



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes January 23, 2023

Council President Primmer called the regular meeting to order at 7:02pm. Present were Councilors Hardin, Peterson, Myers, Barron, Duron, Linton, and McCarthy. Mayor Drotzmann was excused. Judge Bendixsen was in attendance, as well as staff to include: City Manager Byron D. Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, City Attorney Rich Tovey, Chief Edmiston, Planning Director Clint Spencer, Finance Director Mark Krawczyk, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, Parks and Recreation Director Brandon Artz, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Council President Primmer introduced and welcomed new Municipal Court Judge Cameron Bendixsen.

Municipal Court Judge Bendixsen stated he is a Hermiston native and has practiced law in Hermiston for many years. Judge Bendixsen stated his hope is to make sure people feel heard and help them understand the court process so they feel comfortable in what can be a stressful situation. Judge Bendixsen thanked the great court staff for their work, the community for allowing him the privilege to serve in this capacity and stated he hopes to be in this role for many years.

Presentation- Barnett & Moro Audit Report

Rick Stoddard from Barnett & Moro presented brief information regarding the audit conducted for the City.

Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

None given.

Consent Agenda Items

Councilor Duron moved and Councilor Linton seconded to approve Consent Agenda items A-E, to include:

- A. Committee Vacancy Announcements
- B. Committee Re-Appointment Confirmation of Anton Wanous for: Budget Committee Position #1- term ending 12/31/2025
- C. Committee Re-Appointment Confirmation of Joshua Roberts for: Budget Committee Position #3- term ending 12/31/2025
- D. Committee Appointment Confirmation of Jesse Roa for: Hispanic Advisory Committee Position #3- term ending 06/30/2024
- E. Minutes of the January 9, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing- Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment - Simon and Simon 4N 28 13C Tax Lots 900 & 906 - 1457,1555,1575 & 1595 E Airport Rd (Ordinance No. 2343)-

After hearing no declarations of conflict of interest from the Council, City Planner Clint Spencer read the hearing guidelines and Council President Primmer opened the hearing at 7:15pm.

City Planner Spencer gave information regarding the proposal to relocate zone boundaries to follow lot lines, creating a more logical development path for each parcel as presented in the agenda packet.

Proponents

Carla McLane Consulting, LLC stated the requested action is more of a housekeeping measure to help create additional clarity for current and future landowners.



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There were no Opponents or Neutral parties who wished to testify, and the Hearing was closed at 7:22pm.

City Planner Spencer presented the Findings of Fact as outlined in the agenda packet.

Councilor McCarthy moved and Councilor Linton seconded to make the project file a part of the record. Motion carried unanimously. Councilor Duron moved and Councilor Hardin seconded to approve the Findings of Fact as presented by City Planner Spencer. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2343- Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment - Simon and Simon 4N 28 13C Tax Lots 900 & 906 - 1457,1555,1575 & 1595 E Airport Rd- City Manager Smith stated the information was presented during the public hearing.

Council President Primmer requested that the first reading be by title only. Hearing no opposition, City Attorney Richard Tovey read the ordinance by title only. Council President Primmer requested that the ordinance be put on for final adoption at this meeting and that the second reading be by title only. After City Attorney Richard Tovey read the ordinance by title only, Councilor Linton moved and Councilor Duron seconded that Ordinance No. 2343 be adopted and become effective 30-days after adoption by the City Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2344- Amending Driveway Width Standards to Match Public Works Standards

City Planner Clint Spencer stated the proposed amendment would eliminate the driveway width standards from the city code entirely to match the adopted public works standards.

Council President Primmer requested that the first reading be by title only. Hearing no opposition, City Attorney Richard Tovey read the ordinance by title only. Council President Primmer requested that the ordinance be put on for final adoption at this meeting and that the second reading be by title only. After City Attorney Richard Tovey read the ordinance by title only, Councilor Duron moved and Councilor Myers seconded that Ordinance No. 2344 be adopted and become effective 30-days after adoption by the City Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2253- Employee Handbook Adoption

City Manager Smith gave information regarding the proposed Employee Handbook changes as outlined in the staff report.

After some discussion, Councilor McCarthy moved, and Councilor Linton seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2253 and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2254- Adopting the Revised City Design Standards and Specifications Manual

Assistant City Manager Morgan stated this resolution would approve updates to the City Design Standards and Specifications Manual to reflect a handful of small changes which were recommended by City staff or members of the development community over the last year.



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After some discussion, Councilor Duron moved and Councilor Hardin seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2254 and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously.

December Financial Report

Councilor Duron moved and Councilor McCarthy seconded to accept the December Financial Report as presented by Finance Director Mark Krawczyk. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Request Priority

City Manager Smith presented the Council with recommended possible legislative funding priorities (attached).

Public Comment

Karen Primmer, Hermiston- asked where the indoor arena at EOTEC would be erected and the timeline for this to happen.

City Manager Smith gave details on area placement and stated there is currently no timeline for this project.

The Council agreed that these projects were great priorities; Councilor Linton suggested that the Hispanic Resource Center be renamed to Multicultural Resource Center to be inclusive of other cultures currently living in or moving into the community.

Committee Reports

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee- Councilor Myers gave updates regarding: the Aquatic Center, HEROS, Riverfront and Harrison Parks, Community Center Donor Wall, and gave special recognition to the Parks and Recreation Department as their Holiday Season special events have been outstanding.

Parks and Recreation Director Brandon Artz gave information regarding Legacy Park Open House and stated the findings from that open house will be presented to the City Council meeting.

Hispanic Advisory Committee- Councilor Duron and Barron spoke regarding their most recent meeting which included presentations from Capeco and DEQ. Capeco gave information regarding homeownership programs and financial education services; both programs are offered in English and Spanish. DEQ gave information regarding Nitrates in well water throughout the area and its impact, as well as how to educate the public regarding testing.

EOTEC Advisory Committee- Councilor Barron gave updates regarding strategic plan information.

Council President's Report

Council President Primmer spoke regarding:

- Goal Setting Interviews with Sara Singer-Wilson at SSW
- LOC City Day at the Capitol

Council Reports

Councilor McCarthy spoke regarding the LOC Elected Essential Training he attended with Councilor Linton, City Manager Smith, and Mayor Drotzmann.



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Councilor Barron spoke regarding the MLK event at City Hall.

Youth Advisory Report

Council President Primmer stated Youth Advisors apologize for being unable to attend tonight's meeting as they are preparing for finals this week.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Smith spoke regarding:

- Congratulated Hermiston's Cultural Awareness Coalition as this year's MLK Event had one of the biggest crowds with about 200 people and great speakers
- LOC Calendar

Recess for Executive Session

At 8:39pm 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 8:53pm as there was no other City business.

SIGNED:

Doug Primmer, Council President

ATTEST:

Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC, City Recorder

Memo



Where Life is Sweet

To: Mayor and Council
From: Byron D. Smith, City Manager
Date: January 23, 2023
Re: Legislative Funding Priorities, etc.

As we begin the 2023 Legislative Session, I wanted to have a brief discussion about possible legislative funding priorities and about some of the major issues coming forward in this session of the legislature.

Funding Discussion

Each Legislative Session, we have typically started with a list of potential projects that we work with our State legislative delegation to seek funding on. They are typically a wide variety of projects so that depending on the type of funding that is available a project can be found for Hermiston. This session is no different. This list has not always been this formal. For this reason, I bring the attached one-page short descriptions to you for discussion and familiarity.

Impactful Issues

- Housing and Homelessness
- Water
- Enterprise Zone Renewal

Hispanic Resource Center

Hermiston Library Renovation - Phase II



Where Life is Sweet



Project Description

The lower floor of the Hermiston Public Library was remodeled in 2021 to accommodate office space during the Hermiston City Hall construction project. This is now available for library use with the idea of dedicating space to a Hispanic Resource Center, including:

- Expanding the Spanish language material collections by participating in Libros for Oregon (group of public libraries that attend book sale in Mexico) and using expansion space to increase the size and variety of collections
- Building a Resource Center to facilitate Spanish-language access to community services including the Oregon Human Development Corporation and Euvalcree, tax filing services, and computer classes
- Creating displays related to the history and culture Spanish speakers that have contributed to Hermiston and Umatilla County
- Developing a gathering space by identifying staff with liaison responsibilities to community groups representing and serving the Spanish-speaking community and hosting Hispanic Advisory Committee and other similar meetings at the library
- **Estimated cost is \$3.5 million**

Background

According to the 2020 Census, 52% of the Hermiston community is Hispanic. The City has been making efforts for many years to ensure the population has equitable access to resources and information, including the creation of the Hispanic Advisory Committee in 2012 which was awarded the National League of Cities' 2013 City Cultural Diversity Award.

Project Contact

Byron Smith
bsmith@hermiston.or.us

Public Safety Center Renovation

Upgrades to Hermiston Police and Umatilla County Fire District #1



Where Life is Sweet



Project Description

The Hermiston Municipal Court moved out of the Bob Shannon Safety Center and into the newly constructed Hermiston City Hall, leaving room for the Hermiston Police Department to make use of the additional space in the building shared with Umatilla County Fire District #1. The full project would include:

- Renovating public safety center to better utilize space and make room for additional requirements of the fire department.
- Bringing detective unit under the same roof as patrol for better communication.
- Improving efficiency of evidence storage and other functions of the facility

Background

The Bob Shannon Safety Center in downtown Hermiston is located on the same block as Hermiston High School.

It is the headquarters of the Hermiston Police Department and Umatilla County Fire District #1, and previously housed the Hermiston Municipal Court.

Project Contact

Byron Smith
bsmith@hermiston.or.us

Health, Wellness & Aquatic Center

Regional Indoor Health and Fitness Facility



Where Life is Sweet



Clackamas Aquatic Center

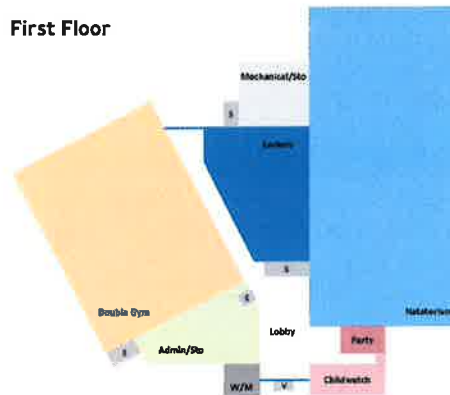
Project Description

The Health, Wellness & Aquatic Center will be a year-round facility that is the most commonly requested amenity in polling among members of the Hermiston community. The current outdoor Hermiston Aquatic Center is only open four months per year due to weather restrictions. The full project would include:

- An indoor pool complex for lap and leisure swimming, physical therapy and water safety education.
- General workout areas including physical fitness equipment.
- Two multi-use athletic courts for basketball, volleyball, and other sports and activities.
- A full-size indoor walking track
- **Estimated Cost: Over \$40 million**

CONCEPTUAL BUILDING PLANS

First Floor



Second Floor



Top Regional Priority

#1 Project in City of Hermiston Parks & Recreation Open Space Plan (PROS)

#1 Community-Selected Item in Hermiston 2040 Plan

#1 Desired Community Amenity in City of Umatilla's Master Park Plan

Contact:

Byron Smith
bsmith@hermiston.or.us

Carnegie Library Renovation

Hermiston Historical Museum and Cultural Center



Where Life is Sweet



Project Description

Prior to the construction of the new Hermiston City Hall, the Carnegie Library building housed the Building and Planning Department for the City of Hermiston. The historic building is no longer needed for administrative or customer service purposes and the City is developing a plan to create a space to be a public asset. This project would include:

- Renovating the historic building into a community museum, arts center, cultural center, or similar space for the public good.
- Providing accessibility to both floors and allow greater use of the building.
- Preserves one of Hermiston's oldest downtown buildings
- **Planning cost estimated at \$250,000**

Background

Hermiston's Carnegie Library was constructed in 1914 as one of 31 such Oregon libraries funded by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. It served as Hermiston's public library until a larger building was constructed next door in 1989. The building now sits between the Hermiston Public Library and the Harkenrider Senior Center in downtown Hermiston.

Project Contact

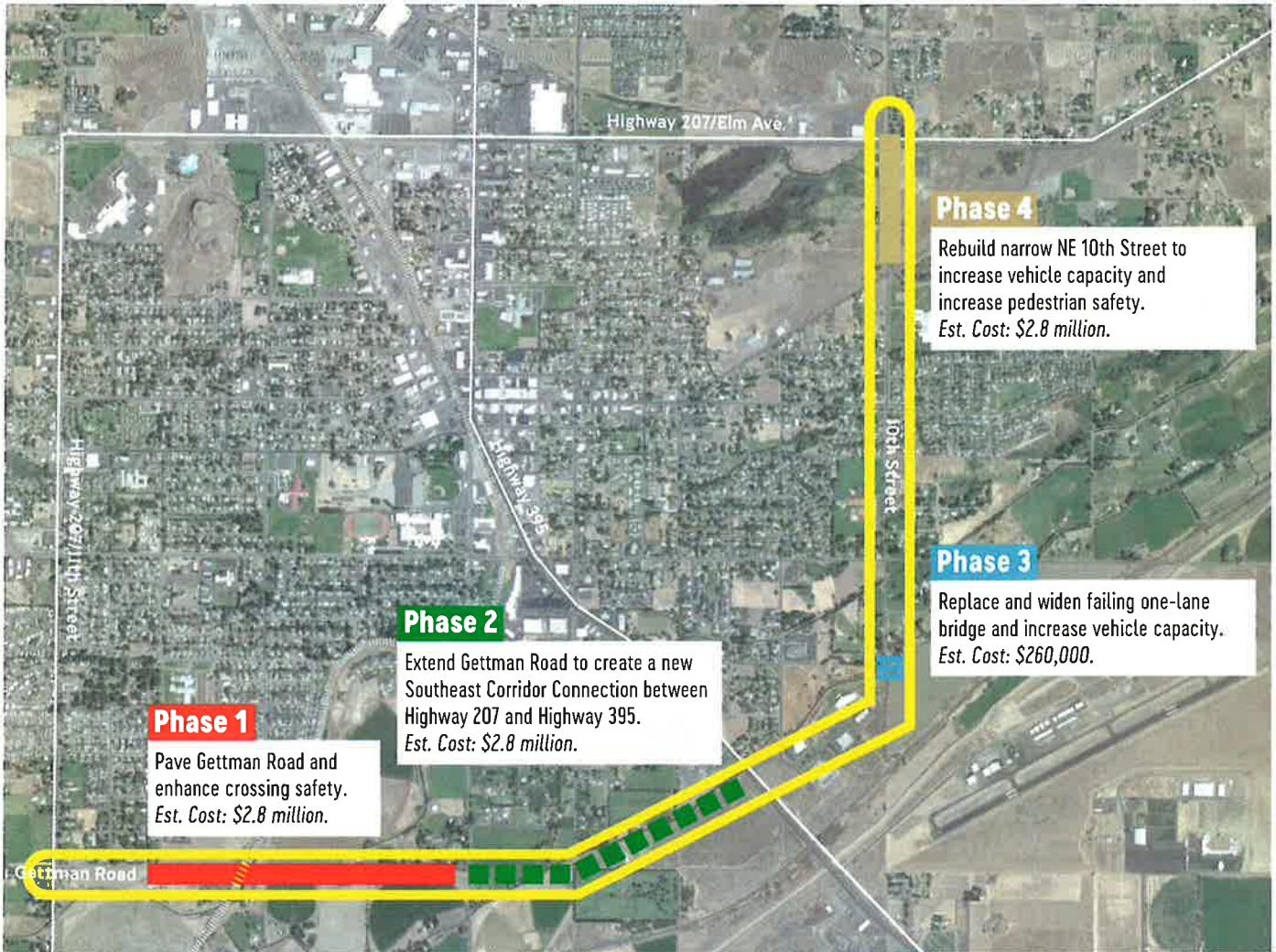
Byron Smith
bsmith@hermiston.or.us



Where Life is Sweet

Hermiston GRATE Project

Gettman Road/Railway Alternative Transportation Enhancement



Phase 1

Pave Gettman Road and enhance crossing safety.
Est. Cost: \$2.8 million.

Phase 2

Extend Gettman Road to create a new Southeast Corridor Connection between Highway 207 and Highway 395.
Est. Cost: \$2.8 million.

Phase 4

Rebuild narrow NE 10th Street to increase vehicle capacity and increase pedestrian safety.
Est. Cost: \$2.8 million.

Phase 3

Replace and widen failing one-lane bridge and increase vehicle capacity.
Est. Cost: \$260,000.

Project Description

Develops a new local connection between US395 & OR207 in two locations by constructing 1.5 Miles of new roadway, replacing & widening a failing 1 lane bridge, expanding ¼ mile of existing roadway, and enhancing an existing Union Pacific Railroad crossing.

Project or Program Readiness

The overall project is broken in to four independent components, all of which are included in Hermiston's adopted Transportation System Plan, and adopted Capital Improvement Plan. All right of way is in place, with preliminary scoping design completed for Phases 1, 3, & 4. Phase 2 still requires right of way acquisition.

Total Project or Program Cost

- Phase 1- \$2,800,000: [W. Gettman Road Construction](#) (paving and rail crossing upgrade)
- Phase 2- \$2,770,000: [E. Gettman Road Construction](#) (ROW acquire & road construction)
- Phase 3- \$210,000: [S.E. 10th Street Bridge Replacement](#)
- Phase 4- \$2,780,000: [N.E. 10th Street Reconstruction](#)

Project or Program Sponsor

City of Hermiston

Project or Program Contact

Byron Smith
bsmith@hermiston.or.us

GRATE Supporters

- Hermiston Chamber of Commerce
- Umatilla County
- Hermiston School District
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- State Sen. Bill Hansell
- State Rep. Greg Smith
- ODOT Region 5
- City of Hermiston

EOTEC Riding Pavilion

Indoor Equestrian Arena at Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center



Where Life is Sweet



Project Description

The Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center hosts a variety of rodeo and equestrian events throughout the year, including competitive riding and roping events, youth organization animal shows, auctions, and the Umatilla County Fair. This project will include:

- Constructing an indoor arena large enough for roping and other equestrian events.
- Constructing classroom and office space to be used for the Umatilla County Fair, 4-H and other youth-related programs
- **Estimated cost of about \$25 million**

Background

The Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center (EOTEC) opened in 2016 as a multi-use facility with an event center, rodeo arena, livestock barns, and outdoor fairgrounds.

The City of Hermiston owns and operates the year-round facility that hosts public and private events, as well as the annual Umatilla County Fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo.

Project Contact

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