



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES February 11, 2025

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Deborah Folden at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Deborah Folden, John Kirby, Penny Bakefelt, Michael Braden, and Adrianna Contreras. Ken Hart was excused; Susann Mills arrived at 6:30pm.

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

Also present were Monty Culbertson, Mike Derrick, Joe Davis, and Brandon Coley, representing the Rural Fire District Board, who were in attendance to hear the presentation on the 2025 Community Risk Assessment Standard of Cover.

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

AGENDA

This Agenda was posted February 7, 2025. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

KIRBY moved, BAKEFELT seconded, **TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. Roll call vote: Mills-out; Braden-yes; Hart-out; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

CONSENT AGENDA

HART moved, MILLS seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, AS AMENDED, WHICH CONSISTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 14, 2025, AND JANUARY 28, 2025**. Roll call vote: Mills-out; Braden-yes; Hart-out; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

PRESENTATION

2025 Community Risk Assessment Standard of Cover

Clint Benson, Fire Chief, introduced Richard Curtis, Senior Project Manager, Emergency Services Consulting International, who would be making the presentation.



2025 Community Risk Assessment & Standard of Cover

Ontario Fire Department



CRA/SOC

- A Community Risk Assessment (CRA)
 - Identify community hazards,
 - Evaluate vulnerabilities and gaps,
 - Formulating strategies to improve community safety.
- The Standard of Cover (SOC)
 - Optimize resources
 - Evaluate against National Standards/Best Practice
- Outcome
 - Identify gaps
 - Inform community leaders so in order to determine level of risk for their residents.

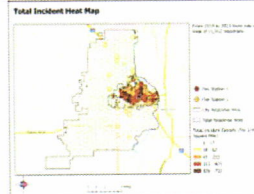
Community Risk

Population

Area	Square Miles	2024 Population	City Pop. Sub
City	6.08	12,073 (79%)	4,587
Rural	50.93	3,297 (21%)	494
Combined	57.01	15,370	5,081

Incident Data

City Boundary	Rural District	Outside of Boundary
Mean: 10,465	Mean: 1,437	Mean: 298
64%	12%	3%



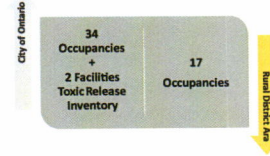
Community Risk

Target Hazards

- Petroleum Products
- Chemicals
- Asphalt & Concrete Compounds
- Pesticides and Herbicides
- Fertilizers
- Detergents and Cleaning Agents

Freeway & Highways

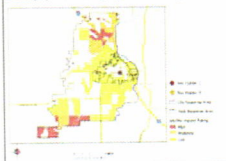
- Interstate 84
- US Route 30
- Oregon Route 201
- Freight Rail



Community Risk

Wildland Urban Interface

Ontario (OR) Wildfire Hazard (Oregon State University)



Brush, Grass, Etc. (NFBIS 140-149) Incident Heat Map



RECOMMENDATIONS

Review 8 of the 14 Recommendations

JOINT GOVERNANCE

Recommendation:

Jointly govern the Ontario Fire Department's services and operations.

- Joint governance can streamline operations, reduce duplication of efforts, and ensure a unified approach to fire services across the city and rural fire district.
- Policy decisions based on entire service area.
- Increases administrative efficiency and policy implementation.



REDUCE FLEET

Recommendation:

Consider reducing the fire apparatus fleet between the City of Ontario and ORFPD to enhance cost efficiency.

- The combined fleet is larger than necessary due to each entity maintaining separate apparatus.
- Reducing the fleet can lower costs related to insurance, maintenance, and repairs, and reduce the need for capital expenditures for new apparatus.

REDUCE FLEET

Category	Unit Number	Ownership	Score	Score Context
Brush	102	City	16	Excellent
Brush	136	Rural	18	Good
Brush	137	Rural	22	Good
Command	105	City	6	Excellent
Engine	Rescue 1	City	9	Excellent
Engine	Engine 101	City	36	Immediate Replacement
Engine	Engine 103	City	19	Excellent
Engine	155	Rural	28	Immediate Replacement
Quint	tower 199	City	24	Immediate Replacement
Support	125	City	36	Immediate Replacement
Tender	159	Rural	21	Good
Tender	158	Rural	3	Excellent
UTV	151	City	10	Excellent

INCREASE FF FORCE

Recommendation

Increase the fire department's 24-hour minimum staffing from two to six firefighters over the next three to five years.

- Construct full-service quarters for 24-hour staff at Fire Station 2 and provide 24-hour staffing.
- Improve Response Times
- Ensure the 2-In and 2-Out is accomplished.
- Improve the Effective Response Force
- Improve Firefighter Safety.

NFPA 2020 FIRESERVICE REPORT

Surveyed 25,175 FDs across the U.S.

Career FDs

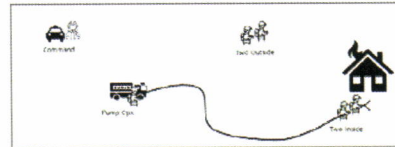
- 1.72 FFs = 26 Paid
- OFD > .58 FFs = 9 Paid

Volunteer FDs

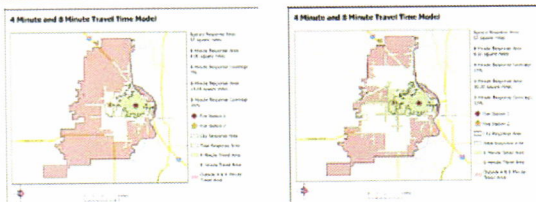
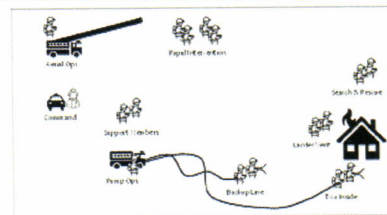
- 5.66 FFs = 86 Volunteer
- OFD > 1.4 FFs = 19 Vol.

Communities with 25k-49k

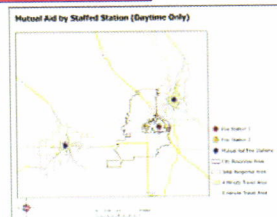
- 1.3 Paid FFs = 20 Paid

2 FFs IN / 2 FFs OUT

29 CFR 1910.134(g)(4)

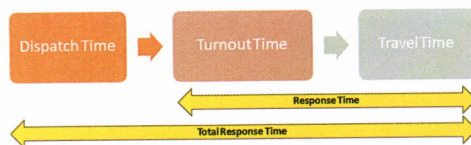
STAFFING & DISTRIBUTION**EFFECTIVE RESPONSE FORCE****EFFECTIVE RESPONSE FORCE**

Agency	Staffing Model
Payette Fire	Daytime Staff
Vale Fire	Daytime Staff

**AGENCY PERFORMANCE****Recommendation:**Implement an EMS priority dispatch system at the 911 Dispatch Center.

- A priority dispatch system ensures...
 - EMS resources are allocated based on the severity of incidents.
 - Low Acuity Patients receive non-priority responses
 - High Acuity Patients receive complement of resources

RIGHT RESOURCES, RIGHT TIME, MATCHED WITH PATIENT NEED

AGENCY PERFORMANCE**AGENCY PERFORMANCE****Recommendation:**

Dispatch Processing Record, evaluate, and report the time the dispatch center notifies the fire department until the first units begin responding.

- Ensures OFD is properly measuring its performance for your citizens.
- Enables tracking of elements to improve the total response time of the system.

INTERNAL PERFORMANCE**Recommendation:**

Turnout Time: Record, evaluate, and report the time the dispatch center notifies the fire department until the first units begin responding.

- Appears to be inaccurate times recorded resulting from a lack of data fields in CAD System or data not being time-stamped.
- Investigate other causes....
 - Dispatch Staffing
 - Fire Staff responsiveness
 - Station configuration

AGENCY PERFORMANCE

FIRST DUE UNIT STANDARD
6 Mins EMS or 6-1/2 Mins Fire



EFFECTIVE RESPONSE FORCE STANDARD
10 Mins EMS or 10-1/2 Mins Fire

**FACILITIES****Recommendation:**

Install a **diesel exhaust removal system** at Station 2 to improve air quality and FF health.

- Diesel exhaust is a known carcinogen, and firefighters exposed to it can face significant health risks.

Conduct a **Fire Station Location Study** for Station 1 to facilitate the appropriate siting of a potential new facility.

- Alternatively, Remodel current station and consider relocating other facility users.

QUESTIONS?

Councilor Kirby stated it was listed as a 6½ minute response time in the city, but what about for the Rural District? Was the response time for the Oregon Slope or out towards Lincoln Heights?

Mr. Curtis stated that hadn't been addressed as they were focused mainly on where most of the call volume was generated from, which was inside the City of Ontario, but there was a standard that was different than the one presented, which was for Rural Fire Districts. The time standard, however, wasn't too different. It referenced urban areas as a 9-minute response time; suburban areas, a 10-minute response time; and in rural areas a 15-minute response time. It did allow for a little bit more time on the travel based on that. He would say a 15-minute response time would be something they should try to achieve. But, they focused more on the staffing at Station One and Two, because they believed that the staffing in Station Two was going to get a better response out into the rural areas, and might not need the full 15 minutes in the target area, but it would get out there quite a bit further.

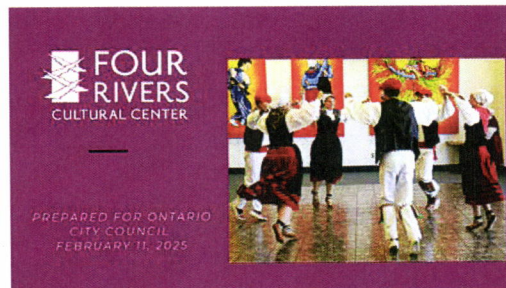
Councilor Kirby stated they had discussed two different governing agencies, but small cities could not always afford that. The city had a partnership, and they needed a buy-in from them, and they had greater distances to be concerned about. He appreciated that they had addressed the needs of the city, but they also needed the Rural District buy-in.

Mr. Curtis stated his agreement, and felt the staffing at Station Two was going to enhance their service and response time standard into the rural area quite a bit. Based on a 15-minute response time, he believed they would be covering a huge portion of the rural area within that standard.

There being no further questions from Council, they thanked Mr. Curtis for his presentation.

Four Rivers Cultural Center Update

Penny Bakefelt, Interim Executive Director, presented.

**AGENDA**

- Why Art & Culture are Important
- Our History
- Mission & Purpose
- Leadership & Staffing
- Community Partners
- Facility
- Financial Overview
- What's Next?

REASONS TO SUPPORT ART AND CULTURE

According to Americans for the Arts In 2024

Economy

- Arts contribute \$9.5 billion to Oregon's economy (3.2% of the state's economy) and supports 61,593 jobs.

Unites Communities

- 72% of Americans say the arts create shared experiences.
- 63% say arts help them understand different cultures.

Improves Mental Well-Being

- Just 45 minutes of art lowers stress hormones by 25%.
- 60% of people say arts help them cope with distress.

HISTORY

Planning for the center began in the early '80s. In 1989, a delegation from Ontario, including Councilman Kirby, paid a visit to congress in Washington DC. The visit proved successful as in 1990 we were awarded 4 million dollars (the cost of a Scud missile) this became the startup fund for the center.

In the beginning, the center was originally called the "Japanese American Cultural Center" it was built to serve as a memorial honoring those Japanese interned and whose rights were violated during World War II. The center officially opened February 19, 1992 and was awarded 501(c)(3) status in August 1992.

The center would go on to have two more name changes with finally settling on the "Four Rivers Cultural Center & Museum". It is interesting to note the vision the early forefathers had are still here today.

MISSION

FOUR RIVERS CULTURAL CENTER'S MISSION IS TO UNITE THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE CELEBRATION AND EDUCATION OF DIVERSITY & CULTURE

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Fran Halcom, Chair
Mike Mahony, Vice Chair
Efran Garza, Treasurer
Robert Kamoto, Secretary
Mike Isari, Director
Raashelle Mayer, Director
Prudi Sherman, Director
Cathy Yasuda, Director

STAFF

Penny Bakefelt, Interim Executive Director
Kathie Collins, Development Director
Trisha Phillips, Event Coordinator
Kami Hart, Marketing & Programs Coordinator
Martin Mendoza Jr., Database & Marketing Coord.
Kelly Wald, Accounts Receivables
Martin Mendoza Sr., Facilities Manager
Torina Burnett, Event Set Up
Neil Moses, Event Set Up
Yuriana Infante, Custodial & Event Set Up
Mike Isari, Full Time Volunteer

VOLUNTEERS

35-50 VOLUNTEERS
 IMPACT: 2010 HOURS IN 2024

ROLES OF VOLUNTEERS

- Front desk
- Ushers at Performances
- Museum Tours
- Special Events & Projects
- FRCC Advocate

MEMBERSHIP

151 Members

VALUE

- Fosters a sense of connection
- Network Opportunities
- Contributes to a healthy meaningful life
- Community investment to support FRCC

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- Ontario Chamber of Commerce
- City of Ontario
- Treasure Valley Community College
- Four Rivers Community School
- Eastern Oregon University
- Oregon State Extension Service
- Building Healthy Families
- And many more

FRCC FEATURES

- 85,000 sq. ft Facility
- Conference Space
- Performing Arts Theatre
- Museum
- Harano Art Gallery
- Hikaru Mizu Japanese Garden
- Gift Shop

**CONFERENCE SPACE**

FY 2023 - 2024
878 Events

FY July 2024 - Dec. 2024
316 Events

Festival of Trees, Onion Growers Conference, Art Labs,
Children's Theatre, Center Ball, 5 o'Clock Somewhere

MEYER MCLEAN PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE

- Performing Arts
- Community Concerts
- Children's Theatre
- Dance Recitals
- TVCC Choir, Jazz, Orchestra
- Ontario 8C School Christmas Concerts

MUSEUM

Featuring exhibits on the Northern Paiutes, Basque, Japanese, Hispanic, and EuroAmerican immigrants.

From July 2024 - Dec. 2024 (6 months)

- 637 visitors
- Representing 14 states & 5 Countries
Indonesia, Japan, UK, France, Canada



Dubbed the top-pick attraction of Ontario in August of 2024 by the Argus Observer.

HARANO GALLERY

4-8 gallery exhibits a year

Oregon Black Pioneers, Through Feb. 28

Visions of Hope, July 25, 2025

• Art created by AIC

HIKARU MIZU JAPANESE GARDEN

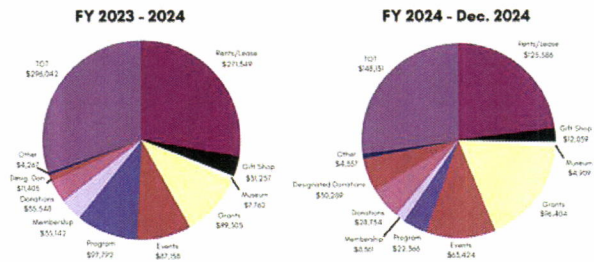
A 1.3-acre garden, the second largest Japanese Garden in Oregon.

BREAKING NEWS

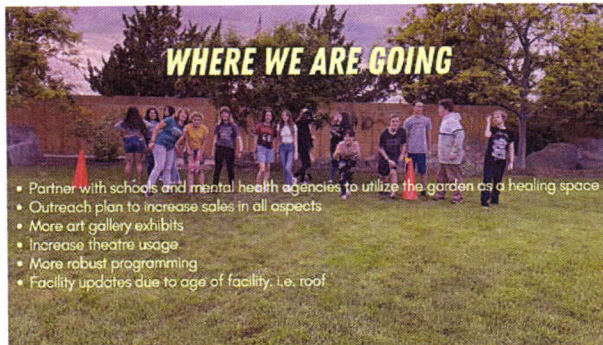
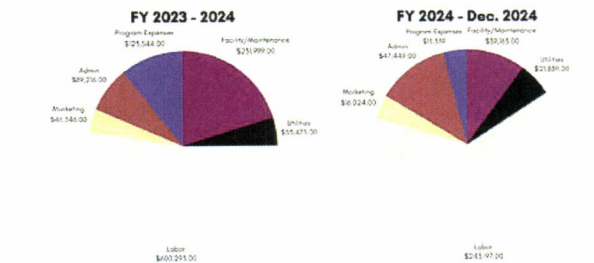
- April of 2025: Garden experts from Japan arrive to enhance the pond, waterfall, and stream bed.
- Garden Club
- Obon Festival, July 19

INCOME

	FY 23-24		FY 24-25	
TOT	\$296,042	30.30%	\$148,131	27.20%
RENTS/LEASE	\$271,349	27.77%	\$125,586	23.06%
GIFT SHOP	\$31,257	3.20%	\$12,039	2.21%
MUSEUM	\$7,762	0.79%	\$4,909	0.90%
GRANTS	\$99,305	10.16%	\$96,404	17.70%
EVENTS	\$87,158	8.92%	\$63,424	11.65%
PROGRAM	\$97,792	10.01%	\$22,366	4.11%
MEMBERSHIP	\$35,142	3.60%	\$8,361	1.54%
DONATIONS	\$35,548	3.84%	\$28,754	5.28%
DESIGNATED DONATIONS	\$11,405	1.17%	\$30,289	5.56%
OTHER	\$4,267	0.44%	\$4,337	0.60%
	\$977,027.09		\$544,601.08	

INCOME**EXPENSES**

	FY 23-24		FY 24-25	
FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE	\$231,999	20.26%	\$39,163	10.22%
UTILITIES	\$53,473	4.67%	\$21,839	5.70%
LABOR	\$600,293	52.43%	\$243,197	63.50%
MARKETING	\$46,346	4.05%	\$16,024	4.18%
ADMIN	\$89,216	7.79%	\$47,449	12.39%
PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$123,544	10.79%	\$15,339	4.00%
	\$1,144,871		\$383,011	

EXPENSES

Councilor Bakefelt thanked Junior for his assistance on the presentation, and all the volunteers, members, donors, and staff, for sharing their time and talent. Working at a non-profit would not make anyone rich, but it was a labor of love. She asked for Council comments or questions.

Councilor Kirby stated: *I can never help but speak up. One of the stories that is missed, and I'm so glad Mike is here, when the late Fran McClean and I talked to Mike's dad, George Iseri about why Ontario was special. People my age, when we went to school here in Ontario, the population of Japanese-American students was, the ratio was just out of sight. They were just other kids, you know, and we really didn't know why. But, George told Fran and I an interesting story. Those of us that are in this building who pass by the administrative portions of this, you see a line up of all the Mayors. And there's one Mayor who's there, well there're two Mayors that are there twice, but one is Elmo Smith. Elmo Smith was the publisher of the Argus Observer, and when WWII broke out, Ontario had a need in the fact that being an ag town, all the young men went off to war. We had nobody to harvest our crops. So, Elmo Smith, as Mayor of Ontario and as publisher of the newspaper, editorialized to the War Relocation Authority and asked the federal government to allow Japanese-American to be released here to live in freedom. We were East of Highway 97, which runs North-South through Washington, Oregon, and California, and that was considered a free zone, except many of the local jurisdictions*

wouldn't allow it. The State of Idaho wouldn't allow it. You could go to the Snake River bridge, there'd be signs that say No Japs Allowed. But Ontario welcomed Japanese-Americans, and it set this community aside nationally. The story is forgotten. It's been 34 years since we got together to tell that story, and yet I would gather that if you, one in one hundred would know that, if that one person was around, would know that story. And I guess as being on board from the very beginning, and the way that that story was relayed to us by George Iseri, that they were very thankful to this community, that they were welcomed here. A man by the name of Lee Cables who had the Chevrolet Dealership and Jess Adrian, who was a realtor in this community, they helped these people get jobs and some of them worked out in the fields because there was a lot of hand labor at that time. We weren't mechanized like we are today. So, they, the Japanese-Americans wanted their families to be good American citizens, and in my generation, they were the best. The best citizens, but the opportunities to expand obviously had changed, so many of their children have moved on. But, that story still needs to be told. But, sometimes it frustrates me that we don't know that this was the largest population of Japanese-Americans, who lived in freedom in the entire United States, lived in Ontario, Oregon, mainly through the Mayor of Ontario, Elmo Smith. Mike, have I said anything wrong? Okay, so that is the story, and I think it was 5,000 Japanese-Americans, lived in Ontario, Oregon during the second World War. Approximately that number?

Mike Iseri: I don't know, I've never seen a verified number.

Councilor Kirby: That was verified by George Iseri, so that's what we went with. And so, anyway, I'm sorry I took the Council's time, but as you wander down that hall, Elmo Smith then became a Commander in the United States Navy, and then came back to Ontario and was Mayor again. He sold the newspaper. He then went to John Day, Oregon, and was in the Oregon Senate, and at the death of our Governor, he became Governor of the State of Oregon. So, another piece of trivia. Elgin Baylor, from the College of Idaho, they're renaming the gymnasium over there, but they have a bunch of the alumni from the College of Idaho, Elmo Smith being one, who are being honored.

NEW BUSINESS

Bid Award: Old Water Treatment Plant Filter Media

Al Haun, Assistant Project Director [Jacobs] presented.

Annually, the filters were evaluated on performance measures. Keeping the media replaced every 7 to 10 years allowed the filters to perform at the designed capacity. The last time the filter was changed was 10 years ago. Changing the chemical treatment process allowed the filters to perform better and extended the longevity of the filter media. Keeping the stratification of the 3 layers and correct depths was critical to the treatment process, and kept the filters performing to the design criteria. This allowed staff to produce high quality water that met all regulatory requirements. The filter media were at the point that they needed to be changed. This was the final stage in the treatment process and was critical to the quality of water produced.

The lowest bid received was from Red Flint Sand & Gravel, LLC. The filter media was budgeted in the fiscal year 24-25 Water Fund CIP and the cost was under the budgeted \$100,000. If approved, staff would order the media, and replace the filters when production allowed.

BAKEFELT moved, CONTRERAS seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE BIDS RECEIVED AND AWARD THE OLD WATER TREATMENT PLANT FILTER MEDIA TO RED FLINT SAND AND GRAVEL, LLC, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$80,000.** Roll call vote: Mills-out; Braden-yes; Hart-out; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Task Order Award: Consor – Secondary River Intake Engineering Services (CDBG)

Marshall Pierce, City Engineer [Jacobs], presented.

The city was awarded funding from the Community Development Block Grant [CDBG] program from Business Oregon for \$500,000. Funding would be used for public infrastructure improvements for the city's drinking water supply system, specifically a new secondary river intake. Last summer, the city publicly solicited qualification statements and selected Consor and the scope and fee were negotiated. Unfortunately, the loan engineering firm selected from the roster came in at \$571,745, but the grant amount was only \$500,000.

Following numerous conversations with Business Oregon on available funding options to bridge the gap, there really weren't any good ones currently. It had been mentioned that historically they were typically able to supplement 20% of the original grant amount, but this year they didn't have those excess funds. So he met with Dan [Cummings] and Kari [Ott], and they reviewed options. What they decided was that in lieu of signing on an additional loan with a low interest rate, they elected to pull the needed funding from the UCF money. The amount needed was \$96,745. The city was now in a position to award the engineering services portion of the CDBG project, which came in at \$596,745. The city would bridge the gap of \$96,745 by utilizing UCF monies. The total amount also included grant administration from Ducote Services for \$25,000.

MILLS moved, KIRBY seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE ENGINEERING SERVICES TASK ORDER AWARD TO CONSOR FOR THE DESIGN OF THE CITY'S NEW SECONDARY RIVER INTAKE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$571,745, AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-out; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

DISCUSSION ITEM

ODF Grant Update

Dan Cummings, City Manager, stated in January, he notified the Council that due to the hard work of two on staff grant writers, who had applied for a grant through the Oregon Department of Forestry, the city was awarded a grant in the amount \$573,100 over a three-year grant period. The first third would be designing a plan of all the city trees – not just parks, but any city-owned property that had trees on it – and the study would address those and develop a plan for replacement. There were many older trees in the parks, and this grant would pay for their removal and then replacing them with newer trees. On January 17th, the city had to either accept the grant or let it go, and the city accepted it. Recently, the grant writers/applicants Councilor Michael Braden and Corinna [Hysell, HR Director] worked with them in developing the contract. As it was getting close to the signing, he wanted to give the Council an update prior to signing the contract to accept the grant. He also wanted to give both Michael and Corinna huge kudos and recognition for their work in obtaining this grant. In addition, the entire city staff grant committee was doing an excellent job. They had applied for \$5.5M worth of grants, and the city had been awarded, so far, \$2.9M, which was about 53% of what had been applied for. There were still two outstanding grants they believed they had a good chance of receiving. If they did get awarded, that would bump that – together there was about \$502,000 – so that would be \$3.4M for a 62% success rate. This group was by far exceeding goals compared to the prior group the city had contracted with. Also, the city had only expended \$14,000 to get those funds.

The Council voiced a big congratulations to Michael and Corinna, and thanked them for their hard work.

HAND-OUTS

Monthly Department Stats

Public Works and Ontario Fire & Rescue

2025 Annual Review

Public Works

Minutes

Airport 01-06-2025; County Court 01-22-2025, 01-29-2025

Check Register

December, 2024

Packet:

V&C Board 02-04-2025



CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

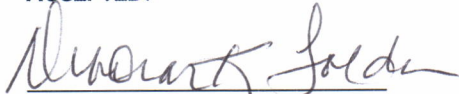
*Mayor Folden thanked Jacobs for the great snow removal. The entire town looked good, and everyone seemed pleased.

*Mayor Folden thanked the community for all the volunteers who volunteered for the warming shelters. The community came together to meet a great need, and she was very impressed with the good people in this community.

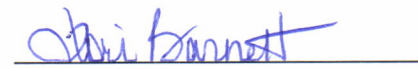
ADJOURN

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

ACCEPTED:


Deborah K. Folden, Mayor

ATTEST:


Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder