

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES****January 9, 2024**

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Deborah Folden at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Deborah Folden, Penny Bakefelt, Ken Hart, Susann Mills, John Kirby, and Sam Baker. Councilor Melendrez was excused.

Members of staff present were Dan Cummings, Tori Barnett, Corinna Hysell, Clint Benson, Kari Ott, Casey Mordhorst, Marshall Pierce, Jason Cooper, Andy Woods, and Michael Iwai.

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

AGENDA

This Agenda was posted January 5, 2024. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

HART moved, MILLS seconded, **TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-out; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

CONSENT AGENDA

MILLS moved, KIRBY seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH CONSISTED OF APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 12, 2023**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-out; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Emily Olson, Ontario, stated: *I'm coming to the Council tonight to discuss community safety, and, in particular, I'm here to talk about the recent uptake in violence around the cruises in town. I'm not just coming to complain, I'm coming with a couple of ideas for solutions and just wanting my voice to be heard, as well as many community members, especially my neighborhood committee, which met last night, about community safety concerns. My community lives two blocks back from the Albertson's and two blocks over from Bert's, and on Saturday, November 25th, and Friday, December 29th, two incidents occurred in conjunction with the cruise that involved shooting and it involved youth. Both incidences have us rattled, they have shown a clear uptake in violence and access to guns in our youth, not to mention I am a teacher in the Nyssa School District. I have a concern about this is how our youth is spending their time in town, and it's at the risk of the public safety. I do have some concerns with the communication around the incidences that I'd like to get feedback to the Council and OPD on, understanding that OPD has some severe staffing challenges right now, and I recognize that, but I'm concerned. Am I safe in my neighborhood, are there imminent threats, are we going to continue to see violence from the cruises, and our neighborhood is going to just be the collateral damage of it. I live with my husband, my nine and half and my eight year old, two blocks back from where two shootings have happened. I think I've mentioned that before, I'm very concerned. I'm concerned that we haven't heard a single thing in my neighborhood about the November 25th incident, despite the fact that the business owner of Bert's reports it and our neighbors all report it, and I'm concerned that it took twelve hours to let us know if we were out of danger and safe, or if we needed to shelter in place due to the incident at the Albertson's, that my family had visited within the hour of the incident. Here is what I've done in the meantime instead of stewing. I have gone and looked out at research, what are other cities similar to us doing if we have concerns with cruises, and I have two examples that I'd like OPD and the Council to look at. The first is Salem, and the second is Twin*



Falls. Both have bans on cruises. I'm not suggesting a ban at this point, but a look at their policies around cruises. I understand that requires staffing and it requires policy, so I'm coming today to ask if we could please take a look at this through the Police Department and the city, at what their similar policies may be. Maybe OPD needs a 90-day policy in place just so we can get a grip on what is going on, where are the guns coming from, what's the violence all about, just something simple at first to just let us get a grip, but then after that seems like ordinances, signs, times that we are not allowed to see cars going back and forth 15 times. I see my time is running out and I want to be respectful, and I'll just say, I'm one person, I am speaking with a lot of voices I've heard behind me. I'm frightened, and I'm frustrated in my community. I've only lived here three years. I'm not sure how much longer I can do that. Thank you.

PRESENTATION

Recognize: Sam D'Addabbo and Aaron Phillips

Mike Iwai, Police Chief, presented both officers (who now worked for OSP) with certificates of appreciation for their time working for the Ontario Police Department.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointments to City Committees

Tori Barnett, City Recorder, presented.

At the end of every calendar year, different positions on the city's various committees became vacant. Staff advertised those vacancies in the local media, on the city's Facebook page and website, as well as contacting the chairperson or point of contact for the committees, seeking applicants either for appointment or renewal. Before the Council were the results of those solicitations, and staff was seeking appointments based on the applications.

The city has multiple committees who act in an advisory capacity, bringing information, ideas, and/or suggestions to the Council for review and possible action. The only exception was the Planning Commission, which could make decisions and recommendations to the Council for action.

Applicants Michael Braden, James Beaumont, Michael Franks, and Jon Todd were in attendance.

Regarding the Airport appointments, James Beaumont, Jon Todd, and Michael Franks all spoke about why they would like to be on the Airport committee. At the end of his statement, Mr. Beaumont indicated he would be fine serving as the alternate.

With regard to the Business Loan Fund, Parks Committee, and Planning Commission, applicant Michael Braden informed the Council as to why he was interested in serving on the three committees, and voiced what he could bring to table and why he'd be a good fit.

KIRBY moved, Mills seconded, TO APPOINT JON TODD AND MICHAEL FRANKS TO A FULL MEMBER POSITION, AND APPOINT JAMES BEAUMONT TO THE ALTERNATE POSITION ON THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-out; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

HART moved, BAKEFELT seconded, TO APPOINT DAVID ARMSTRONG TO A POSITION ON THE BUDGET COMMITTEE. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-out; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

FOLDEN moved, KIRBY seconded, TO APPOINT MICHAEL BRADEN TO A POSITION ON THE BUSINESS LOAN FUND COMMITTEE. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-out; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Council consensus to send the Diversity Advisory Committee application to the committee for review and recommendation to the Council.

HART moved, BAKEFELT seconded, **TO APPOINT MICHAEL BRADEN TO A POSITION ON THE PARKS COMMITTEE.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-out; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

MILLS moved, BAKEFELT seconded, **TO APPOINT MICHAEL BRADEN AND BLU FORTNER TO POSITIONS ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-out; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Council consensus to send the Public Works Committee applications to the committee for review and recommendation to the Council.

BAKEFELT moved, MILLS seconded, **TO APPOINT DEBBIE BLACKABY AND LYNELLE CHRISTIANI TO THE VISITORS & CONVENTIONS BUREAU BOARD.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-out; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Bid Award: Fire Department Air Compressor for SCBA

Clint Benson, Fire Chief, presented.

On Friday, December 8, 2023, the fire department's 15-20 year old SCBA air compressor stopped working. A technician was called, who indicated a compressor piston had blown out, which caused some major damage. A quote in the \$20,000 range was given with parts available in 6-12 months. A new air compressor was estimated to be in the \$50k-\$60k range and had a 4-6 week lead time. Given the fact the air compressor was old, and it would be a huge repair cost, staff decided to pursue a new air compressor.

Chief Benson signed up for NPPGov, which gave a 10% discount off of Bauer compressors and then proceeded to get quotes for the compressor. The Bauer compressor was preferred based on quality reviews from other agency and given that the specifications of the unit was close to the department's current one. The three quotes were as follows: SeaWestern \$43,765.10 (Bauer Verticus Compressor System); Weidner \$48,539.00 (Bauer Verticus Compressor); and Curtis \$40,964.59 (Artic Compressor). The company that received the bid award would also be required to service and test the compressor annually. Curtis was the company that currently had been servicing the compressor. The current compressor broke down just a few weeks after the annual servicing and the same thing happened with Payette's fire compressor last year. The service from Curtis throughout the years was lacking and there were recommendations from several other fire chiefs to steer clear of Curtis. Although Curtis had the lowest bid (which was for a different brand of compressor), staff recommended going with the next lowest bid from SeaWestern due to the reasons listed above. Staff believed SeaWestern would provide better service and the Bauer air compressor would be the best product for the money spent.

The fire department had been setting aside funding for turnouts and SCBA air packs for several years. A few years back the SCBA air packs were replaced, mostly using grant funds. Consequently, the Fire Equipment department in the Reserve Fund currently had \$161,817.85 available. Currently, the fire department was filling their SCBA air bottles at Fruitland or Payette's fire station. The quicker the new compressor could be ordered the sooner the air bottles could be filled on site.

Council could choose to repair the old unit instead of purchasing a new one; however, the cost to repair the compressor was approximately half the cost of a new one, and there would be a higher potential of more repair costs in the near future.

HART moved, BAKEFELT seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL AWARD THE SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS AIR COMPRESSOR BID TO SEAWESTERN INC. FOR \$43,765.10.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-out; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

PUBLIC HEARINGS**Accept Right of Way for a Portion of SW 26th Street, per Approved Partition Plat, Approved Under Planning Action 2023-08-14 PTN**

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 the action. No abstentions, ex-parte contact, or declarations of conflict of interest were stated.

Dan Cummings, City Manager/Community Development Director, presented.

The subject property had been partitioned by Ontario Lakes Development, LLC into three parcels with public right of way being dedicated along the eastern border of the property. This action required the dedication of public right of way for portions of SW 26th Street. Construction of all the public improvements would be done at a later date during development of the property. The partition was ready to be finalized and the public right of way accepted by the City Council.

This partition led the way for future development in the area with the dedication of right of way to meet the Growth and Desirability portions of the City Council's Strategic Plan. There was no financial cost to the city at this time other than normal maintenance of the city infrastructure developed and construction of the property. This action needed to be completed and the right of way accepted. The City Council, under 10 B-55-45 for a land division involving the creation of streets, shall, by action of the City Council at a public hearing, approve the final plat by motion accepting the public right of way, and the Mayor and planning officials shall sign the plat.

The Hearing was opened for public testimony. Opponents: None. Proponents: None. There being no Proponent and no Opponent testimony, the Hearing was closed.

MILLS moved, BAKEFELT seconded, THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE DEDICATION OF THE RIGHT OF WAY FOR A PORTION OF SW 26TH STREET AS SHOWN ON THE PARTITION PLAT, SAID PARTITION BEING APPROVED BY AN ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION ON AUGUST 26, 2022, UNDER PLANNING FILE 2023-08-14PTN, AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE HER SIGNATURE ON THE FINAL PLAT ACCEPTING THE DEDICATED RIGHT OF WAY SHOWN ON THE PLAT. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-out; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATE**Police Department: Quarterly Report**

Mike Iwai, Police Chief, presented.

HAND-OUTS**Department Stats: December, 2023**

Police, Fire, Public Works, Code Enforcement

Minutes:

County Court 12/06/2023, 12/13/2023; DAC 11/15/2023

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- Ms. Barnett reminded the Council of the Chamber Banquet on Friday, January 19, 2024, and asked that if they planned to attend, the Chamber needed to know how many in their party by Friday, January 12th.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONSExecutive Session: ORS 192.660(2)(h)

An executive session was called at 7:22 p.m. under provisions of ORS 192.660(2)(h) to discuss Current or Potential Litigation. The Council exited at 8:08 p.m. and entered a second session.

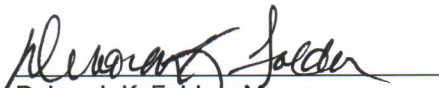
Executive Session: ORS 192.660(2)(d)

An executive session was called at 8:09 p.m. under provisions of ORS 192.660(2)(e) to discuss Labor Negotiations. The Council reconvened into regular session at 8:56 p.m.

ADJOURN

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

ACCEPTED:


Deborah K. Folden, Mayor

ATTEST


Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder