moved to the other two veterinarians, so it overloaded them. In April, I went to the house where the feral cat project is, I got on their list, that was in April. Basically, when I talked to Angela Hunt, who oversees that project, I spoke with her today, and I can be on the list for August 10th and 14th. No, starting the 10th, and then two weeks later, one more. What happens is in-between all this, these feral cats are out there and they're multiplying. We can't catch up with this. Angela Hunt, the project manager, is overwhelmed and she needs help of any sort, and I would urge the Council to give consideration to some sort of support, either monetary or otherwise. Another problem is, there is not enough places that these cats can be sheltered before they are spayed or neutered, or after they are spayed or neutered. If you go down to the project house, you'll see cages just stacked up, and it's only run by volunteers, so those people, I am sure, are getting burned out at this point. So, anything that the City Council can come up with, would certainly be appreciated by me, and also, I'm sure, by Angela and the other people that volunteer for this program.*

Mayor Folden read a letter into the record, submitted by past Mayor Ronald Verini: *Dear Mayor Folden, Council President John Kirby, and Councilors Ken Hart, Eddie Melendrez, Sam Baker, Susann Mills, and Penny Bakefelt: I submit this letter in support of the pending Ordinance #2822-2023, an ordinance amending Ordinance #2728-2017, and amending Title 2, Chapter 14 of the Ontario Municipal Code. Having more diversity around the table brings to the group a mindset of developing solutions to community challenges. Diversity of thought can only be achieved by diversity of the members involved. I not only support the changes proposed but also support the Diversity Advisory Committee itself and would encourage a more active role of the sitting City Council to engage the committee more in the activities and issues that the Council is engaged in. I do believe that this group if, given the chance would bring a tremendous amount of knowledge that will make decisions on the Council more productive. This group is advisory in nature and the City Council has the power and the final word. This group and the perspectives and suggestions on issues that are being considered for our community could be a huge asset if the City Council utilizes it more than it has. My statement today does not address or take sides with any political party lines. My statement today, and support of the Advisory Committee, is only to be taken as an important tool of different opinions on a committee that could benefit the future of Ontario. This is certainly my opinion and the original intent of why we formed this group and why we had 100% of the City Council that were in attendance on 6 April, 2017, vote for the original resolution. This also is in tune with our city Mission Statement, " Our mission is to create a healthy, safe, diverse, and prosperous city by engaging community members to develop an enriched quality of life. Thank you, Ronald Verini, Past Mayor.*

OLD BUSINESSOrdinance #2819-2023: Amend OMC 2-14 – Diversity Advisory Committee

Dan Cummings, City Manager, presented.

At the last meeting, the Council tabled this action to obtain more input. Staff asked the members of the Diversity Advisory Committee to attend the current meeting, to explain some questions raised. There had been concerns about the statement where changes were made to one section of the ordinance to remove the reference to “age”. A question asked by Councilor Hart was that the rest of the statement also might be discriminating. Another issue he raised was ensuring they were not putting individuals in boxes. He'd like members of the committee to receive questions directly from the Council, to assist in understating the overall reason for the committee.

Billy Carter, DAC Member, stated if he understood correctly, he thought the Council was giving themselves some guidelines that would help guide them in a way that they wouldn't fall back into a position of the good old boys syndrome, or something along those lines. He thought it was to be used as a tool to say they wanted a diverse committee, they didn't want to be in a position where because no one else applied, they'd appoint the same people. That was his interpretation. He'd been on the DAC for around four years, and since being appointed, he'd advocated for the committee to be more involved in the city operations. He'd expressed that desire to the previous City Manager, and his solution was to have John Breidenbach bring the applications for city employment to his workplace and introduce him to the applicants, and then provide him feedback. In his opinion, that was extremely ineffective. He recently shared with the DAC how he ended up in Ontario, one of the best cities he'd ever lived in. He hadn't heard about Ontario on the radio, read about Ontario in the newspaper, nor had he discovered Ontario on the internet. He was recruited, very heavily, by the Director of the Department of Corrections, who was the Director of the DoC in California, where he had worked. He was familiar with his qualifications, his background, his leadership skills, his values, his work ethic, his demeanor, his character, and his adaptability. After his interview at SRCL, Gretchen Ludwig, took him on a tour of the downtown area, and introduced him to various people such as Salvador Sanchez, Mike & Debbie Blackaby, Patty Aarestad, and others who were very welcoming in this community. However, he did understand that recruitment was a key component of diversifying any organization, one thing he had been successful in at SRCL. It was his opinion that the Diversity Committee could be a very valuable asset in the area of recruiting, hiring, and promoting a city employee. They knew, by their own actions, they could encourage participation, or discourage it. The city missed an opportunity to appoint and/or hire two exceptionally qualified applicants of color over the past few years. One, as a City Councilor, and one as the City Attorney. This could send a very deep and profound message. Don't apply or they'll just deny you like they did the others. He grew up in the south, so he knew racism and discrimination when he saw it or heard it. The fact that the legitimacy of the Diversity Committee was in question, and it's function not understood, was concerning, and indicative of the fact there was a lot of work that needed to be done. A previous City Council had the insight to understand that this community should be inclusive and seek to apply a diverse culture. He encouraged the Council to support and utilize the expertise on the committee. They were there to assist the Council, and stood ready if, and when, called upon. Thank you.

Thomas Moreno, DAC Member, stated he was speaking because he's joined the Diversity Committee a few months ago. He and his partner were new to the area, and were embraced into a welcoming environment, eyes open and taking everything in and seeing disparities as well as advancements, different things, looking into it, unwrapping it. Basically, what it came down to was what they witnessed were people in the community, living honestly, trying to get ahead and build a life. That was still being seen, and that was his vision for this area. One thing, in regard to the committee, was in defining its role. How could it be part of the system for improvement – the location, the voters of this community, open-minded dialogue. He challenged the Council to find a way to establish that. Many were bilingual, definitely multi-cultural. They had a broad range of understanding. For them to be able to recognize where any of those inequalities might be, they were at a disadvantage because that was not the space he was in. That was not the space the people who attended his church were in. That was not the space the people he socialized with were in. And it was not the space his friends were in. They did not live in that world. So, how would they find out what it was? How did they find out, from those people that maybe felt like they were being shortchanged in some way, their accessibility through governmental accountability, through fiduciary advantages? How did that look to the people? He

implored and supported the idea of opening up communication lines and actually posting forums to where they would hear what the constituents had to say. When he said “we”, he meant all of them. If they were involved in the leadership of their city, and actually appointed its leaders, that should be their concern. One other thing he wanted to point out was, as an example, was the Gay Pride organization and centralization. How could they get the city’s name in that and on that and involved with it, so they were a presence. That was one small event. World Day – they were there, registering voters. The presence from them, and the opportunity for people to express what it was they were looking for. They were involved in some things, but not really, they didn’t have teeth. Where there no issues to be resolved? Was there no one feeling like there was inequality? He did not know. But, he knew they needed to open the lines of communication to where people could express their concerns. National Night Out – wonderful thing, couldn’t wait to be there. The city had two booths at that event. Where was the Diversity Advisory Committee? Where was the voter registration? Where was the invitation or inclusion with the committee that was *about* inclusion? It was a mess. He wanted them to get it together, and to utilize what the committee had to offer, which was a diverse range of age, sex, color, orientation, and religion. That one piece of it, how they were picking off the committee and doing that thing, he couldn’t remember exactly what had been stated there, it was kind of like “Naw, I think we’re good”. He thought they got that part, so utilize that and move forward together.

Councilor Bakefelt issued an invitation to the committee for attending National Night Out. If they wanted to put up a canopy, they were welcome to join. If she hadn’t issued an invitation earlier, she apologized. She was still receiving calls from a lot of people wanting to participate, and there were some requirements, but they were more than welcome to have a booth. She also appreciated all their comments.

Councilor Kirby stated in reference to the ordinance they were discussing changes for, in Section 2-14-6, Duties and Responsibilities, that was what got him. To him, the committee’s only duty was to have a meeting. That was the reason he questioned it. The only thing the Council had seen was that sometimes they had trouble getting representatives on the committee. He didn’t know that in his time on the Council that there had ever been a proposal presented by the Diversity Committee. Was that because of the lack of direction? Both speakers seemed to be asking the Council the same question that he was asking. Basically, what was the committee supposed to be doing?

Antonio Sunseri, DAC Member, read from the establishing ordinance’s mission statement: *The City of Ontario Diversity Committee is established to advise the Mayor, City Council, and City Manager on a range of issues as they relate to promoting diversity and equity issues in the community.* To him, he took that as being the committee did not make proposals to the City Council, but they were....

Councilor Kirby asked if the committee was waiting for someone to come see them, or, as Mr. Carter had mentioned, were they seeking to possibly have a role with the HR interview process? The city’s HR Manager was there, but he didn’t know what was allowed under the state’s system. He was curious, with the creation of the DAC, he didn’t know if they needed to have someone handicapped, as that was a big need in the community, but he was uncertain of the true relationship. The committee was comprised of smart people, and the advice, if coming, he never heard it from the committee. That was his concern.

Mr. Carter stated he thought they had the same concern, which was that they were in an advisory capacity. His mission, as he saw it, as the Council was making decisions that might affect the city overall, they might need some expertise on diversity. That, to him, was what the committee was there for. Regarding recruitment and interviewing, it wouldn’t hurt to have a member of the Diversity Committee sit on the interview panel. He didn’t think that was illegal or violated city rules. It wouldn’t hurt for the city to assist the HR Director in recruitment. If she wanted to approach the committee and ask them to reach out to whoever and help get some qualified candidates, they’d be happy to do things like that. The good thing about the committee was that they were a diverse group across every spectrum. They could bring that expertise and support to the Council, if needed. They tried to do some things on their own, such as the voter registration. They thought that would be good for the community, getting a diverse group of people registered to vote. They also worked on some diversity training, such as some unconscious bias training developed by Paul Chaney, who had previously been on the committee. They had been doing things they felt were productive, but how was it spread across the community as a whole, and how was it being supportive of the Council? That’s what they wanted to do, and that was what they were there for. They had submitted a letter of support for one of the candidates for the vacancy on the

City Council. They had questioned if they had the authority to do that, but they did it. The committee was there to help the Council with any needs they had along those lines.

Chief Iwai stated part of his recruitment process when he had been hired, Billy Carter had been on the interview panel. He had to be introduced to several community members, who asked him pointed questions. After being hired as Chief, he reached out to Mr. Carter and other community members who came from a diverse background. He had incorporated some of that, and they definitely could do it. It was legal, but it did make it a longer process. When he hired the Operations Lieutenant, that was the last time he incorporated members of the community into that panel. So, it did happen occasionally, in support of diversity, ethnicity, and inclusion.

Councilor Melendrez thanked the committee for the work they were doing. For the past few months, there had been trouble filling some of the vacancies, and actually having a quorum. He supported what the committee was doing, and thought the more they could be involved in fostering the relationships within the community who might not have trust with the city, city staff, or Councilors, they should continue to do that. He had attended some events, and he believed it was important for the committee to be seen at those events to continue to build trust with the community.

Councilor Bakefelt stated, with the Council's agreement, she would like to help the Diversity Committee by taking an active role with Councilor Melendrez to see what was being done in other communities, how they could utilize the committee so they felt their job was taken seriously, to see what they could do to move this along.

Mr. Cummings reiterated this was a city committee, so the public was always invited to attend, which included any Councilor. Councilor Melendrez was the Council Liaison for the committee, but there was nothing prohibiting any other Councilor from attending. Those were advertised meetings, so that met the public meeting notice laws. If more than three (3) Councilors planned to attend, notice could be sent to the media, letting the media know they were there to listen, not to make decisions. He attended the DAC meetings, and when he began doing that, he, too, wondered what the committee was assigned to do. After listening to the committee, they were confused, too. The committee had been trying to get out to the public, to make the community aware of the existence of the committee, and if anyone had any issues relating to fairness or language barriers, or whatever, they could approach the committee. Or, if anyone came before the Council to discuss issues regarding diverse issues, the Council could recommend taking it to the committee, have that person go to a committee meeting, to freely discuss issues. The committee would weigh the issues, and then report to the Council. To him, that was the reason behind the creation of the committee. It was to give the city and the citizens tools to speak. Not many people liked to speak in a public forum, such as a Council meeting, but that was why the various committees were created. It was less formal, but there were still rules.

Councilor Kirby suggested having the committee write recommendations, so the Council did not have to do this mishmash. The committee had ideas on what they were doing, but if they had recommendations that made it more fluid, that should be presented to the Council for consideration. Currently, under Responsibilities, there was nothing there. To be a viable committee, they needed to work together with the Council to get some things cleared up. To be a functioning committee, things needed to filter from the bottom up.

Mayor Folden stated she supported the committee, and she would also like to better engage with them, to get a better understanding of what they were doing.

Mr. Cummings asked to clarify what Councilor Kirby was saying or asking. All the committees were advisory, so the Council, he understood Councilor Kirby telling them to come back to the Council with things that gave the committee authority to make decisions, and that could not be done.

Councilor Kirby stated it was advisory to the Council, but this was awkward. All he saw was that there was a Diversity Committee. He believed they needed to give some thought about how to enhance the committee. He believed the community was already diverse. He didn't see it changing. The ordinance was very weak.

Mr. Moreno stated the ordinance read the committee was advisory in nature, and the City Council had the power and final word. He disagreed with it going from the bottom up. It was from the top realizing there was a need and how was the need filled. The idea of it coming from the bottom going up, put the Council in a reactive stance, which was not leading, it was reacting. That wasn't how this was written. This was an idea where the Council felt there was something in the community that wasn't equal, fair, and equitable for the people who lived here. How was that determined? Not by what was between their ears currently, but what came into their ears during conversations with people who had concerns. Their concerns were equitable with the people who lived in this community. The decisions, or the driving force behind it, was the Council. That's where he was at, and he challenged it. It didn't come from the committee doing whatever they wanted. They were just a committee. The committee had concerns; did the Council know that? No. It should all be nice and peachy like it had been for the past 50 years. No disrespect intended. Things changed rapidly. There were people who lived in this community that they had no idea what they were about or what they had experienced, because they were not them. The only way to find out was to engage with those who lived in the community. If that meant opening their doors and saying yes, come visit me, were Robert's Rules all that sacred that he had told somebody who barely had a grasp on the language, to understand the minutia of Robert's Rules? It's called an open forum. City town meetings, town hall meetings, there were things the city could be doing to engage the residents. It did not come from the committee, and, for the record, he did not support that ideology.

Councilor Kirby stated that *was* from the bottom up.

Councilor Melendrez asked for a clarification from Councilor Kirby on the definition and description of duties and responsibilities, did he want more added to that?

Councilor Kirby stated so many on the Council had a business or were active; they were the last ones to see what was truly going on. That's why he asked that things come from the bottom. Then the committee could keep the Council abreast of what needed to occur. But, if there was something on the agenda for the committee, it would be sent down their way. Councilor Melendrez was part of the community and represented a different portion of the community that most of them did not. He knew people in the Mexican-American community and the Japanese-American community. He'd grown up with them; he knew them, they were his friends. He had gay people in his family, but he did not know what went on in that community. That was his reason behind the thinking that if it was going to be functional, it had to sometimes come up from the bottom, not just from the top.

Councilor Hart stated he had two examples where the committee had been helpful to him: one, Ontario Promise. They'd given him some great ideas as they were trying to develop that program. That was an example of where they, as a Council, were working on an idea and took it to a committee to get input. Then, the unconscious bias training, that was a training they'd rolled out at St. Alphonsus. Paul provided that at one of their Ontario Chamber of Commerce meetings, and then again at Valley Family. Another great way where maybe the city didn't have the expertise, but there was expertise on the committee. Those were examples of where he believed the committee had been very effective. He had no concerns at all with the committee. He appreciated the article in the paper about this because it had raised visibility, and there were now more members of the Council willing to be involved with the committee; however, he had concerns, and he'd spoken with Mr. Moreno previously, about some language. What caused him some concern was the third paragraph in 2-4-1. Staff had added new language, which was excellent. The language that had been asked to be added read *"Committee appointments shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status"*. It was probably an oversight when originally written, and that was an appropriate add. It was the next paragraph that caused him concern, and what he wanted to discuss again. This was language that was already in place in the current ordinance, not asking to be added, which read *"Membership must represent more than 2 different ethnicities, cultures, generations, genders, and/or socioeconomic statuses. No one ethnicity, culture, or socioeconomic status shall be represented by more than 50% of the committee membership"*. Again, the question was when the city received applications, that was not on the application. Someone had been appointed at the last Council meeting, and no one had asked those questions. If a person wanted to be involved on the Diversity Committee, they were going to be appointed. But, this language actually contradicted earlier language. If they had quite a few of one race on the committee, they'd have to stop and say there couldn't be anymore of that race, they had to have different races. While he did want to move the proposed ordinance forward, he would ask that

they make an additional amendment and strike that paragraph out. He believed that paragraph was in conflict with the new paragraph to be added, and not to have any criteria that they, as a Council, were deciding if someone could be on a committee based upon the color of their skin. That appeared to be the opposite of what they were trying to accomplish.

HART moved, KIRBY seconded, **TO APPROVE ORDINANCE #2822-2023, WITH THE EDIT THAT HAD BEEN PRESENTED, IN ADDITION THAT THE PARAGRAPH STATING MEMBERSHIP MUST REPRESENT DIFFERENT ETHNICITIES, AND CANNOT HAVE MORE THAN 50% OF ONE ETHNICITY BE STRICKEN, BUT THE REST BE APPROVED.**

(Mayor restated motion)

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8.2(2) OF THE CITY CHARTER, THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE ORDINANCE #2822-2023, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #2728-2017, AMENDING TITLE 2, CHAPTER 14 OF THE ONTARIO MUNICIPAL CODE BY REMOVING THE WORDS LINED THROUGH AND ADDING THE WORDS THAT ARE UNDERLINED IN THE ATTACHED ORDINANCE #2822-2023, AT A SINGLE MEETING BY TITLE ONLY, WITH THE ADDED AMENDMENT TO REMOVE THE CURRENT PARAGRAPH OF 2-14-1. No vote.

Councilor Melendrez asked what the thoughts of that were with the Diversity Advisory Committee. Also, when reading the ordinance, he hadn't read it that way. He took it more that they were trying to make sure that the committee was diverse, not end up looking like the City Council where it was all the white race sitting up there, or on the Diversity Committee. He took it to mean they were hoping to have different races and not just one race. But, he would like to see the Diversity Committee review the change to see if they would be comfortable removing the language as suggested by Councilor Hart.

Councilor Hart asked about tabling this action again. He was alright doing that, to allow the Diversity Committee time to adjust the document. He didn't want to delay the action, but having an ordinance that read a membership must represent was pretty clear, and he wouldn't support anything that read they'd have two of this, and two of another, and two of another.

Councilor Bakefelt asked if they could question the Diversity Committee members in attendance how they felt about the action.

Mr. Carter stated he liked it, as it gave the Council some guidelines. As Councilor Melendrez said, to not have a Diversity Committee that looked like the current City Council. He believed that was what the Council was after, and not to fall back into the good ol' boy syndrome. He supported the language as written, and to not have that stricken out. The committee had a difficult time currently getting people to participate because it seemed like committee did nothing, and people got bored and resigned. He could see a lot of applications being submitted of one ethnicity, and the Council would just appoint without considering the balance on the committee.

Councilor Kirby stated they were in total conflict. They almost cancelled each other out. He didn't think that was what they were after. Maybe it did need to be tabled, submitted to the City Attorney for review and rewrite.

Janet Komoto, DAC Member, asked to table the action and let the Diversity Advisory Committee work on rewording the paragraph and then bring it back to Council, maybe by the next Council meeting.

Councilor Hart withdrew his motion; Councilor Kirby withdrew his second.

KIRBY moved, HART seconded, to **TABLE THIS ACTION**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

Councilor Hart stated an item he'd like to ask the DAC to consider was any recommendations, anybody could apply to be on the Diversity Committee. Those came to the Council. That language wasn't on there, so nobody checked a box. Maybe get applications to the committee, and then the committee would send recommendations to the Council, who would conduct interviews and make an appointment.

NEW BUSINESSBid Award: Airport Fencing Project (Boise River Fence)

Casey Mordhorst, Public Works Director, presented.

The west side of the airport was not secured to standards. There existed a large section where the fencing was not completed, which allowed animals and people to obtain unauthorized access to the airport. This project would secure the west side of the airport and stop unwanted animals and people gaining access, which could potentially cause a safety incident with aircraft utilizing the airport.

The fence on the west side of the airport was budgeted in the FY 23-24 CIP budget for the amount of \$150,000. Staff advertised the project and on July 13, 2023 received four (4) bids. Boise River Fence was the low bid at \$140,242.00, which fell below the budgeted amount.

If approved, this project would start this summer and be completed by winter.

KIRBY moved, BAKEFELT seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPT THE BIDS FOR THE AIRPORT FENCE PROJECT AND AWARD THE PROJECT TO BOISE RIVER FENCE FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$140,242.00 AND APPROVE THE CITY MANGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATESFinance: Monthly Report

Kari Ott, Finance Director, presented.

HAND-OUTSCheck Register

June, 2023

Minutes:

County Court: 07-12-2023; Public Works 06-20-2023

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- Councilor Bakefelt stated she had attended the Emergency Management training class on July 18th in La Grande. It was informative, and she encouraged the Council to attend. Also, her son took the Missoula theater class a few weeks ago and it was a great venue at the Four Rivers Cultural Center, who did a great job. She also attended two swearing in actions – Casey Walker to Sgt, and then the two new patrol officers. She went to the Ontario Airport open house, where Andy did a great job. She then reminded everyone that National Night Out was August 8th. She had a great team and was excited to see it come to fruition. She had jobs for the Council.
- Mayor Folden thanked Councilor Bakefelt for all her dedication and efforts for National Night Out. She also thanked the Diversity Committee for attending the Council meeting.
- Councilor Hart stated he had lunched with Sheriff Johnson, who voiced his appreciation for the coordination of efforts between Chief Iwai and the Sheriff's Department.
- Mr. Cummings stated last Wednesday through Saturday, he had gone to Pendleton to attend the Oregon City/County Management Association spring conference. One presentation was from the Pacific Power and Bonneville Power administrations on the new mandate to, by 2025, be limited on coal usage. Being as polite as they could to the politicians, they said they'd acted without facts, and were working as hard as they could. To put it into perspective, if they were to try to meet the mandates

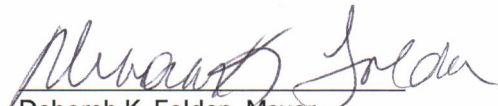
given, they didn't say it was impossible, but it was unlikely that would happen. They wanted all the cities to inform their citizens to look at the facts. For example, to replace all the coal and power being used currently, it would take 25 nuclear generation plants to be installed in the Pacific Northwest alone. And the Council could guess what money would be involved. More importantly, at the rate, the money, and the construction to do 25 plants, would take nearly 50 years. He assumed the presentation was given to the politicians across the state, but he was unsure. If they did, the politicians didn't pay attention to it. Solar and wind power provided some energy, but it wouldn't meet the needs. There were cloudy days, and winter days, that wouldn't provide solar power. Days with no wind couldn't generate power. When power was needed the most, there was no wind to generate it. He hadn't been on board with the plan for the lithium mines in Southern Malheur Country, because he'd seen what they would do to an environment, but after listening to the presentation, they basically said without getting good battery storage, the solar and wind was never going to be a replacement if they couldn't store the energy when it was being made. Another thing, being in the northwest, there was a lot of hydropower, but everyday there were groups that were trying to force the dams to be breached. If that happened, this area would lose a huge percentage of that power. To summarize, if the mandate didn't change, and it was forced to occur, this area would see the same thing happen as what was happening in California and Texas. There would be brown outs and black outs all the time because there would not be enough power to meet the demand.

- Mr. Cummings stated he attended the Southeast Area Commission on Transportation (SEACT) meeting in Burns, where they had a great discussion, but there was disparity. ODOT was having the same problems with requirements for higher efficient vehicles; cut back on power, but require power cars. The biggest concern was the mandate that all the car manufacturers had to make vehicles more efficient, to make cars that would get 40-50 miles per gallon, which meant not purchasing as much gas, which meant lower gas tax collecting, which lowered revenue for ODOT. There were a lot of policies being made that had not looked at the scientific facts and set mandates that were unrealistic. This community needed to recognize that, and they needed to be educated about what was coming. It was going to be a huge financial change to the users.
- Councilor Kirby stated a few meetings ago at a MAC meeting, the new director of HUD was in Ontario, along with Oregon's head of HUD. They were trying to get certification and verification for the concrete houses built by 3D. They were looking at a project in John Day, but he informed them of the business here in Ontario. He and Mr. Cummings met with Sean McKay, and saw a prototype of a building they built.
- Councilor Melendrez also attended meetings to learn about alternative resources for energy. He'd like to attend future meetings about that. He appreciated the new rules that were being put in place by OSHA about working outside in the heat. That would have an effect on farmworkers.

ADJOURN

KIRBY 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