



*Where Life is Sweet*

# CITY COUNCIL

## Regular Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2023

Mayor Drotzmann called the regular meeting to order at 7:03pm. Present were Councilors Primmer, Myers, Barron, McCarthy, Linton, Hardin, and Duron. Councilor Peterson was excused. In attendance was City Staff to include: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, City Attorney Rich Tovey, Chief Edmiston, Planning Director Clint Spencer, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, Library Director Mark Rose, Assistant City Recorder Heather La Beau, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. The pledge of allegiance was given.

### **Recognition- Oregon Mayors Association (OMA) Award**

City of Toledo Mayor and OMA President-Elect Rod Cross presented Mayor Drotzmann with the 2023 Oregon Mayors Association (OMA) Mayors Leadership Award and stated the award is given annually by the statewide association representing cities of all sizes to recognize leadership, involvement in community issues, and more.

Mr. Cross stated Mayor Drotzmann always represents Hermiston very well regardless if it's local or statewide issues and it is evident that he is an integral part of Hermiston's positive growth and development.

Mayor Drotzmann stated he felt honored accepting the award and thanked Mr. Cross for traveling to Hermiston to present it to him. (Applause from the audience.)

### **Presentation- Hermiston School District (HSD) Updates**

HSD Assistant Superintendent Jake Bacon gave information regarding: the number of new staff hired this school year; Grow Your Own Program; student registration process and the 5,000 current registered students; the dire need for substitute teachers; construction updates at Highland Hills and Desert View Elementary Schools; free school supplies, breakfast, and lunch will be provided for all K-12 students throughout the year; Summer School and free summer lunch program; fall sports; new First Student bus service that is replacing Mid-Columbia Bus; and more.

### **Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items**

Ronald Caudell, 420 SE 8th Street- Thanked the Council and Police Department for addressing his concerns regarding code violation issues in his neighborhood. Mr. Caudell asked that the Council consider what it can do concerning the lack of water in the Maxwell Ditch as many animals depend on the water from that ditch.

### **Consent Agenda Items**

Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor Hardin seconded to approve Consent Agenda items A-B, to include:

- A. Committee Vacancy Announcements
- B. Minutes of the July 24th City Council Regular Meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Resolution No. 2286- Award CMGC Contract for Library, Harkenrider Center, and City Hall Projects to CB**

**Construction Inc.**- City Manager Smith gave information regarding authorizing the City to proceed with construction contract negotiations with CB Construction, Inc. for construction projects at the Library, Harkenrider Senior Center, and City Hall.



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After some discussion, Councilor McCarthy moved and Councilor Duron seconded to approve Resolution No. 2286 and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Accept a grant award of \$51,000 for the Southeast Hermiston Industrial Area Utility Expansion Study**

Assistant City Manager Morgan gave information regarding the acceptance of a grant award to develop and improve the inventory of existing utilities and establish a plan for extending water and sewer to the area of prime industrial land located between Feedville Road and Penney Ave to help facilitate investment marketing and employment growth.

After some discussion, Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor Hardin seconded to accept the grant award of \$51,000 from the Special Public Works Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Possible New Branding for Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center (EOTEC)**

City Manager Smith stated earlier this year the Council directed City staff to move forward with new branding for EOTEC. The City contracted with Focal Point Marketing to develop branding alternatives and gather input. Based on that outcome, City staff is asking the Council to approve concept #2 as the clear winner of the rebranding efforts.

After some discussion, Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor Myers seconded to approve the presented EOTEC Branding. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Committee Reports**

Recreation Projects Fund Advisory Committee- Councilor Barron stated the Committee met and decided not to accept late applications submitted now nor in the future and recommended more marketing be done to let the public know about this opportunity.

Eastern Oregon First-Responders Chaplain's Association (not a City Committee)- Councilor Duron stated this Committee and the Kiwanis are partnering together to bring an event filled day on October 7<sup>th</sup> for the Faith & First Responders event and Kids Day event at Butte Park. The community is encouraged to participate in these free events.

Public Infrastructure Committee- Mayor Drotzmann stated the Committee was given information regarding Amazon development updates, water infrastructure, developing a wastewater pretreatment and acceptance policy for industrial partners, and more.

#### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Drotzmann spoke regarding:

- National Night Out event and thanked UCFD#1 and Fire Chief Stanton for partnering in the event
- Attended the OMA Conference last week where there were many discussions regarding: homelessness challenges, photo radar, and more
- Thanked EOTEC General Manager Al Davis and staff, as well as all Fair and Rodeo Board members, staff, volunteers, and all first responders for all their work at the Fair and Rodeo last week, and thanked the community for their continued support of these events stating the community always steps-up and supports our youth.



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### **Council Reports**

Councilor Primmer thanked all law enforcement officials who helped at the Fair and Rodeo.

Councilor Linton asked that the City consider a rent control ordinance to help tenants with affordable housing and consider implementing restrictions such as landlords being unable to evict educators or tenants with children during the school year stating she was given the idea from a Washington State City with a similar ordinance.

Councilor Myers thanked Human Resources Specialist Crystal Inners, City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong, and staff for their work during the Fair and Rodeo Parade.

Councilor McCarthy gave information regarding the Umatilla County Fair and Parade, Farm City Pro-Rodeo, MelonFest, and City surplus items being listed for sale on Municibid website.

Councilor Duron stated she met with architects and other stakeholders to help give ideas regarding the library's future and stated public input would be obtained during MelonFest. Thanked UCFD#1 for all their work as it is very apparent they have been very busy, and thanked all first responders who helped at the Fair and Rodeo.

### **Youth Advisory Report**

Youth Advisors were not in attendance.

### **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Smith gave information regarding:

- City Picnic this Thursday starting at 5:30pm
- Required Cyber security training

### **Recess for Executive Session**

At 8:04pm Mayor Drotzmann announced the City Council of the City of Hermiston will now meet in Executive Session in the Executive Session Room for the purpose of discussing matters pertaining to litigation.

The Executive Session is held pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2) (h) which allows the Council to meet in Executive Session to consult regarding the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

Representatives of the news media and designated staff shall be allowed to attend the executive session. All other members of the audience are excluded. Representatives of the news media are specifically directed not to report on any of the deliberations during the executive session, except to state the general subject of the session as previously announced. No final decision may be made in executive session. At the end of the executive session, the council will return to open session which the audience may attend. The executive session will last approximately 10 mins.



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**Reconvene and Adjourn City Council Meeting**

Mayor Drotzmann reconvened and adjourned the City Council Meeting at 8:22pm as there was no other City business.

SIGNED:

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Dr. David Drotzmann, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lilly Alarcon-Strong, City Recorder

DRAFT