



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES January 14, 2025

NO SOUND RECORDED UNTIL AMY KEE WAS SPEAKING UNDER PUBLIC COMMENTS*. UNTIL THAT POINT, TRANSCRIPTION TAKEN FROM CITY RECORDER NOTES.

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Deborah Folden at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Deborah Folden, Susann Mills, Ken Hart, John Kirby, Sam Baker, Penny Bakefelt, and Eddie Melendrez. Also present were incoming Councilors Michael Braden and Adrianna Contreras.

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

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

AGENDA

This Agenda was posted January 10, 2025. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

MILLS moved, BAKEFELT seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, AS AMENDED, WHICH CONSISTED OF THE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2024**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Melendrez-yes; Kirby-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karen Skow, Meridian, stated: *Madam Mayor and members of the City Council. My name is Karen Skow and I am the Executive Director of CASPR Rescue. CASPR stands for Canine and Special Pet Rehoming. Thank you for inviting us to this City Council meeting to introduce ourselves and give a brief overview of our rescue. We are a small nonprofit in this area, and we are based out of Weiser. We have been a rescue for about 7 - 8 years and have been a nonprofit for approximately 3 years. We are probably known more nationally than locally; however we are becoming more known in this area. We are one of the few rescues nationally that takes special needs animals as well as other animals. Because of this, we are often contacted by facilities across the United States to take a special needs dog. Our founder, Charlie, believes that every dog deserves a good life, no matter their circumstances. We serve about 16 counties in Idaho and Oregon. We go up to Orofino and down to the Nevada border. We attend events in the Boise area and hold adoptions over in that area as well. And west, we reach all the way to Burns. We hold adoption events in Burns a couple of times a year, and one of the vets over there uses us often for abandoned dogs. We are all volunteers, and we are foster-based only right now. We did take cats at one time, but we lost our cat housing, so we have put cats on hold for now as they are much harder to foster. We hope to be able to offer that service again as we know that there is a need for a cat facility on the Idaho side. The last several months we have been inundated with abuse cases. Animals that are in abuse situations are more expensive for us as they generally need more medical services. Law enforcement is our priority*



and will always be our priority. Those are the first calls we respond to. You may be surprised to learn that we also receive a lot of calls from lodging establishments in this area and we always respond to those calls too. Because we are foster-based only, we are often limited on what animals we can take. We recognize that this can be a problem for a community like Ontario, and as a rescue, it is not how we would like to respond. Another issue we have is funding. We do not have a steady income stream, but rather rely on the generosity of others for donations. This is now starting to catch up with us. Therefore, we have made the difficult decision to implement fees for taking dogs. We currently have a lot of puppies in foster that were taken from abuse situations. Puppies cost us a lot of money because they can't be adopted out for several months and they require a lot of vet services while they are young. Then of course we have food. We supply all the food for our dogs that are in foster as well as all other care they may need. Funding and fosters are a big need for us right now, but the most emergent need we have is a transport van. Our current van is just a mini-van and has several hundred thousand miles on it. That would be okay if we were sure it would make it most of the time, but in the hot summer when we need the air conditioning for the dogs, the van will vapor lock, and it always makes sure it does it on the freeway or on the tarmac of the airport as we are waiting for the plane of dogs to arrive. We have been looking for a transport van, but we are surprised at the price of even used ones and currently all our funding goes to the care of the dogs. As our services are requested more and more we know it is time for us to provide a facility. The Fruitland/Payette area seems to be a central location to our service area. However, again we have no funding for land or a building. In the next few weeks we will be hosting a community meeting in Ontario to discuss the scope of the issue in this community and to find out what resources we can offer. We will keep you apprised of that meeting date. Again, thank you for inviting us tonight to give a brief overview of our rescue and I can stand for questions if you would like.

****Amy Kee & Angela Hunt, Ontario, stated:** (no sound recorded until here in her presentation)...*the trapping, we're doing the best we can. Our adoptable cats, they get sponsored. We get a donation. I send them weekly pictures. They get to name them. So that helps towards their vetting, as well as their adoption fee. So at least it's covering some of their vetting. It doesn't cover all that we put into them, but, I mean, you know, we fund raise constantly, we have incredible supporters. TNR is our hardest thing to raise money for. People just don't understand it. I mean, it's not the warm, soft, fuzzy kitten that everyone wants to donate for. It's not the injured cat that everybody wants to fix it. TNR, I mean, you know, not everybody loves it. I mean, but, we're trying our best with the community cats. We just want people to be patient with us and realize that it's not just our problem. I mean, we fund raise constantly. I mean, and a lot of us spend money out of our own pockets too, I mean, to help run the project. So, I mean, if you don't think OFCP is doing enough, volunteer! I mean, we need you. We're exhausted. I mean, a lot of us are doing cat care six days a week, in addition to working, and having hordes of cats of our own, and husbands at home that wonder where in the hell we are. I mean, so, we're doing the best we can, but we need help. I mean, and we need the patience of people. We are, we've had a change in our vetting, and we think that we have found something that's really going to work great, and so hopefully we'll get right back to the trap/neuter/return because it's a critical part of what we do. Even though people don't find that it's warm and fuzzy, I mean, that's what stops the next generation of kittens. They start breeding at four months old. I mean, they're just babies, and so we've got to get out there and get them fixed before they start the breeding process, but we also, I mean, you know, in addition to the support of our community, it'd be really nice if we had some support of the city as well. I mean, I know you guys are strapped, I know everybody's asking for something from you, I mean, we get it, but we would always take support from the city as well. (Looking at Angela), what else do you have to add to it? I'm a talker, sorry.*

Angela Hunt: Well the main thing is we were wanting to defend the project in that we were seeing a lot of chatter...

Ms. Kee: We just see a lot of things on Facebook that more or less don't contact the Feral Cat Project, they won't do anything anyway. We're doing the best we can. If they don't think we're doing enough, come see us on Saturdays. We have adoption events every Saturday from 10 to 1. They can see the number of cats we have. I mean, we are doing all that we can.

John Breidenbach, Ontario, stated: *Good evening, Madam Mayor, Council. My name is John Breidenbach. I have run the Ontario area Chamber of Commerce, and these last two speakers are both members. We're happy to say that. And so I would like to start this evening by thanking Councilman Baker and Councilman Melendrez for your years of service here on City Council, and all that you have done, and I'd like to welcome back Michael Braden, Adrianna to the Council. It's going to be great. And, of course, the reelection of Councilman Kirby. So, I have a little video that I sent to Tori the other day, and we're hoping it's going to work. So, it's a rough draft of something that we're rolling out this spring through the Visitors & Conventions side with the Eastern Oregon Visitors Association, and I thought tonight was a real appropriate night to show it because it does feature Councilman Melendrez, and it's about Global Village, and then after the video, I'm also here tonight to talk about another item on the Agenda, which is the park. But I will sit back down after the video. Is there any questions? America's Global Village, as you know, is on the first Saturday of June. It's been going on for many years. Almost everybody in this room has been there at least one time, and even come up on stage. By the way, you're in the video too. You didn't know that. So, what we've done is with Eastern Oregon Visitors Association, we rolled out this last spring, or this last summer when they came to town, this video about Ontario, and they got grant money from Travel Oregon and they're using Saga Media out of Portland, and then the video people that did this are the same video people who I'd already known from the Oregon Trail one that I had done before. So, come this spring, we're going to roll this out statewide this spring, and we will be spending some of the TOT money on it, just so you know, so this is rough draft, and there is a mistake that I did not know until I was showing it to Councilman Kirby at my desk. I'd mentioned in here that it started as a fund raiser for the Four Rivers Cultural Center. Apparently, it started after that, but that I can't edit because that's me and I didn't have a script. Hopefully, everybody can see it. (Video played regarding America's Global Village). So I'll just, in closing, just say this is the first draft. I can't change the audio where I messed up on the fact that it's not a fundraiser for the Cultural Center, but I can keep the fact that it is how the Ontario area Chamber celebrates the diversity in our community. It does not have the call to action yet, it doesn't have the date and all that stuff, but I asked the producer if I could please add it this evening so I could thank the Councilors that are going out for supporting it, and while you're welcoming the new Councilors they can see something that we do. So, thank you very much. And these two lovely ladies right here who didn't even know they were in the video; they're the big reason that we started the Citizenship Ceremony three years ago. We've done three now, and so we thank them too, and that's something that we're really proud of and we're going to keep doing. In fact, that last time that we won a statewide ovation award for Global Village is because we added that, and that was the year we beat out Cinco De Mayo in Salem, and I'm always going to put that feather in my hat. Thank you.*

Sue Boldman, Ontario, stated: *Hello everyone on here. I live here in Ontario, and I just came to ask for a copy of the city budget. I asked downstairs one day, and they told me they didn't know how to print it out. Well, that's understandable, but I left them my phone number and they said they would get back to me and I waited a week, and I called to see if they had figured it out yet, and they said no, but they forwarded me to a person, and I get a voice mail and I left my name and phone number, and I have just been completely ignored. Is there any way that I can get just a copy of the city budget? (Ms. Barnett provided a copy of the budget that night to Ms. Boldman immediately following her request)*

SPECIAL ACTION

Recognizing Outgoing City Councilors: Sam Baker and Eddie Melendrez

Dan Cummings, City Manager, presented Sam Baker and Eddie Melendrez with plaques of appreciation from the City of Ontario for their service as City Councilors January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024.

Casey Mordhorst, Public Works Director, presented Sam Baker and Eddie Melendrez with plaques of appreciation from Jacobs for their service as City Councilors, and for their work with the Public Works Department.

Swear in City Councilors: John Kirby, Michael Braden, and Adrianna Contreras

Tori Barnett, City Recorder, swore Michael Braden, Adrianna Contreras, and John Kirby into office as City Councilors.



Election of Council President

Tori Barnett, City Recorder, conducted the election of the Council President position.

Susann Mills nominated John Kirby to continue as Council President. Ken Hart nominated Penny Bakefelt for Council President. There were no other nominations, so the nomination section was closed, and voting was called for.

Election of Council President vote: Hart: for Bakefelt; Mills for Kirby; Kirby: for Kirby; Contreras: for Bakefelt; Braden for Bakefelt; Bakefelt: for Bakefelt; Folden for Bakefelt. Penny Bakefelt was elected Council President.

Councilor Kirby thanked the Council for the last two years. It had been an honor to serve as Council President, not only for getting to run the meetings in the absence of the Mayor, but also being able to attend the agenda prep meetings twice a month. He welcomed Councilor Bakefelt to the position as their new Council President.

OLD BUSINESS**Ordinance #2831-2024: Annexation of 6.958 Acres of Properties on Assessor's Map 18S47E33 and Rezoning from Urban Growth Area Light Industrial to City Light Industrial (Final Reading)**

Tatiana Burgess, Planning Director, presented.

MILLS moved, KIRBY seconded, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8.2(2) OF THE CITY CHARTER, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE ORDINANCE #2831-2024, AN ORDINANCE PROCLAIMING THE ANNEXATION AND REZONE OF 6.958 ACRES OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTIES FROM UGA LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (UGA I-1) TO CITY LIGHT INDUSTRIAL ZONE (CITY I-1) AS SET FORTH IN ACTION 2024-10-13AZ, ON SECOND READING BY TITLE ONLY. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-no; Kirby-yes; Contreras-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/1/0.

Recreation District/Aquatic Center: New Swimming Pool IGA

Dan Cummings, City Manager, presented.

The Ontario Recreation District was requesting ownership of an additional portion of land at the Ontario Lions Park for construction of a new outdoor swimming pool. The City of Ontario deeded a portion of the Lions Park area containing the existing Ontario Aquatic Center and Recreation Building, to the Ontario Recreation District for use by the District for recreational purposes.

At the November 12, 2024 Council meeting, members of the District gave an update on the pool project and presented their request. The Council did not take action, but requested the District meet with the City Manager to work out some details of the proposal.

The existing facilities were short in needed parking, and the new splash pad was allowed to be constructed and opened without any additional parking due to the existing pool being closed.

It was decided that it might be more cost-effective to build a new outdoor pool than to convert the existing indoor pool (which had been closed down) into an outdoor pool, which would require the demolition of the building structure around the pool area. To build a new outdoor pool in a new area, more land was being requested by the Recreation District. With the proposal for the pool to be reopened or a new pool being constructed, new parking spaces were required either at the time of pool construction or remodeling of the existing pool.

Staff worked with the District and drafted an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to address the requests for the new pool area, which included addressing the new parking stalls, at the December 10, 2024, Council meeting, but was a tied vote, resulting in a failed action.

The District was informed they could bring the request back to the January 14, 2025, Council meeting for reconsideration and suggested they meet with staff to ensure conformance to city codes.



He then reached out by email to Andrew Maeda and Megan Cook, members of the District, after the meeting and suggested they meet to discuss their plans. On January 8, 2025, he received an email from Andrew Maeda indicating that at the Recreation Board meeting on Monday January 6, 2025, they approved the IGA that was presented at the Council meeting on December 10, 2024; however, that IGA had failed to pass by the City Council.

To ensure the parking requirements for the facility were clear to everyone, he asked the Planning Director to calculate the required parking spaces as per code. Those findings, via a memo, were distributed to the Council, and shown below (w/out maps included).

*To: Dan Cummings, City Manager, From Tatiana Burgess, Planning Director, 12-31-2025:
You requested that the Planning Department comment on minimum parking requirements for Ontario Recreation District on the following uses: Existing recreation center and pool; Existing Recreation District's office; Existing tennis court; Existing skate park; Existing splash pad; New outdoor pool area; and Use of existing pool area as a gym. The minimum required parking is contingent on the useable space and the proposed use. All customer parking must be contained onsite. Employee parking may be allowed off-site. A minimum of one handicapped space must be designed for every 25 regular parking spaces.*

Use	Square footage	Square footage source	Minimum parking (rounded up to the nearest one number)	Parking per section code criteria
Existing recreation center and pool	Main pool – 3,672 sq. ft.	Sheet PL 110 of 1/23/23 Plans	37	1 per each 100 sq. ft. of gross floor area or public space as per OMC 10A-57-75(14)
	Training pool – 715 sq. ft.	Sheet PL 120 of 1/23/23 Plans	8	
	Rec. center – 9,958 sq. ft.	Sheet C 1.00 of 1/23/23 Plans	100 + 1 per employee	1 per each 100 sq. ft. of assembly space plus 1 per each employee as per OMC 10A-57-80(4)
Existing Recreation District Office	~2,320 sq. ft., excluding the covered storage area	GIS measuring tool	8	1 per each 300 sq. ft. of gross floor area as per OMC 10A-57-75(15)
Existing tennis court	~12,000 sq. ft.	GIS measuring tool	8	4 per court, as consistent with other jurisdictions. Not defined in OMC
Existing skate park	~8,300 sq. ft.	GIS measuring tool	28	1 per each 300 sq. ft. of gross floor area as consistent with other jurisdictions. Not defined in OMC

Existing splash pad	~20,000 sq. ft.	GIS measuring tool	60	3 per each 1000 sq. ft. of splash pad area as consistent with other jurisdictions. Not defined in OMC
New outdoor pool area	9,100 sq. ft.	2024 Lion's Park Master Plan	91	1 per each 100 sq. ft. of gross floor area or public space as per OMC 10A-57-75(14)
Use of existing pool as gym	Main pool – 3,672 sq. ft.	Sheet PL 110 of 1/23/23 Plans	37	1 per each 100 sq. ft. of gross floor area or public space as per OMC 10A-57-75(14)
	Training pool – 715 sq. ft.	Sheet PL 120 of 1/23/23 Plans	8	
	Rec. center – 9,958 sq. ft.	Sheet C 1.00 of 1/23/23 Plans	100	

A new IGA would not be developed until the Council determined which direction they would like to go, and provided direction to the City Manager. All costs associated with this request would be covered by the Recreation District. The District wanted an answer quickly so a new design plan could be developed, and the project put back out to bid.

Councilor Mills stated it was brought up when she met with Andrew Maeda that he thought that they could use off street parking from other businesses, and she asked Mr. Cummings to explain that.

Mr. Cummings stated the city code did not allow the counting of offsite parking, except if they had offsite parking used by their employees. It could not be used as a count for customers. For example, if they had a parking lot across the street, by the city's code, only employees would be allowed to use it. That was not to say they couldn't make a deal with someone and utilize it, but the city could not count those spaces. If they could purchase a piece of offsite property, to be included in the District, that was different.

Councilor Mills stated if the pool was relocated, wasn't there some type of drainage field that had to be associated with that, and would that take up more of the park?

Mr. Cummings stated where they were planning the new pool area, the concrete around the pool would shed off and hopefully go into the same drainage swell that was on the west side of the splash pad. The engineers would have to calculate if that added hard surface area to ensure the pond was large enough. If it wasn't, that would have to be increased. They would have the ability to add onto that if needed, without having to come back the Council asking for another little piece of ground. It's pretty deep, and he hadn't noticed if it had ever been full, so there was probably capacity as it currently existed. With the parking lots, they would have to deal with that. The strip parking along the houses could be tapered easily, and the water just shed into the grass. Reconstructing and adding to the existing park, the District would need to figure out the drainage and the hard surface there.

Councilor Kirby stated he had been approached by a citizen who asked him why not just get rid of all the parking requirements in the city, so he'd like Mr. Cummings to comment on that.

Mr. Cummings stated that indicated that person knew nothing about development. Parking requirements were there so that a developer did not build something for his customers, without providing parking, causing those people to park on someone else's property. Each business had to be required to install their own parking, so they were not abusing their neighbors. Not providing parking would be a disaster for Ontario.

Councilor Contreras said with regard to the splash pad, was the parking adequate for that?

Mr. Cummings stated no. When the splash pad was constructed, the pool was closed. Previous city administration decided not to address the parking for the splash pad because they could use the pool parking stalls. However, when the pool itself was constructed, not enough parking had been included. At that time, it was said the city would address the parking when the pool was ready to be reopened, which is right where they were out now. That was the agreement.

Councilor Hart stated he would ask the Council to begin thinking about that as they approached the budget season. It would benefit Global Village. In the near future, he hoped the softball group would finish their project, and for softball games and tournaments, there would be tons of cars in that area. Mesa Park in Fruitland was a perfect example. The city was going to continue having parking issues even without a new gym. He voiced his appreciation for Mr. Cummings working with the Rec District. That was their role as a city. There had to be rules and regulations, but they also needed to use common sense to provide the best benefit to the most citizens. The city had already committed \$250,000 in taxpayer funds to help reopen the pool, so this was something the city could do. If they voted that evening, he would be in support of moving forward.

Mr. Cummings stated for clarity about the parking lot they were discussing; he was not proposing the city deed that to the Rec District. That would be a shared parking lot for the Rec District and the city park. The only piece of ground they were talking about, if they constructed the pool, was that large area just north of the existing center. The city would maintain ownership of that strip parking. The Rec District owned the existing parking lot and the rec building, but what they were asking for was that square footage just north of the splash pad.

Councilor Kirby asked if the Council chose to give the District the pool site in the middle of the grass, there was still a building sitting there that once housed the aquatic center. The District mentioned a gymnasium, and a conceptual meeting was held with some members of the city, but it had never come to Council. He believed there would need to be an agreement that it be razed to the ground, or if they changed the nature of the building to maybe a warehouse, they'd have to know what the parking requirements would be for that. The temptation would be that there was a perfectly good building sitting there, so it needed to be used.

Mr. Cummings stated to be clear, and on the record, they could not put a gym in the existing area without coming back to the city and addressing the parking that was required for that. In the IGA, staff allowed them to use that area strictly for equipment storage. They also wanted to use it for training and some fundraising. They were aware that there had never been a gymnasium approved by the city or citizens. When the District wanted to install the gym, they would have to get the funding and address parking with the city. He was putting the District and the city on notice that, by city code, to allow the construction of a gym, the District would have to ask the city to commit the entire south half of the park to the Recreation District for parking. He was unsure if a gym would even work there. However, at this time, they were not proposing a gym, even though it kept coming up. And, the city was on record by telling the District they would not be able to construct a gym in there without addressing more parking. Anything the District did there, other than what was agreed to in the IGA, of using it for storage and rec business, anything else they'd have to come to the city and pull building permits and deal with the parking. In the past, that had not been put on record, but it was now. The District could not build a gym there without coming to the city and dealing with the parking, for a gymnasium or any other major use of that existing building.

Mr. Breidenbach asked, according to a specific slide, the parking, which he was in favor of, was that going to reroute the one gazebo that was on the side?

Mr. Cummings stated no. It was one-way, angled parking. The existing parking lot was one-way, and the restructuring would also be one-way.

Mr. Breidenbach stated when this first came up, he was asked by the Council and the audience what they felt, as the Chamber of Commerce and the events sponsored and put on at the park, and they indicated they could live with that because the outdoor pool was very much wanted by the citizens, and it would bring in visitors. Currently, many Ontario residents went to Vale or Payette to swim, so they were in favor of the pool. The situation then became talk of a gymnasium. A comment had been made, in cheek, that the city could just

donate the entire park. They were not okay with that. He met with the President of Revitalize Ontario, and they were going to try to expand their car show next year, which was exactly where the new pool proposal was. Regarding Global Village and the Highland Games, they could live with it because they had food vendors back there, and they tried to stay in the trees for the shade. He was prepared to testify against giving away the park, but he was now back to where they were before. If this was the plan, they were okay with it; but, if they were going to take the entire south side of the park, there were so many things that could be done with that end of the park. For the parking lot related to the splash park, what he saw was that parents dropped their kids off and left. However, regarding the entire park, the parents that did stay used the front gazebo or they went to the shade by the drainage pond, watching their kids through the fence. That parking would be good. With Global Village and the Tater Tot Festival, there was obviously not enough parking. He believed that the Chamber of Commerce could support the Global Village and this plan, as long as this was the plan, and they didn't build their gym and have to have all those parking spots.

Mayor Folden stated if they were to include the gym and have the parking take up all the park, people would be so angry. She didn't know anyone who would vote for that.

Mike Pratt, Lions Club President, stated: *We've had a prior discussion with Dan when the extension of the parking north-south on the east side and the redoing the inner loop with slight extension, was fine with us. I'm also Chairman of the Parks Committee, and we've got some pending grant applications out there, which the emphasis is on upgrading and greening the city. And we would have to totally do away with those pending grants, which is several million dollars, accessible. Councilor Braden has been working on them very extensively and part of it is forestation, regreen, with redoing our trees in the city and going to that half south of the park, you're eliminating a good share. The trees in Lions Park have aged, and so we've been looking, pushing hard for grants to replace those trees. Some are nearly 80 years old, and they are dangerous, and parks and the city are well aware of it, so we have a liability, the city has a liability if we don't take care of it. But, the extension of the pool proposed on that end is fine with us, but taking the south end of that park, yeah, we're limiting that park being where it is, is so central to town. We use that in our grant applications, noting how busy that unit is compared to the other parks. If another option, instead of putting a pool there, take it out to the north, Beck-Kiwanis is an option. Cost, we don't know, but that park is under-utilized in a lot of places. Andrew has been working hard on the baseball fields out there, which, for note, the Lions Park put those, the Lions Club put those ballfields in way back when. We kind of stepped on his toes when we did that, but the Kiwanis north park, they're working hard on trees, as Lanterman Park is also, we're working together, all the clubs and the Parks Committee to put in grants, in seeking grant money, so....Sandy Shelton here from the Council on Aging for everybody's information, is working to centralize all of the entities that have an interest in grants and she's got a lot of sources for grant funding, they've got a couple of great grant writers we have in town, so we're trying to get a central point, hey, if we're looking for money, go to the Council on Aging. Sandy is working hard to get everybody to have a contract, essentially, of understanding, to cooperate, but anyway, back to this, with the north side as proposed, we can deal with it.*

Mr. Breidenbach stated there was also Hands Around the Park, and also the Farmworker's Appreciation Day on a Sunday, which brought in three to four hundred people. Most of all of that happened on the north end. They really needed to keep that park intact the best they could, but also have a pool.

Mr. Pratt: *We've seen, economic wise, that the usage, economic usage for the Chamber's projects and everything, is astronomical for what it does for the city, compared to what the income would not be with the pool. Thank you.*

Mayor Folden stated that since the city had removed the dog park, it added more public area for park usage.

Mr. Pratt: *We're going to keep the fence up there, possibly extend it on the west side or more, down maybe to the sidewalk.*

Mr. Breidenbach stated travelers still thought it was a dog park, and continued to stop.

Mr. Cummings stated they were still welcome to use the park, it just wasn't concentrated. It closed because users refused to clean up after their dogs, and it became a health issue. If people would pick up after their animals, it wouldn't be an issue.

Councilor Mills stated she needed to express that when the funds were given for the pool, it was to revamp the existing pool, not to build another pool, not to let it sit there for the next five years, that's Andrew Maeda's words, that's how long it would take them to get funding. She asked what they would do with that building, and he said it would sit there empty. Also, he talked about first, removing the tennis courts. She did not know how much those were actually used, but they were used a lot when her kids were in school, but he talked about how they'd just resurface them when she mentioned that it would be pretty costly if that hadn't been already figured in. The reason, at the time, had nothing to do with parking, but had to do with the fact that they were going to use a crane to remove the walls around the old pool, and that they'd have to set it on the existing tennis courts, and she asked why they couldn't place the crane on the parking lot so as not to ruin the tennis courts, and while he provided an answer, she hadn't been satisfied with it. She had been to functions in the park, and it was full. The last people she spoke with, the Tater Tot people, a lot of them there said they wished there was more room. There was a kid's playground there, and while they could remove the dog park and have a little more room, but if they installed the pool and all the required parking, they were taking away the area for the best functions for this city. Maybe she didn't attend all the baseball games or soccer games in all the other parks, but she knew that this particular park held the largest functions. She lived just a little ways away, and she agreed that parking was an issue, but the more they built, the more parking would be required, and the more the District was going to come back to the city asking for more park property. The Council had allotted \$250K to be used when the existing pool was revamped. According to Andrew Maeda, the District was \$780K short. They already had the engineering for the existing pool to be revamped, but now they wanted to add in funds for new engineering for an outside pool. It wasn't so much what they wanted to do other than she didn't like a building just sitting there, as stated by Andrew Maeda, for the next five years, because it was going to take the District at least that long to get the funding. When she attended the groundbreaking, it was stated then that the District would have enough funds for the pool, and the pool would be done by the end of the year, and open in the spring. That did not happen. The Council gave the District not only \$250K, but they increased the Transient Occupancy Tax by 1%, and gave the District 75% of that 1% being collected. She thought to herself, now they had a grant, and they had people who had donated. Then she asked about the bids. Mr. Maeda explained, at the time, there were 17 bids received. She thought if those bids came in before the groundbreaking, why didn't the District go out for new bids. They might come in lower. But the statement given by Mr. Maeda was that those existing bids were a lot higher because they had to get bonding and licensing. She told him that a good contractor was bonded and licensed when they took on a project like this. After she said that, he said that some subcontractors might not be bonded or licensed. She told him that when a regular contractor got a subcontractor, they were responsible for those subcontractors, for injuries or whatever, if that subcontractor wasn't bonded or licensed. She felt that all of this didn't make any difference to her, other than they were taking up more space in the park, and it was not going to end there, and they were going to leave an empty building there for the next five years, which, to her, the whole idea of the citizens of this town wanted, to begin with, was for the District to get the old pool open. Whether they opted to tear it down to build an outdoor one, or revamped the existing one, that was the idea. She was very much against this action. Then, the new gym hit the Council one night at a meeting, and she didn't think anyone on the Council knew about it. So now the District wanted to build a gym, and the first information the District gave the Council was that they wanted to take all of the park from the memorial, which was right up by the splash pad, clear to 9th Street. That's a lot of park. When she discussed it with Mr. Maeda and Megan Cook, Megan told her that she had presented that wrong, that was not correct, so Ms. Cook corrected that. But, she felt like yes, it would be great to have a gym, but she thought they needed the pool. She didn't think they needed the gym at this time. There were two schools in the 8C school district that were closed but had gyms, and usually the gyms in the open schools, until it could be afforded, was where she was headed, maybe a different location, she was stating they needed to put the gym aside, finish the pool, as was recommended or what the citizens believed was going to be done to begin with, and be able to afford it. She felt \$780K was nothing compared to what it was going to cost when they were done with all of this. It was a lot of money, a lot of permits, a lot of revamping, more engineering, taking down trees, moving the memorial, and taking up more of the park for parking. She didn't want to be negative, but she wasn't for this for the reasons she provided.

Councilor Kirby stated leaving that empty building there was too big a temptation. He agreed with Councilor Mills, and would probably come across very negatively, and he was indeed negative for the District changing their strategy. The District should stick to their guns and do what they said they were going to do to begin with. This was a very small taxing district, and he had attempted to get on their website to see what their actual tax revenue was. A typical recreation district provided programs for most youth, sometimes adults, which was why the gyms would be used, but the District needed to keep their money for programing. Once they purchased and set up a building, they would be taking money away from their ability to offer programs to the youth. They did not need a building. A pool was going to cost a lot of money to run, and their share of the TOT was going to help them. These were good, solid citizens, but he thought they lost their vision. They, as citizens, needed to say "you presented us with a vision that we bought into, and we appreciate. Stick to your guns, rebid it, if you're short money, go raise it."

Councilor Braden stated he analyzed this situation and found himself in the vocal minority as he was a proponent of the IGA. His logic was that the District had an elected board that represented the public faith and trust, just as the Council did. Every two to four years, they elected board members. They were looking at a monumental task of building a pool that the city was unable to provide to the community. The District approached the Council with what he considered a simple, initial request of an IGA that allowed them a promise of deed for potentially more land, which was relatively small, and the Lions Club supported it, and John from the Chamber supported it if they stuck with the plan. That was the IGA in front of the Council. All of the future speculation about parking/gym/empty building was a concern that was the primary concern and function of their elected board. The request before him was could he sign off on the IGA to let them investigate, to look at an alternative plan? He said yes.

HART moved, BRADEN seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE STAFF RECOMMENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA) BETWEEN THE CITY OF ONTARIO AND THE ONTARIO RECREATION DISTRICT AS PRESENTED WITH NO AMENDMENTS AT TONIGHT'S MEETING, AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT.** Roll call vote: Mills-no; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Kirby-no; Contreras-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 5/2/0.

Mayor Folden stated the IGA before them was the one where they were not going to be using a large portion for parking. It was just for putting in the outdoor pool. She wanted everyone to be aware of that. Were they going to discuss the city deeding a portion of Lions Park, or was this strictly for the IGA?

Mr. Cummings stated this was just for the IGA. The IGA had a section that read if they built a pool there, the city would deed that land, but only after they started building the pool.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Liaison Appointments

Tori Barnett, City Recorder, presented.

After discussion, the following Council Liaison appointments were made:

- Airport - Hart
- Audit - Folden, Braden, Mills
- Business Loan Fund - Kirby, Braden
- CLGC/Façade Grant - Bakefelt
- Diversity - Contreras
- Ontario Promise - Hart, Bakefelt
- Parks - Braden
- Planning Commission - Mills
- Public Works - Kirby
- V&C - Contreras



Appointments to City Boards, Committees, and Commission

Tori Barnett, City Recorder, presented.

With Council consensus, Mayor Folden appointed the following applicants:

Airport – Gary Taylor, Charlotte Hatch

Budget – David Sullivan, Lee Newman

BLF – Darin Bell

DAC – Daniel Liera-Huchim

Parks – Tyler Whitaker

Planning – Tyler Whitaker, John Breidenbach, James Grissett, William Ecret

V&C – Bob Quinn, Terry Dols

Appointments were effective immediately, and Ms. Barnett would update committee rosters and notify the appointed individuals.

Resolution #2025-102: Section 3 Plan Adoption re: CDBG

Dan Cummings, City Manager, presented.

The United States Congress passed Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, 12 U.S.C. 1701u, Section 3, to further the goal of ensuring that federal funds benefitted the residents of projects funded wholly or in part by those funds. Part 75 of Section 3 was to establish the standards and procedures to be followed to ensure that the objective of Section 3 was met.

As part of the Community Development Block Grant the city was awarded for the secondary river intake, the city needed to adopt a Section 3 Plan. This Plan centered around how the city and local contractors would make good faith efforts to hire low-income workers for construction projects, and not just for this project. The city previously adopted a Section 3 Plan in 2016, but in 2021, the requirements were tweaked, necessitating the need to adopt the new Plan. This Plan would supersede the previous Part 75, Section 3 Plan.

City staff developed a Section 3 Plan in adherence to 24 CFR, Part 75, that more comprehensively addressed the standards and procedures prescribed in the Act. The Section 3 Plan was reviewed by the City of Ontario's senior staff members and their comments incorporated into the Plan.

There was no direct cost to the city to update this code, other than staff time. This code needed to be updated to meet the requirements of the current approved CDBG for the Ontario water system upgrades as soon as possible.

BRADEN moved, MILLS seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION #2025-102, A RESOLUTION UPDATING PART 75 OF SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1968 TO MEET CURRENT STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS, AND DESIGNATE THE CITY MANAGER AS SECTION 3 COORDINATOR FOR THE CITY.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Kirby-yes; Contreras-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

HAND-OUTS**Monthly Department Stats**

Public Works and Fire & Rescue

Minutes

Airport 12-02-2024

Packet

V&C Jan 2025



CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

*Councilor Braden stated with regard to stepping back onto the Council, two years ago he lost an election, and he had to say goodbye. It was very difficult when you bought into the city, to the team, the camaraderie of the Council, and getting to know staff and the inner workings. He wanted to express his appreciation for Eddie Melendrez and Sam Baker, and what they contributed for four years, two of which he had worked with them, and two years he was sitting in a different chair or sitting at home on Facebook watching. They were bought in, they were hard working, they were sharing of their time, which was often under-thanked. People didn't understand all of the work that went into it, but their peers really did. He was thankful that he had both of them as peers. Thank you, Sam and Eddie.

*Councilor Hart stated he took a training a few weeks ago, and had passed on some information to Tori. He had taken it as a member of Treasure Valley Community College Board, related to Public Meetings and Public Meetings Law, and believed that everyone on the Council would have to.

Ms. Barnett stated it was now a requirement for the Council to take the training.

Councilor Hart stated it was very interesting and the number one thing he had taken away from that training was being in compliance with public meetings laws was not Tori's responsibility, or Dan's responsibility, it was the Council's responsibility. If they violated or saw someone else violating, the Council should be the ones to speak up. Hat's off to Tori. So many of the things that the presenters said were best practices, the Council already did, whether at a committee level or the full Council, so he didn't find anything where the Council was not in compliance. He sent Tori a couple notes and asked about a couple things, and she was quick to respond. He believed the Council was in great hands. However, everyone had to take that exciting training.

*Tori Barnett handed out the budget calendar to the Council, as prepared by Finance Director Kari Ott.

*Ms. Barnett piggybacked off Councilor Hart's comments regarding training. It was now required by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission. If the Council, or Councilor, did not attend, there would be a fine, and the city could not pay the fine, it had to come from the Councilor. She was working with OGE to solidify a training date, but was being told it was out to April already. She requested whatever worked best, either all at one time together, or individually Zooming in. There would also be certain staff required, as well as members of the Planning Commission. She'd let them know when she received a date and time.

*Ms. Barnett drew their attention to the wall where the Mayor pictures used to hang. It was now adorned with the flag that came back with the Councilors who traveled to the city's sister city Osakasayama, and staff had it framed. They then grabbed some items from other walls in City Hall, hung them up, and designed a nice arrangement. There was just recently a letter received from the Mayor of Osaka, and the President of the Sister City Association, thanking the city for the relationship with Ontario. The letter was written in Japanese and English, so staff framed it in a double frame so both letters could be seen, and then added it to the arrangement. She voiced her thanks to Corinna Hysell and Jay Hysell for their help in putting this all together. She encouraged them all to stop and take a look at the wall.

Councilor Braden stated he read it earlier that night, and it was inspiring, and he was grateful it was sent.

*Councilor Mills commented on the devastating fires in California. That was so unexpected by their communities, and they were not prepared. Mother Nature stepped in and sped things up, and it was still throwing fits in those communities. It fell upon this Council to make sure their community was ready for any type of devastation, any emergency. She spoke with Fire Chief Benson a little, and she wanted to speak with Police Chief Cooper, too. She thought this city needed to be prepared for something that might happen like that, and know that the citizens would be ready. All that could be done, she didn't know, but when there was a devastation like that, they would run out of water, run out of help, and it was horrifying. Some of them didn't even have time to pick up anything in their homes, they just had to run. She didn't want to see this community in that situation. She wanted them to be ready for anything that could happen. She wanted to work with both Council and staff to make sure we're covered.



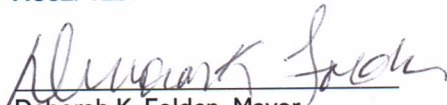
Mr. Cummings thanked the Council for allowing Public Works and the city to obtain a grant to upgrade the city's water system, to build new water tanks, so Ontario was prepared for that type of incident. The city was already preparing for that. They were still working on getting the funding in place. The City of Ontario was preparing for any kind of disaster, and the Police and Fire Departments were staying on top of things.

*Chief Benson stated the Council should have received a copy of the Community Risk Assessment, sent via email. They were hoping to have the presentation done at the February 11, 2025, meeting. It would be a joint meeting between the Council and the Rural Board. He encouraged them to preview the document, and to ask any questions prior to the meeting, or after. He would make himself available. He thanked them for supporting the project.

ADJOURN

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

ACCEPTED:


Deborah K. Folden, Mayor

ATTEST:


Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder