



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES July 23, 2024

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Deborah Folden at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Deborah Folden, Penny Bakefelt, Susann Mills, John Kirby, Ken Hart, and Sam Baker. Eddie Melendrez arrived at 6:12pm.

Staff present were Dan Cummings, Tori Barnett, Corinna Hysell, Clint Benson, Marshall Pierce, Al Haun, and Michael Iwai.

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

AGENDA

This Agenda was posted July 19, 2024. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

KIRBY moved, BAKER seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH CONSISTED OF APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 9, 2024**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-out; Kirby-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

NEW BUSINESS

WWTP Headworks Screen Replacement Engineering Design

Marshall Pierce, City Engineer/Jacobs, presented.

A new WWTP project identified in the CIP was pending approval by City Council in order to proceed with engineering design. The existing WWTP headworks screen was 25 years old and in dire need of replacement. This piece of equipment protected downstream assets at the plant and was a critical component to the operation of the plant. RH2 Engineering prepared a scope and fee for engineering design of the screen replacement. The fee amount was within the approved CIP budgeted amount. The city was ready to proceed with engineering design for this project with screen replacement occurring next year (2025). In the adopted fiscal year 2024-2025 budget, it included a carry-over of \$300,000 for a new headworks screen. Ideally, a bid package was ready in early spring in order to increase chances of obtaining competitive pricing. If the Council opted to not approve this action, the existing screen would continue to degrade, impacting the operation of the treatment plant.

Councilor Baker verified this was a \$300K estimated project, was that correct?

Mr. Pierce stated through construction, yes.

Councilor Baker verified they were seeking \$90K to engineer it?

Mr. Pierce stated that was correct. There was a chance they would underrun the budget, the time and material contract. If things ran smoothly during concept design, etc., RH2 engineers would underrun their budget on that, and hopefully there would be some money saved. However, at this time they should plan on utilizing the full amount.

Councilor Bakefelt asked if there were a similar set up somewhere that the city could use their design?

Mr. Pierce stated there were, because every wastewater treatment plant had a headworks facility, but they would really want a consulting engineer to look at this because every plant had peak hour flows, average, surge events, and that screen would be designed accordingly. This was not an off the shelf item.

Councilor Bakefelt asked how long it took to fill the dumpster.

Al Haun, Project Manager, stated it depended on the amount of solid material. If he had to guess, maybe every few weeks. Ontario Sanitary went to the site and took care of it.

Mr. Pierce stated they wanted more frequent trips because the barrier screens performed better with the more screens they had.

Councilor Kirby asked if there were other maintenance items projected for the wastewater system during the same calendar year, for everything up north of town.

Mr. Pierce stated at the plants, they were currently repairing the aerators. They also had one that had been offline for quite a while that they were going to repair to boost the lagoons. For offsite, there were ongoing projects, such as sending cameras down the line to review which ones needed rehab. Aside from that, they had just completed a lift station improvement project where they had installed some new pumps.

Councilor Kirby verified this project was its own budget line.

Mr. Pierce stated that was correct.

KIRBY moved, BAKEFELT seconded, THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RH2 TASK ORDER NO.1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$89,890.00, AND A 10% DESIGN CONTINGENCY FOR ANY UNFORESEEN ITEMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,989.00, FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT REQUEST OF \$98,879.00, AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE RELATED DOCUMENTS. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Kirby-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES

Finance: Monthly

No comments. Questions should be submitted to Kari Ott, Finance Director.

HAND-OUTS

Minutes

County Court: 07/03/24; PW Committee 11/21/203, 6/18/24; Parks Committee 06/20/24

Check Register

June, 2024

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- Councilor Kirby asked for an update on the fire situation from Chief Benson.



Chief Benson stated the Durkee Fire had the potential to threaten Ontario, depending on weather. They were seeing very aggressive fire behavior, so they were keeping a close eye on things. They were actively and proactively planning so if it did make a run towards Ontario, they had resources in place. They had activated ICS, and were using resources to make it stop before it hit Ontario. He had been in Huntington that morning with the State Fire Marshall and others, and he was getting more information all the time. The closest fire activity was about 10 miles northwest of Ontario. Ontario was safe now, but they were preparing for the worst. A lot of work had been done by staff, and they would be ready. There was non-stop work going into place, but hopefully they wouldn't have to use it. But, if that fire made a run at Ontario, they'd be ready.

Mayor Folden thanked him for his preparedness, and for all they did, and she fully supported the fire department, and prayed for safety for everyone.

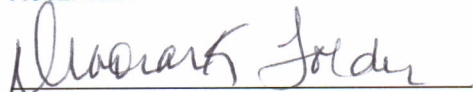
Chief Benson stated the Council and community support was appreciated. It was an honor to serve.

- Councilor Melendrez apologized for arriving late to the meeting, but he had to work late. He wanted to make an announcement to the citizens of Ontario that there were farm workers and field workers that were out working during this extreme heat and smoke. Earlier, he had been out delivering supplies, such as gloves, hats, sunscreen, and water to the field workers that were out there. He made a plea to the citizens that anyone who wanted to make a donation, could contact him at eddie.melendrez@ontariooregon.org and he was also listed on the city's website.
- Councilor Melendrez stated he wanted to address some concerns he had been dealing with on the Council. He was grateful it had been determined the actions of OPD were right, but he wanted to direct some things to those folks that he made upset by asking questions. He wanted to say that going back to the first two years that he was on the Council, there were a lot of questions raised about OPD and what they were doing, but never once did he see anyone saying or making comments about those concerns. He found that concerning as a City Councilor that when he brought up one question, then he got pushback from the Council and some staff. He remembered a specific Councilor being upset with OPD giving a warning about a parking violation a few years back, but then him bringing up a situation that had nothing to do with him, he was just doing the job he was elected to do. He was elected by the folks in Ontario and the community wanted him to ask questions. He felt like what he had seen over the past three or four years was that when a Councilor got upset about something that impacted them, it was brought up. He was bringing up an issue that had nothing to do with him, he didn't even know the individual, but when folks brought up issues, it was about how it impacted them. For him, he brought up issues for people he didn't even know. He wanted to address that in the previous Council meeting, but he'd been busy at work. He wanted to say to everyone there that even though it might make some folks upset, he was there doing the job he was elected to do.
- Mayor Folden thanked the Police Chief and his department for keeping the citizens safe. She appreciated their service and dedication.
- Mr. Cummings pointed out the handout Council received, which was a reduced version of the Strategic Plan that they'd begin working on August 2nd. The revenue portion would be on the 8th.

ADJOURN

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

ACCEPTED:


Deborah K. Folden, Mayor

ATTEST:


Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder

