

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES****August 27, 2024**

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Deborah Folden at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Deborah Folden, Penny Bakefelt, Susann Mills, John Kirby, Ken Hart, and Eddie Melendrez. Sam Baker was excused.

Staff present were Dan Cummings, Tori Barnett, Corinna Hysell, Clint Benson, Kari Ott, Tatiana Burgess, Casey Mordhorst, Marshall Pierce, Al Haun, Jason Cooper, Andy Wood, and Michael Iwai.

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

AGENDA

This Agenda was posted August 23, 2024. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Jensen: *Good evening, and thank you for allowing me to present tonight. I am Steve Jensen with Lifeways Behavioral Health, and I am working tonight in conjunction with Chief Iwai. Chief Iwai will be presenting, as part of his presentation a little bit later, regarding some things with HB, House Bill 4002, which is commonly known as deflection. And the definition of deflection is a program developed in response to Ballot Measure 110, that passed in November of 2020, decriminalizing possession charges for small amounts of hard drugs, with the intent of pointing individuals of substance abuse disorders to treatment rather than jail. Deflection serves as a community centered practice by which law enforcement, or other first responders, may hand off to community based treatment and/or other services where people who have substance use or mental health disorders. Deflection presents an alternative to arrest allowing people who might otherwise enter the justice system or receive no assistance to address their treatment needs. Oregon's HB 4002, signed April 1st, encouraged law enforcement to engage in deflection in coordination with a new system of local deflection programs and money was set aside for this by the state legislature to allow law enforcement to work with the community mental health providers to provide an alternative for those that have been caught with, specifically a misdemeanor, an unclassified misdemeanor, and I'm sure Chief Iwai might refer to that a little bit further, but it's a system where individuals are able to be deflected from the criminal justice system and a warm hand-off towards mental health so that they can seek the treatment that they are in so desperate need of. It's something that the initial Bill was trying to force people to try to work with people to get them into treatment; it did not work as intended, so now they went back and reworked the law and now we have a new law, which actually provides that deflection, which hopefully will encourage people to get into treatment. And we have a process to where we have navigators with the law enforcement to be able to actually go out and meet with the individuals after they have met with law enforcement, and to work with them to provide case management services, to get them into treatment. And that is the main goal: is to get, is to work with those individuals to keep them out of the justice system, deflect them from that, and get them into treatment. So thank you very much.*

Jan Parton: *My name is Jan Parton. I'm the committee chair for Troop 400. We are sponsored by American Legion Post #67, and we have tonight a group of Scouts who are working on their Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge. One of the main requirements for that is to attend a council meeting of this type, to observe, take notes, and come to a conclusion as to maybe there's maybe something that they could get involved with to help make change. So we have tonight Jesus, raise your hand, Julian, Harley, Eli, and Adam, who are with the troop, and then Adam's brother Ollie. We're glad to be here and be of service to the community.*

CONSENT AGENDA

MILLS moved, KIRBY seconded, TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH CONSISTED OF APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 23, 2024; PROCLAMATION: RECOVERY MONTH 2024; AND LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION/CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP: ONTARIO SINCLAIR. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-out; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Kirby-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Proclamation: 2024 Recovery Month

Steven Wolf, Incoming Co-Chair, Malheur County Prevention Coalition, read the proclamation into the record: *Mental health, substance use, and harmful gambling behaviors affect all communities nationwide. With commitment and support, our family members, friends, colleagues, and community members with these disorders can achieve healthy lifestyles and lead rewarding lives in recovery. By seeking help, people who experience mental health, substance use and/or harmful gambling behaviors can embark on a new path toward improved health and overall wellness. The focus of our local theme for Recovery Month for September 2024 is "The Art of Recovery!" To celebrate their journey, we recognize the challenges of recovery, and we support them! We realize the need to share resources and build networks that support recovery in all forms, as we are all part of the solution. Recovery Month and Hands Around the Park spreads the message that behavioral health is essential to one's overall health and wellness, and that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people do recover. The impact of mental health and substance use disorders is apparent in our country, with over 40 million people in the US suffering from a substance use disorder, and over 100,000 people dying annually from overdoses. In the most recent survey, 12.63 percent of Oregon residents reported using illicit drugs in the past month. The national average was 8.82 percent. The percentage of adults reporting symptoms of anxiety and/or depression is 3% higher in Oregon than the nation. Additionally, an estimated 88,000 Oregon adults and adolescents meet the clinical diagnosis for gambling disorder, with another 180,000 at risk of developing a problem with gambling. These conditions in one way or another affect us all. Through Recovery Month, people become more aware and able to recognize the signs of mental health, substance use, and harmful gambling behaviors, which can help guide more people into needed treatment. Managing the effects of these conditions can help people achieve healthy lifestyles, both physically and emotionally. The Recovery Month observance continues to work to improve lives to promote and support treatment, and recovery practices, educating communities about prevention and acknowledging the dedication of service providers and community members who assist in making recovery possible. For the above reasons, we are asking the citizens of Ontario to join us in celebrating this September as Recovery Month. We, as the city of Ontario, Oregon, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2024 as Mental Health, Substance Use, and Harmful Gambling Behaviors Recovery Month In Ontario, we call upon our community to observe this month with compelling programs and events that support this year's observance.*

NEW BUSINESS

Request for RFP: OPD Body-Worn Cameras

Mike Iwai, Police Chief, presented.

The police department's current 24-25 budget did not account for a body-worn camera (BWC) upgrade or purchase. The current system was not cloud-based and did not have the ability to redact sensitive information. A cloud server was preferred for evidentiary purposes, as well as sharing video across the criminal justice system. Moreover, this upgrade will help the police department with respect to transparency and compliance with state law. There were some available funds from the Enterprise Camera System (City-Wide Camera System),



which might be used to offset some of the cost for the BWC upgrade. OPD was seeking authorization to put together a request for proposals (RFP) in order to get bids on new BWC and software.

This request was in-line with the city's strategic plan under Growth and Financial Stability. In terms of Growth, this request would bring the Police Department up to industry standards. In terms of Financial Stability, this request helped with transparency and revealed what really "happened." This upgrade would reduce the city's liability by protecting personal protected information with release to the media and other stakeholders.

This upgrade and/or purchase was not currently budgeted. Some funds would be available from the Enterprise Camera System, but there would be an ask following the RFP. The estimated purchase price would exceed \$250,000. The funds would most likely need to come from the public safety department.

MELENDREZ moved, MILLS seconded, THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE REQUEST TO BEGIN THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PROCESS FOR A BODY-WORN CAMERA SYSTEM, WHICH IS CLOUD-BASED AND HAS THE ABILITY TO REDACT SENSITIVE INFORMATION PURSUANT TO LAW. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-out; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Kirby-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Informational Presentation: Enterprise Camera System Update for City-Wide Cameras

Jason Cooper, Police Lieutenant, presented.



Staff Report

Verkada Camera System - City of Ontario

Jason Cooper
Administrative Lieutenant



Verkada Camera System

Current Status

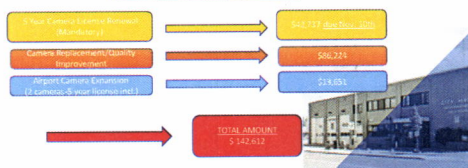
• Currently 50 Cameras deployed City Wide monitoring infrastructure assets and assists with employee safety.

- City Hall
- Water Treatment Plant
- Waukegan Water Treatment Plant
- Ontario Municipal Airport
- Beck, Leason & Eastside Kiwanis Parks
- Ontario Justice Court



Verkada Camera System

2024-2025 Fiscal Budget: \$150,000 approved



Verkada Camera System

Option #1

Financial Considerations:

- Purchase 5-year camera licensing (Mandatory) (\$42,737)
- Defer camera improvement program to next fiscal
- -Redirect remaining funds towards Body worn camera project (\$107,263)



Verkada Camera System

Option #2

Financial Considerations:

- Purchase 5-year camera licensing (Mandatory) (\$42,737)
- Replace/Upgrade half of the system cameras (\$43,112)
- Defer remaining cameras & Airport camera expansion to next fiscal
- -Redirect remaining funds towards Body worn camera project (\$64,151)



Verkada Camera System

Option #3

Financial Considerations:

- Purchase 5-year camera licensing (Mandatory) (\$42,737)
- Replace/Upgrade half of the system cameras (\$43,112)
- Complete Airport Camera expansion project (\$13,653)
- Defer remaining cameras to next fiscal
- -Redirect remaining funds towards Body worn camera project (\$50,500)



Councilor Hart asked if the \$42k was annual or for another five years?

Lt. Cooper stated it would last another five years on the subscription.

Councilor Hart verified the city wouldn't have to budget it again for 25-26.

Lt. Cooper stated that was correct. He added that he had spoken with the Verkada rep, who indicated there were options to do a one or three year license renewal. However, regarding cost, it was not fiscally sound. With the one or three year subscription, based on the pricing, it would be a 10-15% increase annually. In his opinion, the best fiscal decision would be a five year license renewal, if they opted to go with Verkada.

Councilor Kirby confirmed that what Lt. Cooper was saying was that within months the cameras were going to go dark and would be useless.

Lt. Cooper stated the subscription would expire. He believed the cameras themselves were owned by Verkada.

Councilor Bakefelt asked if the cameras they wanted to purchase were top of the line, bottom, near the middle; were there cameras they would really rather have?

Lt. Cooper stated from what he had been told, these were the most improved cameras within their system. There were subscriptions to the capabilities or AI capabilities along with that. They could fund additional software to further facilitate the use of it. This was a higher end camera within the Verkada program, and it was recommended to the department.

Lt. Cooper continued, stating the last part of the funding was for the airport camera expansion, which was two additional cameras out there. The remaining difference within the approved budget would be to address any repair costs that were not covered under warranty.

Councilor Mills stated she understood there were cameras at the parks, but she didn't see Lion's Park listed.

Lt. Cooper stated there were no cameras there currently. He had been working with the City Manager on that, along with the installation of cameras there, along with the cemeteries.

Councilor Hart stated for the two additional cameras at the airport, where would those be located?

Lt. Cooper stated he was informed by the Airport Manager that he wanted to expand some locations at the entry and exit, and then redeploy some existing cameras, and then install the newer, upgraded cameras. It would be the purchase of two new cameras, and then the redeployment of two existing cameras to the entrance and exit at the security fencing.

Lt. Cooper stated for all three options being presented, they were locked into the five year plan for \$42,737. However, for the remaining funds from the initial \$150,000, listed below were three options:

1. Option #1 (above slide #3) was to defer the camera improvement program to the next fiscal year, and pay just the mandatory five year licensing subscription for \$42,737. They could then redirect the remaining funds towards the body-worn camera project for \$107,263.
2. Option #2 (above slide #4) would be the mandatory licensing for \$42,737, an upgrade/replacement of half the system cameras for \$43,112, then defer the remaining cameras and airport cameras to the next fiscal year budget process, and to redirect the remaining funds toward the body-worn camera project for \$64,151.
3. Option #3 (above slide #5) would be the mandatory licensing for \$42,737, an upgrade/replacement of half the system cameras for \$43,112, complete the airport camera expansion project for \$13,651, defer the remaining cameras to the next fiscal year budget process, and to redirect the remaining funds toward the body-worn camera project for \$50,500.

Lt. Cooper stated one option that was not on a slide was an Option #4, which would be to seek an alternative sounding source.

Councilor Mills asked how many body cameras were on the list.

Lt. Cooper stated it was 30.

Councilor Hart suggested the Council look at Option #1. They had to do the renewal, and then hold until a bit further into the current fiscal year, when they would be more aware of where they were with dispensary revenues. There were a lot of moving parts in the budget, and that would allow them to know, in a few months, how much the body camera program would cost, and then they could decide. He'd like to do it all, but they had to make choices on what they could do with the resources given. The body cameras were not on the priority list when they'd prepared the budget, but now they had more information and it would allow them to not stop progress, but maybe delay the decision on the rest. Select Option #1 for now and then see where they were at fiscally in about six months. He'd like the Council to consider that.

Councilor Kirby asked what the renewal date was on the contract.

Lt. Cooper stated it was November 10th, and the company was asking for a payment around two weeks prior.

Mr. Cummings stated staff also supported Option #1. It gave them time to get bids in for the body cameras, so they'd have those numbers. Slow down the camera system. He and Lt. Cooper had met with another firm, who they were seeking a quote from for the camera system, and possibly, before the contract expired, there might be another option for the cameras. The cameras themselves belonged to Verkada, and they could not be used with another system. If the city selected a different firm, all the cameras would have to be replaced. He also wanted to speak with Verkada. He didn't like the city being strung out with a system that could potentially go away and those cameras were not the city's, and the city would have to purchase a whole new system anyway. He believed they'd be meeting with this other company later in the week, and hoped to get a quote from them.

HART moved, BAKEFELT seconded, THE CITY COUNCIL GIVE STAFF AUTHORITY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH OPTION #1, AND IF STAFF CHOSE A DIFFERENT PATH, THEY WOULD NEED TO COME BACK BEFORE COUNCIL FOR A CHANGE FROM OPTION #1. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-out; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Kirby-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Bid Award: Laptops (OFR & OPD)

Mike Iwai, Police Chief, presented.

The law enforcement agencies in Malheur County - excluding State Police - and the Ontario Fire Department moved to a new Records Management System and Computer Aided Dispatch in late February 2024. This transition to a new system required a technological upgrade from iPads to laptops. The transition to the new system allowed police and fire to utilize an adequate software version for officers and fire command in the field but necessitated laptops. Both Police and Fire Departments earmarked some funds for the purchase of laptops; however, the cost was much more than just the purchase of computers. The total cost for the system upgrade included servers, vehicle mounts, accessories, installation, computer imaging, migration, etc. Staff authored a proposed grant to the Eastern Oregon Border Board to ensure Malheur County Sheriff's Office, Nyssa Police Department, Ontario Fire, and the Ontario Police Department would have the available funds to press forward with the RMS/CAD project. The total amount of \$428,037.84 was awarded and the total amount of the police department's 23-24 budget for the purchase of laptops was \$161,460.00 - this was rolled over into the 24-25 budget cycle. Regarding the solicitations received, OPD command staff solicited input from Microtec, and they leaned towards Datec because they were more tried and tested, product wise, and they also provided the better warranty. Repair solution and deployment was included.

The police department had historically utilized iPads as the technology medium for computer-aided dispatch with limited ability to write reports in the field. With laptops, patrol officers would be able to write reports in the field or dock their laptops at the office for report writing. Additionally, the laptops would be docked and would eliminate the need to purchase desktops at the office, saving money in the future.

A request for proposals was issued, and two bids were received: one from Datec Incorporated, the other from Wireless Access Technologies, Getac Government Business Partner. The low bid was Datec for \$224,653.82.

Councilor Hart clarified that the financial point was to use the 2023-2024 police budgeted funds carryover and the Eastern Oregon Border Board grant. So this was fully budgeted money they already had regarding funds set aside to do this project.

Mr. Cummings stated that was correct.

Councilor Bakefelt verified the department was behind because there were not currently computers in the cars. This was a big upgrade that would improve visibility of the officers being out in the community.

Chief Iwai agreed 100%. Ontario was the only law enforcement agency in Malheur County that did not have laptops in their cars.

Councilor Mills asked about the timeframe from purchase to installation. Also, how long were the warranties?

Chief Iwai stated he thought it was around four months. Regarding the warranty, five years, Smart battery warranty with Smart Battery monitoring software for Windows Toughbooks; on GTEC, a three year warranty.

MELENDREZ moved, HART seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE DATEC INCORPORATED BID FOR THE LAPTOP COMPUTER/TABLET PURCHASES FOR POLICE AND FIRE FOR \$224,653.82. THIS INCLUDES THE REQUIRED ACCESSORIES, INSTALLATION SERVICE, AND OTHER EXPENSES, MIL-STD-810H ENVIRONMENTAL TEST, DEPLOYMENT SERVICES, INSTALLATION SERVICES AND PROJECT TIMELINE, WARRANTY, ENHANCED WARRANTIES, AND EXTENDED WARRANTIES AS PROVIDED IN SOLICITATION OPD-24-1 LAPTOP COMPUTERS AND REQUIRED ACCESSORIES.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-out; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Kirby-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Resolution #2024-113: Credit Card Recovery Cost

Kari Ott, Finance Director, presented.

In April 2024, the Budget Committee recommended adding a credit card fee to recover the fees the city was being charged from the credit card companies. The attached resolution implemented a 2.5% credit card fee which seemed to be the average credit card charge. The ACH transactions were low cost, so there would be no fee imposed for ACH transactions at this point. This fee could be reassessed at any time and brought back to the Council. The city had approximately \$125k in credit card transactions each month. The 2.5% fee would bring in \$37,500 in revenue to recover costs of accepting credit card payments.

The passage of a fee was subject to ORS 294.160(1) which read: *"The governing body of a city, county or other unit of local government shall provide an opportunity for interested persons to comment on the enactment of any ordinance or resolution prescribing a new fee or a fee increase or an increase in the rate or other manner in which the amount of a fee is determined or calculated." The Council is required to approve the new fee.*

MILLS moved, KIRBY seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION #2024-113: A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CREDIT CARD FEE RECOVERY COST.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-out; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Kirby-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Non-Commercial Hangar Lease Agreement Template

Andy Wood, Airport Manager, presented.

The Airport Committee, city staff, and the City Attorney developed a new template for a non-commercial – private – hangar lease agreement that followed the established Airport Rules and Regulations. During the sale and updating the lease for the Fixed Base Operator and current hangar lease, several issues were discovered that incurred substantial attorney fee costs to enforce. The city had the attorney develop a new lease that gave the city the tools to ensure that the rules and regulations of the airport and the conditions of the lease were legally enforceable. This new hangar lease format had already been used for the hangars of Silverhawk, as well as the FBO lease and refueling tanks.

At the August 5, 2024, Airport Committee meeting, the Airport Committee unanimously approved to send a favorable recommendation to the City Council to approve the non-commercial template for use in all future airport leases and renewals.

KIRBY moved, BAKEFELT seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE TEMPLATE FOR THE NON-COMMERCIAL HANGAR LEASE AGREEMENT FOR ALL FUTURE PRIVATE HANGAR LEASES.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-out; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Kirby-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Adopt Agreement: Extension #3, Addendum #3, with Rural Fire Protection District #7-302

Clint Benson, Fire Chief, presented.

The Ontario Rural Fire Protection District #7-302 (ORFPD) had contracted with the City of Ontario for the provision of firefighter staffing and facilities since February 3, 1999, providing firefighter and administrative staffing, and facilities to store fire apparatus. The proposed Extension #3 of Addendum #13 continued the current agreement until June 30, 2025, with the Ontario Rural Fire Protection District.

The current agreement was extended through June 30, 2024, by both parties, on January 23, 2024. A sixty-day extension (Extension #2 of Addendum #13) was agreed upon by both parties on June 25, 2024, and would continue the annual rate paid by the ORFPD of \$207,313.00 through June 30, 2025. The ORFPD earmarked \$425,000 for the Fire Station #2 addition, which would provide living quarters at the station. Timing was critical due to the current extension expiring August 31, 2024.

Both parties have been involved in negotiations for several months through two representatives from the City Council (Councilors Mills and Baker) and two Rural Board Members (Chairperson Culbertson and Mike Derrick), and Addendum #13 was agreed upon by both parties on June 28, 2022. Chairperson Marty Culbertson signed Extension #3 of Addendum #13 at the ORFPD board meeting on August 8, 2024.

MILLS moved, MELENDREZ seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT EXTENSION #3 OF ADDENDUM #13 OF THE CONTRACT WITH THE ONTARIO RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #7-302.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-out; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Kirby-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Ordinance #2827-2024: Amend OMC 2-14 – Diversity Advisory Committee

Dan Cummings, City Manager, presented.

The Ontario City Council approved Resolution #2017-117 supporting community diversity and thereafter approved Ordinance #2728-2017 establishing a Diversity Advisory Committee under Title 2, Chapter 14 of the Ontario Municipal Code. There were later amendments made to portions of Title 2, Chapter 14 under Ordinance #2822-2023.

The Ontario Diversity Advisory Committee determined that some of the wording within Title 2, Chapter 14, of the Ontario Municipal Code needed to be amended, which could only be accomplished through an ordinance. The proposed changes included, among other changes, language allowing for the Council Liaison to be an alternate member, with voting rights, in the absence of regular full member, to create a quorum.

On August 21, 2024, the committee met but did not have a quorum to officially hold a meeting, but a discussion was started on ideas of how to deal with the issue of not meeting the quorum status to officially hold a meeting. One of the ideas was to make the Council Liaison a voting member. A consensus of those present was to have the City Manager recommend to the City Council that the Liaison be a voting member. It was not a recommendation to decrease the number of members on the Committee, but rather to make the Liaison a voting member in the absence of enough regular members so a quorum would be present.

MILLS moved, MELENDREZ seconded, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8.2(2) OF THE CITY CHARTER, THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE ORDINANCE #2827-2024, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #2728-2017, AMENDING TITLE 2, CHAPTER 14 OF THE ONTARIO MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING THE WORDS THAT ARE UNDERLINED IN THE ATTACHED ORDINANCE #2827-2024, AT A SINGLE MEETING BY TITLE ONLY. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-out; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Kirby-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

MELENDREZ moved, KIRBY seconded, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8.2(2) OF THE CITY CHARTER, THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE ORDINANCE #2827-2024, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #2728-2017, AMENDING TITLE 2, CHAPTER 14 OF THE ONTARIO MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING THE WORDS THAT ARE UNDERLINED IN THE ATTACHED ORDINANCE #2827-2024, AT A SINGLE MEETING BY TITLE ONLY. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-out; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Kirby-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES

Finance: Monthly

Kari Ott, Finance Director, presented.

Police: Quarterly

Mike Iwai, Police Chief, presented.

Councilor Bakefelt thanked Chief Iwai for his kind comments, but with regard to National Night Out, but it was a team effort. Many in the room worked on it or participated in some way, and she thanked them all for that. The police and fire officers did a great job, too.

Mayor Folden agreed National Night Out this year was a great success, and thanked everyone for being involved.

Councilor Mills asked if the stats provided included any type of moving vehicle violations?

Chief Iwai stated there were a couple related to vehicle thefts, a DUI, but traffic violations, no fines. What they had highlighted was citations in general. But no, nothing specific that gave a count on how many citations were issued.

Councilor Mills was asking predominately about speeding violations. Was that number available?

Chief Iwai stated he did not have that with him.

Councilor Mills asked if someone was arrested for vehicle theft, breaking and entering, vandalism, etc., were they arrested and held in Ontario PD, were they released, or were they taken to Malheur County?

Chief Iwai stated in most cases, it was Malheur County, mostly because of fingerprinting and photographing.

Councilor Melendrez asked with regard to HB 4002, the part where he said who chose what population was targeted. Was that the police department, Lifeways as a team, or who chose what population to target?

Chief Iwai stated they managed a committee, it was not up to the police department. They worked closely with Lifeways. He was trying to figure out where they could do it equitably. It was very difficult. He didn't want it to look like they were coming hard on the unhoused *because* they were unhoused. Taxpayers wanted reduced crime, and he was trying to do that with very limited resources. If he could hit a geographic area that was



engaging in a lot of criminal activity and they could utilize deflection there, that would be best. But, not everyone agreed. But they wanted to get to the folks that needed the help. But it had not been determined how that would be done, and he was seeking input from his lieutenants. Could that be done in the unhoused area? Absolutely. Was he going to get complaints the next day about targeting the unhoused area? Absolutely. Regardless, no matter what they did, someone would not be happy.

Councilor Melendrez asked when he went to the unhoused area, did he approach it with a team of professionals, too, or just police?

Chief Iwai stated right now, there was not enough staffing. Sheriff Johnson received \$150k, and Lifeways was huge in ensuring they received that grant, but the Sheriff received the money. They were overseeing the deflection piece because it was them that deflected them from the criminal justice system. But that could not be done alone. They needed to have qualified mental health professionals with them. The two largest entities involved was the Sheriff and Lifeways, but it occurred within the City of Ontario, so he had partnered with them and gave a lot of input. They provided education, and would not initially cite them. However, they'd be informed that October 1st, they would begin issuing citations, but did offer assistance, giving information on the deflection program and giving them a brochure, because they could also self-report.

Councilor Kirby asked about the status of residential opportunities Lifeways was working on.

Steve Jensen: *Right now, there are no facilities available; however, we have recently purchased a facility from Valley Family Health, that would enable us to retrofit it, making minor construction, to be able to provide, right now, what we're planning is for five respite beds that would enable us, to you, to bring people in and have them actually complete that respite stay, could be up to five, seven, ten days, those individuals that need that level of care. So that will be online within sixty to ninety days. And we are also, again, working a partnership with Chief Iwai in regard to providing additional staff that can be available with law enforcement to provide deflection services. There is a new grant cycle for *** health network grant that we will be applying for as well, and hopefully that will provide some funding for additional staff who will be able to work more closely with the Ontario Police Department. So, wish respite center are you referring to? So, the calming row is something that we're trying to, there is something within the State of Oregon, they're trying to establish more crisis stabilization centers, which is really a 23-hour observation unit. That's for those individuals that do not require any higher level of respite care, which would be up to, which would be an inpatient respite type situation. The 23-hour model is something that basically if somebody is, if somebody needs that short term to where we can stabilize them and refer them to additional outpatient services, that is a crisis stabilization center, which would be different from an actual respite enter that we are starting here in 60 to 90 days. That we also are trying to do something that will be available for those individuals that need just a two or three hour place to calm down. Many times, there are situations where individuals that are suffering from an acute episode, just need a place to where they can calm down, receive services from a case manager or from one of our peers, and then they are able to go back into, back home. That is a something we'll try to do at our peer center, or our actual main building to where we have a place where people can go and just basically create or e able to calm down and get back to where they are able to go home and get back into society. So, in the future, in the future, we're still looking at grant funding to be able to create a one-stop shop that would enable Lifeways to take people in on an urgent care situation. Our goal is to be able to have an actual urgent care walk-in center where somebody could walk in almost 24-7, and be able to receive services. And then they'd be able to be assessed. We'd be able to provide that immediate thing they need, whether it be 23-hour observation, we'd be able to provide that. If they need respite care, for up to five, seven, ten days, we'd be able to provide that. And if they needed long term services, we have that service available as well. So that is something we are working on. Our grant funding, we're still hoping that all of our grant funding comes through, so I'll just go ahead say if there is anybody that crosses fingers, what have you, continue to do that for us. If we hurry, we'll get these grants funds in. It will be very, very good for Malheur County. And I'm just, right now, we're working with the Governor's Office to be able to finalize something. I do not know, at this point there is no guarantee as far as what will come to us, but we are hopeful that we'll be able to exchange some grant funds and then begin some buildings that will provide additional respite, as well as additional that substance abuse treatment facility, so we're trying to create something in Eastern Oregon that will be, facilitate, a facility that will be able to be used for our residents for the next, for several years, and maybe even decades to come if we can get these grant funds in. Again, everything is just, all we can do is submit a piece of paper, and hope that it's acted upon, but*

that's where we are right now, just kind of waiting to see if our grants are approved. So, when they are, invite me back! And I'd love to be able to go ahead explain everything that we will be doing in Ontario. It will be pretty impressive. If, again, fingers crossed, a lot of other good stuff.

Councilor Hart stated Chief Iwai had mentioned the license plate recognition cameras to the Budget Committee, and Councilman Melendrez also raised another idea, which he supported, and would like them to explore further if there was consensus, about being able to put cameras in some of the city's most dangerous Ontario intersections to help with overall safety of the population. He knew the hospital was a specific area where there was a lot of redlight running, and at 4th and 4th by City Hall. There were a number of locations, so it would be interesting to see some data. Was that something that could be looked into to see if they could see what that might cost?

Chief Iwai stated yes. With the license plate readers, he heard from the insurance company that they'd recently awarded small amounts, like \$15k, towards the purchase of those readers, in Oregon. His hesitation was with regard to privacy issues. They'd have to be careful on how the system was utilized. But he would definitely do the research.

Councilor Hart asked for clarification or further explanation about his comments about the crime in Ontario as compared to Portland. He got concerned when he heard that. He didn't know if it was always an apples to apples comparison. He knew many times people would look at numbers of whatever that determination was based upon, and then it was applied to a bedroom community of 13k. Ontario was much bigger than that during the day. Ontario did have a crime value of a city of 40k, but that denominator was really important when doing that calculation. As someone who recruited all the time into this community, when they saw that, he always had a conversation with them about what that was. He had lived in this community for 20 years. He had been in Portland, and he'd been in Ontario, and he did not compare Portland and Ontario in any way in regard to his feeling on leaving his car, or someone breaking in. He wanted to clarify that because they needed to be careful because whatever was said here, it had to be gospel, especially when coming from the Police Chief. He wanted to know more about that statistic about the crime rate.

Chief Iwai stated per capita crime rate for Ontario, was off the charts. When they looked at different matrices for safe cities, Ontario, Oregon, rated extremely bad, like 97% of the area elsewhere in Oregon was safer to live. That was a significant problem. He did agree in that a lot of the crime being executed by criminals, were not from Ontario, they were from across the border. When splitting apples with apples, Portland had the same issue because of people coming from Vancouver. Portland was also a border community. Border communities typically had a higher crime rate because of the services provided. For Ontario, it was always going to be at a disadvantage because it provided a lot more social services than in Idaho. Per capita, there was a very high crime rate.

Councilor Hart said with the term "per capita", was that crime divided by 40k, or was that crime divided by 13k? If they took the crime of a city of 40k, which is what Ontario increased to during the day because of all the services, and the hospital or the school district, etc., that was not an accurate reflection because usually it was crime of "x" divided by 13k, and Ontario was not a city of 13k during the day, it was a hub. He suggested the Chief go back and review that, because per capita, absolutely, but that denominator in that calculation was not accurate because, he believed, it was how many people slept there at night, and that was not accurate as far as the size of Ontario. He wanted the Chief to be very careful when doing that.

Chief Iwai stated another variable he wanted the Council to consider was that when they were looking at the 5-year plan trying to get more police officers, he knew there was not a lot of non-discretionary time, because they were constantly responding to calls. And, the calls were complicated because they always surrounded some type of person crime. There was a huge crime issue in Ontario, and when he didn't have officers responding to calls solo, which was two or more officers responding, because of the propensity of the potential use of force or the nature of the call, was troubling. He asked that each Councilor ride along with an officer, anytime, but maybe Friday or Saturday night, for a few hours.

Councilor Hart stated he didn't want to belabor the point. Ontario needed a police force for the size of a city of 40k, but there was only a tax base of 13k, which was the biggest issue. The tax base and the service size did not line up. But, it was important to note that when the Chief put those stats out, no one would be able to recruit anyone, for anything. It might put more funds in the police budget, but it hurt the community when those comments were made that Ontario had a crime rate, which they'd all like to see lower, and they needed to have resources to support that 40k, but on a per capita basis, he did not believe it was an accurate reflection.

Public Works: Quarterly

Al Haun, Assistant Project Director, presented.

Councilor Kirby asked about the ramping on 5th, was that just going to be fill dirt?

Mr. Haun stated it was all structural fill. The contractor had been hauling in material, and would do the same thing on the opposite side. The lane was likely to be widened on the east side to allow for a turn lane, and for the straight line to be less congested.

Councilor Kirby asked if the utility pole would be moved out of the right of way on the south side?

Mr. Haun stated that utility pole would not be changed. It was within the right of way, and once the full street width was completed, it would still be in there.

Councilor Hart asked for an update on the flagpole.

Casey Mordhorst, Public Works Director, stated he had a price for the flagpole, and a price to remove the three trees from Lion's Park, but no price from the contractor. They hoped to have one soon. The tree removal came in about one-third of the cost estimated. They estimated around \$15k and it came in around \$5k.

Mr. Cummings stated staff was continuing to work with the service clubs, the Lion's, the Kiwanis, they were all trying to raise money to donate towards that cause. Those trees needed to be removed because of age and for safety reasons.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update: Unhoused Site

Clint Benson, Fire Chief, first voiced how impressed he was with the Boy Scout troop. They were well behaved, and he thanked them for attending.

Chief Benson continued that this was an update on the unhoused site regarding fire issues. There had been two fires there this year. June 15th, the fire started near 12th Avenue by an unknown individual, which burned to SE 18th Street, due to about a 20mph wind. The second fire on the 19th, was a make-shift shelter, which was under investigation. The fire in June was more worrisome as it was wind-driven; the fire last week was contained to the shelter. The department had been actively working with Jacobs, who had cut quite a bit of fire line, as much as they could with the equipment they had, and that helped a lot. If a fire did break, it helped keep it contained in some areas. His department had also been helping out in Sand Hollow, who had some bulldozers, and the driver needed some training, so he did some dozer work, but those two bulldozers had been running nonstop at fires all over the Northwest. When they slowed down, they'd work further on some field mitigation. His department had put in for a \$75K field mitigation grant through the State Fire Marshall's Office, and expected to hear back any time. Their chances looked good. It would be spent at the site to install more permanent fuel breaks and fire safety education for the people who lived there. He planned to work closely with Jacobs on that, as well. He also spoke with Mr. Shram, whose property that first fire ran across, and he had given permission to put fire breaks on his property, just south of that site. There were a lot of things in the works, and he was pleased so far, and was happy they'd only had what they'd had, and fingers crossed more rain would come. They were all working diligently to make that site as safe as possible.

Mr. Cummings suggested Chief Benson let them know about the resident Fire Chief on the site.



Chief Benson stated there was a gentleman on the unhoused site who took it upon himself, in fact, that first fire in June, he had worked through the night. The department gave him a headlamp and he worked all night keeping an eye on the fire since the wind was still kicking up. He called him the Fire Marshall, but he was keeping an eye on everything, all the time. He put himself at risk a little last time by speaking to the Fire Department and the Police Department, but he was keeping watch, and making sure people weren't starting fires. He told him he was going to recruit him. There were several folks out there that wanted to keep it safe, so that helped a lot.

HAND-OUTS

Department Stats

Public Works, Fire & Rescue, Police, Code Enforcement: July 2024

Minutes

County Court: 07/10/24, 07/17/24, 07/31/24, 08/07/24, 08/14/24; Airport Committee 07/01/24; Parks Committee 07/18/24

Check Register

July, 2024

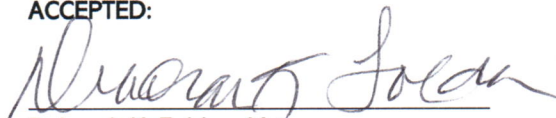
CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- Councilor Melendrez asked about the sign at the airport, which read "Greater Idaho", hanging on one of the hangars. He didn't know if it was city property or airport property, and while he respected everyone's political beliefs, was that a sign that was allowed on city property? He wanted to know if that was allowed or not. If someone could get back to him on that, he'd appreciate it.
- Councilor Melendrez thanked Chief Benson for the presentation on the unhoused site. He had been worried it would be a bad report, so it was good to hear differently, and it was great to have someone out there helping out on the fire situation. He was seeking an update on how the city was going to deal with things now due to the reversal of Boise v Martin. How was the city going to regulate that? Again, answers later would be fine.

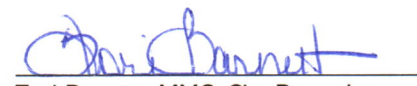
ADJOURN

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

ACCEPTED:


Deborah K. Folden, Mayor

ATTEST:


Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder

