



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes May 28, 2024

President Primmer called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Councilors McCarthy, Barron, Linton (arrived at 7:48pm), Hardin, Duron, and Myers. Mayor Drotzmann and Councilor Peterson were excused. In attendance was City Staff to include: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, City Attorney Rich Tovey, Chief Edmiston, Finance Director Ignacio Palacios, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, Parks and Recreation Director Brandon Artz, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Presentation- Civic Leadership Academy

City Manager Smith stated he learned of a leadership program developed through Portland State University (PSU) with the City of Hillsboro as their first participant. The program was not the typical leadership program and was found to be very intriguing. After communication with PSU staff and learning from them that the Ford Family Foundation helped cover costs associated with leadership training in rural areas, a partnership was formed.

City Manager Smith thanked PSU main contact and trainer Kristen Wright, Laura Isiordia from the Ford Family Foundation for their financial contribution, and City staff Nate Rivera, Crystal Inners, and Lilly Alarcon-Strong for their roles being city buddy's in providing resources to the participants. The Academy Participants were tasked with the question of: How to Improve Community Engagement in the City of Hermiston and will now present their findings.

Civic Leadership Academy Participants presented their findings (PowerPoint Presentation attached) to include:

- Who they are and why they became involved
- The task they were assigned to and the interviews and discussions they initiated with community members. Common feedback they received was geared toward:
 - Accessibility issues with language barriers, suggested that information should be translated into many different languages including social media, website, and building a City app
 - Changing dates and time of meetings as availability to attend is difficult due to other obligations.
 - Not feeling valued or heard, especially in under-represented populations. "Making Space", such as adding an additional reader board in the City displaying information in many languages.
 - Concerns with public safety and broken relationships between the community and Police Department.
 - Being let down by the Hispanic Business Network that required dues to join but did not offer any services.
 - Learning to share the most important information in the places where it is most needed as community members differ from point of views from receiving too much information to others saying they aren't getting any information.
 - Being friendly in every interaction with the public and discovering education is a key factor in successful engagement.



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- And more.

Councilor Duron stated she was a founding member of the Hispanic Business Network (not a City organization). She and members of the Organization tried to engage business owners in participating and be inviting towards participant ideas to foster interest and membership, but business owners did not see value in the organization and repeatedly showed a lack of interest and therefore the Hispanic Business Network disbanded.

After additional questions and discussion from the Council, City Manager Smith stated he will work with staff to review the items address in the presentation and bring a report back to Council.

The Council thanked Academy Participants Adam Huxoll, Dustin Kelly, Reilly Mason, Martha De Leon, Luz Martell, and Stephanie Hughes; participants Jesse Roa and Leeann Wornell were not present, for their work and presented participants with a certificate and gifts of appreciations. Applause from all in Council Chambers.

Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

None given.

Consent Agenda Items

Councilor Duron moved, and Councilor McCarthy seconded to approve Consent Agenda items A-E below. Motion carried unanimously.

- A. Recommendation to Reappoint Jesse Roa to Position #3 of the Hispanic Advisory Committee for a 3-year term ending June 30, 2027.
- B. Recommendation to Reappoint Lori Davis to Position #1 of the Library Board for a 4-year term ending June 30, 2028.
- C. Recommendation to Reappoint Lisa Depew to Position #2 of the Library Board for a 4-year term ending June 30, 2028.
- D. Recommendation to Appoint David Bothum to Position #2 of the Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center, Representing the Farm-City Pro Rodeo, for a 3-year term ending June 30, 2027.
- E. Minutes of the May 13th City Council Regular Meeting

Resolution No. 2323- Award Contract for Lift Station #4 Reconstruction

Assistant City Manager Morgan gave information regarding awarding the contract reconstruction project for Lift Station #4 to C&E Trenching.

After Council discussion, Councilor Myers moved, and Councilor Hardin seconded to approve Resolution No. 2323 and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously.



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Resolution No. 2324- Appoint Municipal Court Judge Pro-Tem

City Manager Smith gave information regarding approval to appoint Carey Meerdink as one of the Municipal Court's Pro-Tem Judges to hear cases when Judge Cameron Bendixsen is unavailable or has a conflict of interest.

(Councilor Linton arrived at 7:48pm)

After staff answered questions from the Council, Councilor McCarthy moved, and Councilor Duron seconded to approve Resolution No. 2324 and lay upon the record. Councilors McCarthy, Barron, Primmer, Myers, Hardin, and Duron voted in favor; Councilor Linton abstained. Motion carried 6-1.

Parade/Right of Way (ROW) Closures Discussion

City Manager Smith stated parade and ROW closures, also known as street closures, have been items that staff knew needed changes implemented to address various procedural concerns including the City's liability for allowing ROW closures, and recouping costs that range from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per parade, as well as implementing fixed parade routes and grandfathering in some parade events such as the Umatilla County Fair and Rodeo Kickoff Parade and the Hermiston High School Graduation Walk Parade. This item is being brought before the Council for these and other considerations prior to staff preparing an initial ordinance draft.

Councilors asked staff to include items to address excessive noise, not allowing any street closings or closures of HWY 395, consider allowing discounts for using fixed parade routes or paying full costs associated with another requested parade route, and asking that fees associated with these items be charged in full to the event organizers as the City/tax payers should not be responsible for paying these fees.

City Manager Smith thanked the Council for their comments and stated these items will be considered when drafting the ordinance.

April 2024 Financial Report

Councilor Linton moved, and Councilor Myers seconded to accept the April Financial Report as presented (PowerPoint Presentation attached) by City Manager Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

There were Council comments regarding the desire to have the new Finance Director present the financial reports soon.

There were questions regarding the 2nd Street access to the Community Center and if the gateway signage would be in Spanish. City Manager Smith stated staff will present graphics of the area to include areas of entrance into the Community Center. Signage is in English only as Spanish signage was never brought before the Council for their approval. After additional comments from Councilor Barron, City Manager Smith stated he would be happy to discuss this in further with Councilor Barron after the meeting.



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Committee Reports

Business License Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee- Councilor McCarthy stated the Committee will meet on Monday, June 10th at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers.

Budget Committee- Councilor Barron thanked Committee Members for their participation in the meeting and being thoroughly prepared. Councilor Duron agreed and thanked staff for providing a better report layout and explanation than in years prior, and thanked City Manager Smith for each department head tightening their belts so staff was not laid off.

Library Board- Councilor Duron stated the Board met to discuss renovations to the Library, how and where books will be stored, and the temporary Library placement. More information will be forthcoming.

Council President's Report

Council President Primmer spoke regarding:

- The good and productive Budget Committee Meeting
- Primary Election results and thanked the other candidates for running for Mayor

Council Reports

Councilor McCarthy stated the Equality without Exception Pride Event will be held Saturday, June 1st from 10am to 5pm with the Parade at 6pm, all at EOTEC. The Event is being organized by Timathy Thomason. Reminded the Community about the High School Senior Graduation Walk this Thursday evening.

Councilor Duron stated she will be late to the June 10th City Council meeting as she is needed at the School Board meeting.

Councilor Linton spoke regarding:

- Thanked Council President Primmer for his comments and encouraged others to run for office
- Asked that staff look into Harkenrider Senior Center lunch funding to hire two cooks to provide at least four meals a week at \$2.50 each meal
- Asked that the Council consider raising the City's contribution to the Chamber from 3% to 8% from the transient room tax contribution
- Stated everyone she has spoke with about the Library remodel and the City's broadband discussion are in opposition of these efforts

Youth Advisory Report

None present.

Council President Primmer asked if anyone from the Civic Leadership Academy would like to speak.

Martha De Leon asked that the City lean into the large amount of Latino community and encouraged staff to address questions when asked.



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Laura Isiordia stated it takes a village to make things happen and although eight participants are a good start, she hopes the City will bring back another cohort of people to continue in leadership development.

Council President Primmer agreed and quoted the following saying, "The world is run by people who show up." and thanked them for showing up.

Councilor Duron addressed Mrs. De Leon's comment stating Council and staff don't usually engage in comments or questions because most Councilors reach out to staff prior to the meeting to have their questions answered, not because we don't want to address it publicly, but because we are being considerate of the time allowed at City Council meetings.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Smith thanked the Civic Leadership Academy participants and stated Council members have already spoken on the other items he was going to address.

Adjournment

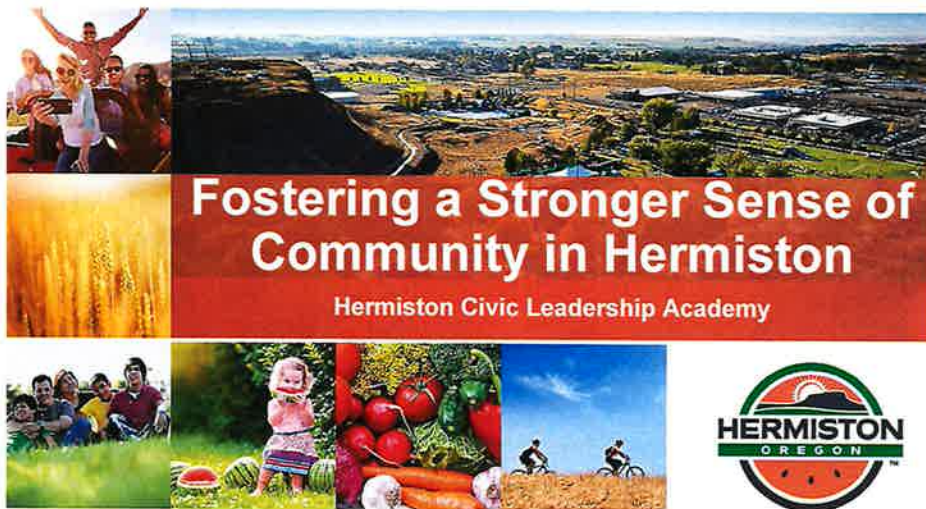
Council President Primmer adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:23pm as there was no other business.

SIGNED:

Doug Primmer, Council President

ATTEST:

Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC, City Recorder



Who We Are

- 8 Individuals
- Desire to Strengthen our Community
- Common Goals
- Shared Values
- Diverse Backgrounds



Purpose

Fostering a Stronger Sense of Community.

"How do we accomplish this?"



Process

- Interviews and discussions with the community
- Gather unbiased but diverse perspectives
- Information should not represent any single demographic





Key Points

- Accessibility Issues
- Availability
 - Time Constraints
 - Families
- Engagement
- Public Safety
- Broken Relationships
- Feeling Valued
- Fostering Together



Trust

How might we demonstrate our desire for input from the underrepresented community members to build buy-in, gain trust, and strengthen the common values that bond us together?



Education & Information

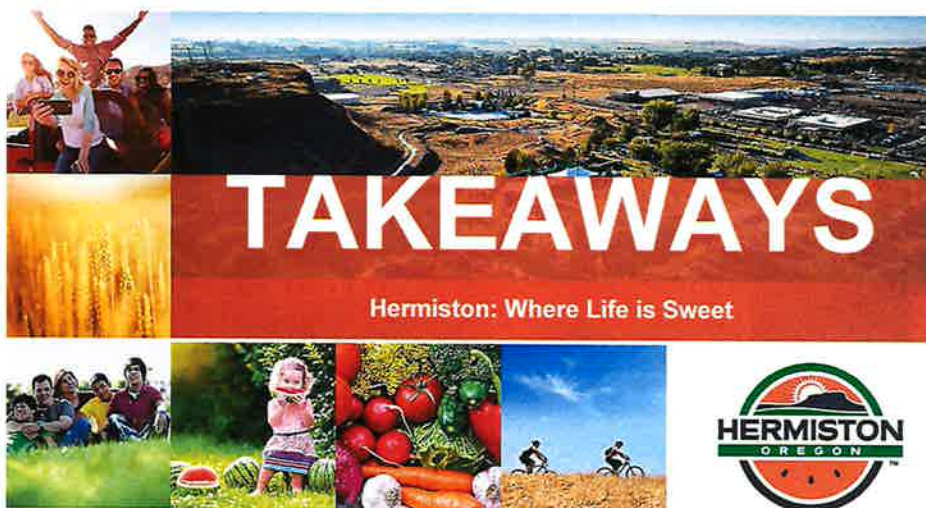
In what ways can the Council/City reach out to the public with educational information to motivate the public to care and create interest in participation?



Time

How can the city share the largest amount of information in the shortest amount of time?







Hermiston Urban Renewal Area (HURA)

- Property Tax Revenue has gone to 103% of projections
- 2nd Street Gateway Project – 90% Complete
 - **Awaiting delivery of decorative items**



General Fund

- Monthly Revenues are slightly above projections (~\$21,000)
- Annual Revenues are slightly ahead of projections (3.9%)



General Fund

- Monthly Expenses above projections by ~\$49,000
- Annual Expenses below projections 9%



Utility and Street Funds

- All in good shape
- Regional Water Fund is getting closer to estimates each month



Capital Projects

- A number of projects in design
 - **Geer/Harper Realignment**
 - **Well #6 Chlorination**
 - **Well #4 Controls**
- Gladys/Main/Newport – Construction early July



Capital Projects

- Teen Adventure Park – Sidewalk in design
- Hangar Replacement – Taxilane construction to begin in June
- IT Build-out – Scheduled to complete in June
- Harkenrider – Framing/concrete completed



Discussion

Questions?

Where Life is Sweet™