



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes November 27, 2023

Mayor Drotzmann called the regular meeting to order at 7:04pm. Present were Councilors Primmer, Hardin, Peterson, Barron, Duron, Linton, McCarthy, and Myers. City Staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, Finance Director Mark Krawczyk, City Attorney Rich Tovey, Chief Edmiston, Planning Director Clint Spencer, Parks and Recreation Director Brandon Artz, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, Hermiston Energy Services General Manager Nate Rivera, IT Support Specialist Tony Ficene, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. Youth Advisors Jeannine Heredia and Yaneisy Perez were also present. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Presentation- H2OEO Water for Eastern Oregon

Michael Graham gave information (PowerPoint Presentation attached) regarding groundwater contamination in our region. H2OEO is a group formed by businesses and individuals in the area concerned with addressing the groundwater quality in our region.

Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

Kenzie Maloy, 1348 E Main St- Stated she is a longtime City resident, graduating from Hermiston High School, and a health and wellness provider in Hermiston and presented information (handout attached) regarding health impacts from 5G towers.

Jill Litzsinger- emailed comment attached.

Troy White, 785 SE Opal Court- Asked that the City give other business owners tax breaks, like they do with Amazon, to develop in the Urban Growth Boundaries.

Consent Agenda Items

Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor McCarthy seconded to approve Consent Agenda items A-E to include:

- A. Committee Vacancy Announcements
- B. Committee Appointment Confirmation of Nicole Westing for: Airport Advisory Committee Position #2- term ending 10/31/2026
- C. Committee Appointment confirmation of Jesse McCormach for: Airport Advisory Committee Position #5- remaining term ending 10/31/2025
- D. Minutes of the November 13th City Council Work Session and Regular Meeting
- E. Initiate annexation and comprehensive plan map amendment proceedings 4N2813 TL 200 & 500 - 1295 SE 10th St

Motion carried unanimously.

October 2023 Financial Report

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

Committee Reports

Hispanic Advisory Committee- Councilor Duron stated the Committee heard many presentations including one from City Manager Smith regarding the Budget and asked that Committee members consider translating for tonight's meeting, Energy Trust, and more. There were questions regarding EOTEC's rates which were answered by displaying the rate schedule found on the City's website.



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Stepping Stones Alliance/PATH Project (not a City Committee)- Mayor Drotzmann gave information regarding Stepping Stones Open House on December 7th, Board Member changes, Marlette Homes building accessible units for those with disabilities, and thanked those involved in these resources to provide for those in need.

Councilor Duron also encouraged the public to visit Stepping Stones Alliance's website for more information.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Drotzmann spoke regarding:

- Thanked Council President Primmer for running the last meeting in his absence and for covering the upcoming meeting as he will be attending the Oregon Business Summit.
- His participation in the Community Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner where he and many other volunteers delivered and served meals to those in need or those who just didn't want to be alone. This is a great organization who will also be providing a meal on Christmas.

Council Reports

Councilor Primmer thanked EOTEC staff as he received many great compliments regarding the EOTEC facility and staff from the organizers and attendees of the Oregon State Interoperability Council who meet annually with different government agencies and private communication businesses to coordinate statewide emergency communication planning. Agencies from Umatilla and Morrow Counties were in attendance, as well as the FBI, National Guard, cell phone companies, and more.

Councilor McCarthy spoke regarding Thursday's Tree Lighting and Festival of Trees events.

Mayor Drotzmann encouraged the community to shop local this holiday season and throughout the year.

Youth Advisory Report

Yaneisy Perez stated she and others will be volunteering at the Festival of Trees.

Jeannine Heredia gave information regarding the High School canned food drive and Posada Celebration on December 8th.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Smith stated he had nothing new to share that hasn't already been mentioned besides stating that participation at the Festival of Lights is by donation.

Recess for Executive Session

At 8:21pm 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 transactions. 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.



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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 30 mins.

Reconvene and Adjournment

Mayor Drotzmann reconvened and adjourned the City Council meeting at 9:02pm as there was no other City business.

SIGNED:

Doug Primmer, Council President

ATTEST:

Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC, City Recorder

DRAFT



WATER FOR EASTERN OREGON

What's the Problem?

- Some domestic wells have elevated levels of nitrates
 - OHA found about 20% of tests on 1,000 wells returned over 10 mg/L
 - Estimated 3,500-4,500 domestic wells in LUBGWMA
- Solutions are complex
 - Nitrate sources include agriculture, livestock, water reuse, failing septic tanks, shallow wells, etc.
 - Geology and hydrology of Basin are not well understood
- Unclear chain of responsibility
 - Lack of coordination over 30 years to study and address nitrates
 - State and federal regulations do not apply to individual wells, and owners are ultimately responsible for their own wells

Who's Who in Lower Umatilla Basin



- **LUBGWMA:** Groundwater quality restoration
- **OREGON DEQ:** Environmental rules and monitoring
- **Oregon Health Authority:** Impact on human health
- **EPA:** Federal oversight
- **Counties:** Water use and environmental health

Timeline of Major Water Events



Direct Support: 2022-2023

- Before OHA began its outreach, direct testing for **300 wells** and testing support for another **200 wells**
- Assisted local officials with drinking water distribution, with the donation of loading dock space, storage, and **1,000 water jugs**
- Provided **1,200+ information packets** (in English and Spanish)
- Created www.H2OEO.org website for information and updates
- Partnered with **30+ local businesses and organizations**
- Coordinating with local, state, and federal government

Why H2OEO?

As local employers and community organizations we can:

- **Amplify local voices** where decisions are being made and speak for our community.
- **Fight misinformation** by sharing reliable facts.
- **Support** OHA and county health department efforts.
- **Move swiftly** to meet emerging needs and fill gaps.
- **Help** our employees and their families access resources.

The Path Forward

- Continue to meet immediate needs (well testing, filtration systems, water deliveries, information)
- Increase awareness of individual responsibility for well testing and maintenance
- Identify regional roles and responsibilities to conduct research and make tangible progress on clean water
- Follow the science and secure necessary funding to enact locally-led solutions

Med Pr. 2020 Jan 20;71(1):105-113. doi: 10.13075/mp.5893.00867.
Epub 2019 Nov 29.

[Protection of the population health from electromagnetic hazards-
challenges resulting from the implementation of the 5G network
planned in Poland].

Zmysłony M(1), Bieńkowski P(2), Bortkiewicz A(3), Karpowicz J(4),
Kieliszek J(5), Politański P(1), Rydzyński K(6).

“the research evidence is strong enough for the World Health
Organization to classify EMF as an environmental factor potentially
carcinogenic to humans.”

“due to the fact that there are data indicating the existence of
biophysical mechanisms of the EMF influence that may lead to adverse
health effects, it seems necessary to use the precautionary principle and
the ALARA principle when creating environmental requirements for the
construction and exploitation of the infrastructure of the planned 5G
system”

<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/radiation/alara.html>

The guiding principle of radiation safety is “ALARA”. ALARA stands for “as
low as reasonably achievable”. ALARA means avoiding exposure to
radiation that does not have a direct benefit to you, even if the dose is
small.

Toxicol Lett. 2020 May 1:323:35-40.

doi: 10.1016/j.toxlet.2020.01.020. Epub 2020 Jan 25.

Adverse health effects of 5G mobile networking technology under real-
life conditions

Ronald N Kostoff¹, Paul Heroux², Michael Aschner³, Aristides Tsatsakis⁴

Affiliations

- ¹Research Affiliate, School of Public Policy, Georgia Institute of
Technology, Georgia, United States. Electronic address:
rkostoff@gmail.com.
- ²Toxicology and Health Effects of Electromagnetism, McGill
University, Canada.
- ³Molecular Pharmacology, Einstein Center of Toxicology, Albert
Einstein College of Medicine, United States.
- ⁴Laboratory of Toxicology, Medical School, University of Crete,
Voutes, 71409 Heraklion, Crete, Greece; Department of Analytical,
Toxicology, Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Pharmacognosy,
Sechenov University, 119991 Moscow, Russia. Electronic address:
toxlab.uoc@gmail.com.
- PMID: 31991167
- DOI: [10.1016/j.toxlet.2020.01.020](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.toxlet.2020.01.020)

“Wireless radiation offers the promise of improved remote sensing,
improved communications and data transfer, and improved connectivity.
Unfortunately, there is a large body of data from laboratory and
epidemiological studies showing that previous and present generations
of wireless networking technology have significant adverse health
impacts.”

J Epidemiol Community Health. 2021 Jan 19;jech-2019-213595. doi: 10.1136/jech-2019-213595

Electromagnetic fields, 5G and health: what about the precautionary principle?

Frank JW(1).

Author information: (1)Usher Institute, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK john.frank@ed.ac.uk.

“Several recent reviews by independent scientists, however, suggest that there is significant uncertainty on this question, with rapidly emerging evidence of potentially harmful biological effects from radio frequency electromagnetic field (RF-EMF) exposures, at the levels 5G roll-out will entail. This essay identifies four relevant sources of scientific uncertainty and concern: (1) lack of clarity about precisely what technology is included in 5G; (2) a rapidly accumulating body of laboratory studies documenting disruptive in vitro and in vivo effects of RF-EMFs-but one with many gaps in it; (3) an almost total lack (as yet) of high-quality epidemiological studies of adverse human health effects from 5G EMF exposure specifically, but rapidly emerging epidemiological evidence of such effects from past generations of RF-EMF exposure; (4) persistent allegations that some national telecommunications regulatory authorities do not base their RF-EMF safety policies on the latest science, related to unmanaged conflicts of interest. The author, an experienced epidemiologist, concludes that one cannot dismiss the growing health concerns about RF-EMFs, especially in an era when higher population levels of exposure are occurring widely, due to the spatially dense transmitters which 5G systems require. Based on the precautionary principle, the author echoes the calls of others for a moratorium on the further roll-out of 5G systems globally, pending more conclusive research on their safety.”

Int J Hyg Environ Health. 2018 Apr;221(3):367-375.

doi: 10.1016/j.ijheh.2018.01.011. Epub 2018 Feb 2.

Towards 5G communication systems: Are there health implications?

Agostino Di Ciaula¹

Division of Internal Medicine, Hospital of Bisceglie (ASL BAT), Bisceglie, Italy; International Society of Doctors for Environment (ISDE), Arezzo, Italy. Electronic address: agostinodiciaula@tiscali.it.

- PMID: 29402696
- DOI: 10.1016/j.ijheh.2018.01.011

“Evidences about the biological properties of RF-EMF are progressively accumulating and, although they are in some case still preliminary or controversial, clearly point to the existence of multi-level interactions between high-frequency EMF and biological systems, and to the possibility of oncologic and non-oncologic (mainly reproductive, metabolic, neurologic, microbiologic) effects.”

From: Jill Litzinger <jilllitzinger@gmail.com >
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 7:26 PM
To: City of Hermiston Meetings
Subject: Meeting November 27th

You don't often get email from jilllitzinger@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] - STOP and VERIFY - This message came from outside of the City of Hermiston

\$900,000 is owed. \$375,000 police grant was given. \$525,000 is left. But you're wanting to add 16,997,000 in new taxes plus Amazon owes \$20million for cold water work that's being done. Payback from the 2 loans taken 1.36M and 675K is just over 2M so why is almost 17M needed?

So Pendleton is getting all the revenue from the cannabis tax I feel that we need to open a cannabis shop in Hermiston. Let a business work for the citizens.

I understand we have (I do not know technical terms) Incentives for new businesses for 0 taxes Up to 10 years or 15 I'm not sure. That needs to be limited to the first company in each county all others should be subject to taxes. We have been railroaded by Amazon And there mass amounts of buildings. They are bringing people to the area yet they are not being held accountable for taxes to assist in the county's they are in. And that's with all aspects construction and Jobs both local and out of state. This is a multi million dollar business. We need to figure out how to change this tax free Incentive because it's not an incentive to the community in which they are residing. And when they're lease of 10 years or 15 years comes up are these buildings going to still be worth anything or are they going to shut these buildings down and want to build new? Or are they just going to leave the area completely because they've outused all the resources that we have? And then we're stuck with empty ugly buildings. I want Amazon held accountable also. So you might want to find somebody else that is better at negotiating with Amazon. To have them start paying their share of expenses that they are bringing to our community. 10 to 15 years is way too long to have to wait and put that Burden on the people of this community.

Because once you taxes you won't take that tax away regardless if Amazon does pay in 10 to 15 years. You will use that as extra revenue without giving any kickbacks to the citizens of Hermiston.

As for taxing the citizens COVID already did a number on a lot of Citizens, businesses that they are already hurting and you want to implement more taxes but not hold the people responsible for this disaster accountable? The citizens were forced To shut down their businesses by the city who listened to the governor. Yet allowed Safeway and Walmart to run openly and free.

Where did that \$30.9 million dollars that you guys used for big projects In the last budget come from? Was that COVID money that should of went to the citizens of those businesses? Why wasn't that money split up between small business owners And just handed to them? Why did the city feel the need to take that covid money and use it for their own benefit instead of helping their citizens? There are so many un answered questions I would like to see a print out or an email of all the COVID money that Hermiston and umatilla county received And exactly where that Money was implemented! Transparency

Our \$30.9 million bigger than normal budget.

<https://northeastoregonnow.com/capital-investments-behind-hermistons-bigger-2023-24-budget/?fbclid=IwAR3nHywsWVQd4vK-qVsYpHwDzWoQxInjCNkHMT-g2cDJJQs-WnrPdC6Izoc>

Police grant \$375,000 is this for each year for 3 years?

<https://elkhornmediagroup.com/hermiston-receives-cops-grant/?fbclid=IwAR2E5eh4ruuwjSinXLgxQh2cggUBVsc-XE1RPjvrl7Qx8TqZai9SXjMcXc#:~:text=HERMISTON%20%E2%80%93%20Police%20Chief%20Jason%20Edmiston,year%20grant%20has%20been%20approved.>

This is the added taxes! I say open up a cannabis shop and allow those taxes pay for any needed expenses. But we shouldn't have ANY if Amazon owes \$20,000,000!!!!

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=7097556793643679&id=100001682857927&mibextid=Nif5oz

<https://facebook.com/events/s/hermiston-city-council/3528434244073399/>

Jill Litzinger
PCP Umatilla County 126
& Vice-President
Greater Hermiston Conservatives