



## CITY COUNCIL

### Regular Meeting Minutes November 13, 2023

Council President Primmer called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Councilors Hardin, Peterson, Barron, Duron, and Myers. Mayor Drotzmann and Councilors Linton and McCarthy were excused. Staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, City Attorney Rich Tovey, Chief Edmiston, Finance Director Mark Krawczyk, Parks and Recreation Director Brandon Artz, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. Youth Advisor Present was Jeannine Heredia. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Council President Primmer announced there would be a change to the agenda to include a presentation by Project PATH/Stepping Stones Alliance which will be heard after the Hermiston School District presentation.

#### **Presentation- Hermiston School District Updates**

Hermiston School District (HSD) Assistant Superintendent Jake Bacon gave HSD updates and information to include Conference attendance, overall enrollment, scheduled calendar events including Thanksgiving Break, inclement weather process and practice, construction at Highland Hills Elementary School, and family income survey to help determine the community's need for free and reduced breakfast & lunch. Mr. Bacon thanked the City for its partnership with the HSD, as well as other HSD partnerships in the community as they have received one of only four recognitions across the country as a 2023 Fall "Lighthouse System" by the AASA, The School Superintendents Association, the nation's premier organization serving school district leadership across the country. The HSD will be honored on Feb. 14, 2024, at AASA's National Conference on Education.

#### **Presentation- Project PATH/Stepping Stones Alliance**

Stepping Stones Alliance (SSA) Executive Director Jesalyn Cole presented updates and information (attached) regarding: Ribbon Cutting and Open House event on December 7<sup>th</sup> from 3pm to 6pm; their award of a \$50,000 transportation grant to purchase a vehicle to transport guests; community outreach efforts to include: attending community meetings, events, and going to homeless encampments throughout the area; additional fundraising efforts will begin in 2024; temporary Sleep Center thanks to Michael Atkinson and updates regarding individual sleeping quarters that will include a light, outlet, and heating unit, as well as updates regarding the Navigation Center and property.

Councilor Hardin thanked Mrs. Cole for attending the Faith-Based Advisory Committee meeting and giving information.

Councilor Barron asked what the most common misinformation SSA has heard.

Mrs. Cole stated that homeless individuals are being bussed into Hermiston. Mrs. Cole stated this information is not reflected in the Sleep Center statistics. Those staying at the Sleep Center are from the community or have family that live in the community, occasionally they do see people from out of the area, however, they stay one night and then move on.

President Primmer thanked Mrs. Cole and SSA for providing this needed service.



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## **Proclamation- Small Business Saturday**

Council President Primmer read the Small Business Saturday Proclamation and encouraged all to support small businesses as they are our neighbors and support the community when we need them.

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

Melissa & Mike Boylan (322 NE Marty Dr), Steven Baze (115 NE 12<sup>th</sup> St), and David Trowbridge (756 W Pheasant Ave), Hermiston- Spoke regarding health issues, decrease in real estate resale value, other dangers, and lack of overall notification of installation and research on community impacts who have 5G towers in their community, asked that the City do further research into 5G towers, and fight against them being installed.

City Manager Smith informed the public that the 5G towers are not installed by the City, the towers are being installed by US Cellular through their franchise agreement. Health information regarding the towers will be supplied to the Council.

Joshua Roberts (1709 NE 6<sup>th</sup> Place), Hermiston- stated while attending and listening to the budget presentations and discussion he would like the City to consider: the 1% sales tax as current taxes are already high, continue to look at budget to see if there are any other items that can be cut, take a stand on the sale of Marijuana as voters have already voted it down, COPS grant is great but the City needs sustainability and this should be considered and forecasted so there isn't a need to lay people off in the future. Mr. Roberts thanked the City for these budget discussions and stated he is an advocate for the Public Safety Fee but the City should also consider costs associated with enforcement of Business Licenses and other fees and if the revenue outweighs administrative and enforcement costs.

## **Consent Agenda Items**

Councilor Duron moved and Councilor Hardin seconded to approve Consent Agenda items A-G to include:

- A. Committee Vacancy Announcements
- B. Committee Appointment Recommendation of Nicole Westing for: Airport Advisory Committee Position #2-term ending 10/31/2026
- C. Committee Appointment Recommendation of Jesse McCormmach for: Airport Advisory Committee Position #5- remaining term ending 10/31/2025
- D. Cancel the December 25, 2023 City Council Meeting
- E. Lift Station & Utility Easement Agreement.
- F. Lift Station Easement Agreement.
- G. Minutes of the October 23 City Council Work Session and Regular Meetings

Motion carried unanimously.

## **Resolution No. 2296- Regional Water System Phase 2 Pipelines Improvements**

Assistant City Manager Morgan gave information (PowerPoint Presentation attached) regarding awarding Premier Excavation the construction contract to construct approximately 2.5 miles of new water main in Feedville Road from Highway 207 to Kelli Boulevard and approximately 2 miles of new pipeline to carry non-contact cooling water for discharge.

After some discussion, Councilor Barron moved, and Councilor Myers seconded to approve Resolution No. 2296 and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously.



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## **Resolution No. 2297- Support of Proposed Hacienda CDC Development**

City Manager Smith spoke regarding supporting proposed development of affordable housing by Hacienda CDC.

After some discussion, Councilor Peterson moved, and Councilor Barron seconded to approve Resolution No. 2297 and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Resolution No. 2298- Contract Award North Hermiston Drain Piping**

Assistant City Manager Morgan gave information (PowerPoint Presentation attached) regarding awarding North Cascade Excavating the construction contract to conduct an inventory to determine the prevalence of potential lead and copper in water service lines serving residences as required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This is being required for all public drinking water agencies in the country.

After some discussion, Councilor Myers moved, and Councilor Duron seconded to approve Resolution No. 2298 and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Committee Reports**

**Parks & Recreation Committee-** Councilor Myers gave information regarding: Harkenrider Senior Center construction design, park updates, Bark Park Shelter construction with a thank you to Marlette for allowing their staff to volunteer to build this, Teen Adventure Park updates, Tree Lighting on 11/30, and putting on a volunteer recognition dinner.

**Faith-Based Advisory Committee-** Councilor Hardin the Committee is working to help organize a consistent meal schedule for those in need and plan to reach out to the HSD to see if they can be of assistance with these efforts, as well as building a calendar of available services for those in need to help not duplicate community services.

## **Council President's Report**

President Primmer spoke regarding:

- Tree Lighting event on 11/30
- A public reminder that the Council cancelled the City Council Meeting on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 during the consent agenda

## **Council Reports**

Councilor Peterson spoke regarding the Thanksgiving Community Meal at the High School and asked that the community consider volunteering and donating to this effort.

Councilor Barron thanked City staff for removing the graffiti at Riverfront Park.

## **Youth Advisory Report**

Jeannine Heredia gave information regarding boys & girls Cross Country, Football, Volleyball accomplishments, No-Shave November, canned food drive, the High School's CLUE play and auditions for the Theater Departments upcoming musical.



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### **City Manager’s Report**

City Manager Smith stated he had nothing new to share that hasn’t already been mentioned.

### **Recess for Executive Session**

At 8:15pm Council President Primmer 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 negotiating real property transaction. The Executive Session is held pursuant ORS 192.660 (2) (e) which allows the Council to meet in Executive Session to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the Council to negotiate real property transactions.

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.

### **Reconvene and Adjournment**

Council President Primmer reconvened and adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:33pm as there was no other City business.

SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Primmer, Council President

ATTEST:

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

# Project PATH

1st Quarter Report, FY 23-24

## PILOT PROGRAM CONTACTS

### COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Dan Dorran

### CITY MANAGERS

Dave Stockdale, Umatilla

Byron Smith, Hermiston

Ben Burgener, Stanfield

Dave Slaght, Echo

### PROJECT CONTACT

Esmeralda Perches

### STEPPING STONES CONTACT

Jesalyn Cole

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is provided in accordance with the Service Agreement between Stepping Stones Alliance and the City of Umatilla as part of the West Umatilla County partnership to provide services to our community's homeless residents through Project PATH (Practical Assistance through Transitional Housing). This report provides an update on site preparations, community outreach, strategic plan, budget, and general services. More detailed materials are available upon request which might include draft/adopted operational policies and procedures, meeting minutes of Stepping Stones Alliance, or general member policies and code of conduct. This report is intended to serve as a high level update of the services provided and the general progress we have made thus far.

## PERSONNEL

After turn over throughout the summer and losing staff due to college resuming, we currently have four night staff employees rotating through 10 hour shifts with short overlaps with each other and/or volunteer shifts to cover the 12 hours that the Sleep Center is currently operating.

We currently are working through creating job descriptions and preliminary schedule options for our move to the permanent location and having members using the ISUs; which will require 24-hour coverage. An option being explored is contracting the 12 hour night shift to a security agency.

## TRANSPORTATION

Atkinson Staffing has continued to donate the use of a company vehicle for guest transportation. Night staff drops off guest in town at 7:15am and picks up at 7:15pm. Project Path received two grants: EOCCO \$50,000 and Wildhorse \$16,000. These funds will be used for the purchase of a vehicle for guest transportation.

## CONSTRUCTION SITE

Cultural study has been completed at sent to SHPO for comment, SHPO did not comment on the Geotech report. Ground leveling was completed. Currently we are seeking bids for fencing, electrical and septic drilling.





## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We continue with our social media campaigns; highlighting partners, sponsors, donors and sharing our needs via a grocery list weekly.

We reached over 11,000 people on Facebook and Instagram. We had 42 posts this quarter.

This quarter we participated in the following community activities: Echo/Stanford Market, Hermiston Melon Fest, Good Shepherd Community Health Fair and Mirasol's Health Fair. At these events we share information, answer questions, give away brochures and hand away promotional items.

Presentations were made to Hermiston Kiwanis, Hermiston Lion's Club, 7th Day Adventist Church, Hermiston Hispanic Committee and were interviewed by the Chamber Business Connection Radio Show.

We now have brochures we are sharing with community members.

Our navigation director, Carolina, began outreach within encampments in the area in partnership with COPEs and EOICL to share what resources are available with those who need our services. The group was able to reach 13 people in July, 18 in August and 20 in September.



## PARTNERSHIPS

Ongoing conversations and projects continue to strengthen partnerships. Time was spent with AWS, Hermiston Police and Fire Chief, Hermiston School District Technology Department, Next Step program at Hermiston High School. We received sizable donations of items from churches and businesses in the community.

## FUNDRAISING

AWS donated \$100,000 to our general fund. We applied for and received \$10,000 towards technology from AWS-ChangeX Eastern Oregon grant program. Two additional grants \$10,000 each, have been submitted specific to the outdoor common areas and kitchen. Worked in conjunction with CAPECO as part of the local planning group to complete the HB5019 funds application and shelter addendum; funding going directly to PATH from shelter addendum totaling \$627,200.

Worked through HUD grant process under the umbrella of the ROCC. First year applicants are not typically funded, but those numbers are used to set the budget for the following year.



## Sleep Center

July total of 178 guest stays, 21 unduplicated, 7 new guest and 11 came for meals only.

August total of 170 guest stays, 25 unduplicated, 10 new guest and 10 came for meals only.

September total of 196 guest stays, 33 unduplicated, 13 new guest and 10 came for meals only.

## Volunteer Info

Volunteer outreach continues to be a focus as we need a large pool to draw from each month. We did stagger the night staff in order to lessen the dependence on volunteers, but still need one volunteer each morning and one volunteer each evening.

### Below are total volunteer shifts:

July: 65 Shifts

August: 62 Shifts

September: 62 Shifts

Meals:

July: 24 Meals

August: 27 Meals

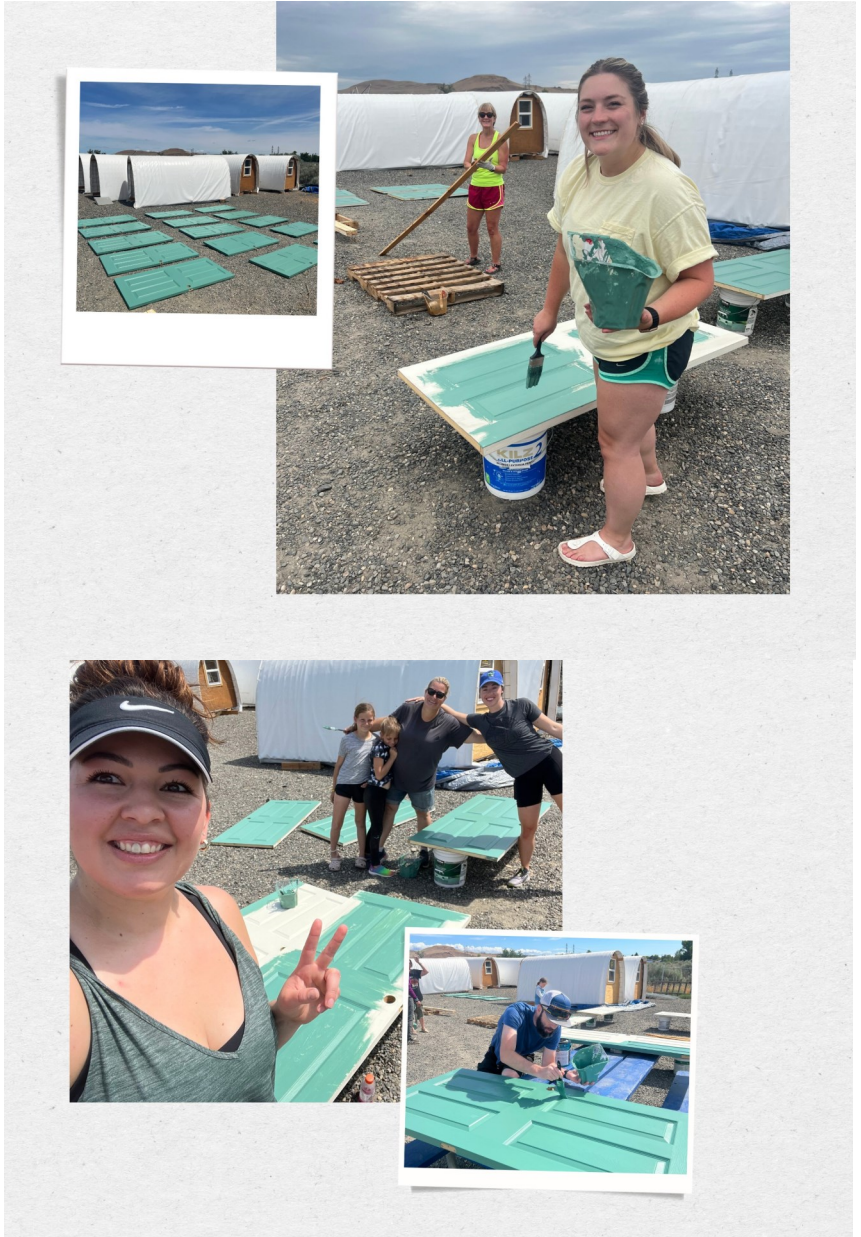
September: 24 Meals

## Looking Forward....

1. Grand Opening

## Individual Shelter Units

Volunteer work days took place on July 21st, 22nd and September 30th. Doors, beds and trim work was all completed. Units are ready to be moved onsite where final cleanings and finishing touches can be completed.





in partnership with the West Umatilla County PATH Project  
INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AND OTHER COMMUNITY PARTNERS  
FOR OUR GRAND OPENING AND HOUSEWARMING EVENT

DECEMBER

THURSDAY      7      3PM-6PM  
2023

Ribbon cutting with Hermiston and Umatilla Chambers of Commerce at 4PM.  
Light refreshments provided.

Wish list registry available on Amazon:



WWW.STEPPING-STONES-ALLIANCE.ORG  
81535 LIND ROAD  
HERMISTON, OR 97838



en asociación con el Proyecto PATH del oeste del condado de Umatilla  
TE INVITAMOS A UNIRTE A NOSOTROS Y A OTROS SOCIOS COMUNITARIOS  
PARA NUESTRO GRAN EVENTO DE INAUGURACIÓN E INAUGURACIÓN DE LA CASA.

DICIEMBRE

JUEVES      7      3PM-6PM  
2023

Corte de cinta con las Cámaras de Comercio de Hermiston y Umatilla a las 4 p.m.  
Se proporcionan refrigerios ligeros.

Registro de lista de deseos disponible en Amazon:



WWW.STEPPING-STONES-ALLIANCE.ORG  
81535 LIND ROAD  
HERMISTON, OR 97838



Our story  
**How it started**

The journey of Stepping Stones Alliance Center began years ago with the experience of a volunteer at the Hermiston Warming Station. The satisfaction of seeing the positive impact on others of a safe, secure shelter during cold winter months, led to the realization that for a larger portion of the year no such resource was available. Whatever the weather, cold or hot, wet or windy, the lack of shelter from the elements and any assurance of personal safety became a concern that could not be disregarded.

[www.stepping-stones-alliance.org](http://www.stepping-stones-alliance.org)

Executive Director

[executivedirector@stepping-stones-alliance.org](mailto:executivedirector@stepping-stones-alliance.org)  
(541) 371-1425

Navigation Director

[navigationdirector@stepping-stones-alliance.org](mailto:navigationdirector@stepping-stones-alliance.org)  
(541) 371-1463

Sleep Center Coordinator

[sleepcentercoordinator@stepping-stones-alliance.org](mailto:sleepcentercoordinator@stepping-stones-alliance.org)  
(541) 371-7084

**Donate**



**Stepping Stones Alliance LLC**

PO Box 395  
81535 Lind Road  
Hermiston, OR 97838  
(541) 561-3680



**To provide individuals with necessary Stepping Stones**

shelter, basic needs,  
and supports  
that can lead to stability  
for people  
in Umatilla County  
who are experiencing  
houselessness.

Stepping Stones ALLIANCE



# The pathway to self-reliance

## Sleep Center

### Night to night shelter for those in need

- Exterior securely fenced and lighted
- Scheduled transportation to and from site
- Options for individuals and families
- Staffed during hours of operation
- Basic food and hygiene supplies

Pets are allowed at the Sleep Center if they are not dangerous, diseased, or aggressive toward persons or other animals. Pets are kept on leash, held by their owner, or confined in a kennel (provided by Sleep Center) when inside. Guests immediately clean up after their pets.

Stepping Stones is a low-barrier shelter; meaning that guests are accepted as they are, where they are; and are provided a warm, safe shelter. Stepping Stones follows best practices to offer shelter services in a way that minimizes barriers and increases access for all those experiencing homelessness.

## Navigation Center

### Needed services and access to resources available to "members" through Center staff, community partners and volunteers

- Participant goal and action plan support
- Counseling and recovery program access
- Technology resources for action plan work
- Common area for groups and community
- Scheduled transportation to and from site
- Self-sufficiency
- Assistance in obtaining IDs/birth certificates
- Workshops
- Connection to medical services
- Community reintegration

## Housing Center

### Transitional shelter units for participants engaged in personal action plan utilizing Navigation Center resources

- Small units for one-two adults, or parent/child
- Working or volunteering for shelter unit credit
- Utilizing onsite resources for future housing plan
- Shower unit available per schedule
- Outside covered common area
- Transportation to essential appointments and/or services
- Building community on and off site



**Res. 2296: RWS Pipelines**

November 13, 2023 City Council

**HERMISTON**

## Project Description

- 100% Funded by AWS
  - ~2.5 Miles new non-potable Water Main
  - ~2 Miles new Cooling Water Discharge Main

## 2.5 Mile Non-Potable Water Main

## 2 Mile Cooling Water Discharge Main

## 2X Water Use: Industry + Agriculture

- HID A-Line Canal
  - +5% More Water
  - Preserve Cold-Springs Storage
  - 5% More Acreage  
**OR**
  - Longer Season or Higher Value Crops



## Big Picture



## Bids Received:

- 8 Total Bids Received
- Lowest 3:
  - Premier Excavation: **\$7,056,083.16**
  - Rotschy, Inc.: **\$7,879,538.00**
  - C & E Trenching: **\$8,356,320.00**
- Engineer's Estimate:
  - **\$11,675,450**



Questions?

Where Life is Sweet™



## Project Description

- EPA Requirement of ALL Water Systems in USA
- Inventory/Document Presence of Lead/Copper
- Service Lines. Not Public Mains.



## Project Description

- Excavate in front and behind water meters
- Scratch-Test & Magnetism Test
- No Further Action. Only Inventory.
- Submit Results to EPA by October 1, 2024.



## Scope of Project

- Only Pre-1986 Services
- Statistically Valid Sample (98%)
- 350 Meters out of 5,200 City-Wide



## Example of Work



## Bids Received:

- 5 Total Bids Received
- Lowest 3:
  - **North Cascade Excavating:** \$198,715
  - **Exo Contracting:** \$308,821
  - **Jesse Rodriguez Construction:** \$436,165
- Engineer's Estimate:
  - **\$250,000**



Questions?

*Where Life is Sweet™*