



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2023

Mayor Drotzmann called the regular meeting to order at 7:01pm. Present were Councilors Hardin, Linton, Barron, Myers, Duron, and McCarthy. Councilors Primmer and Peterson were excused. Staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, City Attorney Rich Tovey, Chief Edmiston, Planning Director Clint Spencer, Judge Cameron Bendixsen, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, Parks and Recreation Director Brandon Artz, and Assistant City Recorder Heather La Beau. The pledge of allegiance was given with an acknowledgment of the significance of the date.

Presentation- Hermiston School District Updates

Assistant Superintendent Jake Bacon gave Hermiston School District (HSD) updates to include enrollment increases, fall sports schedules available online at hbsdawgs.com, homecoming, elementary outdoor school, construction projects, Alex Boyé performances, parenting sessions, student safety, and Anna Landon reading and book signing.

Presentation- Umatilla County Fire District #1 Updates

Fire Chief Scott Stanton with Umatilla County Fire District #1 (UCFD#1) used the attached PowerPoint slide to give a review of the last fiscal year. Topics covered included number of service calls for both fire and emergency medical services, capital construction updates including four station remodel/upgrades, addition of fire & medical apparatuses and cardiac monitors, district recognition, and upcoming items.

Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

Mark Gomolski, Executive Director of Eastern Oregon Mission- Mr. Gomolski invited the councilors to the Agape House facility. Many upgrades have been made to the interior and exterior of the building. The Agape House is currently serving 835 families each month, which is about 3,150 people a month. Two hundred homeless people a month are serviced. Services include showers and food. The dramatic increase in services experienced the past year is anticipated to continue. Mr. Gomolski expressed gratitude to the business who provide the materials that allow them to serve the community.

Mayor Drotzmann thanked Mr. Gomoloski and the Eastern Oregon Missions Board for their work helping some of the most challenged in the community with resources and facilities. Mr. Gomololski responded that he's thankful for the staff, volunteers, businesses, and community partners that make it possible to do what they do.

Dave Hanson 1737 W Alleluia Ave- Mr. Hanson has joined the committee on homelessness with Umatilla County Commissioner Timmons. He spent 15 years working with homeless in a northern California community that lost 500 homes due to a fire started by the homeless. With Chief Stanton's approval, he is representing the fire service and how they interact with the homeless population. He wants awareness of the amount of homelessness in the county and how it affects public services, parks, and emergency responses. There are areas that common fire-fighting techniques cannot always be used due to the homeless camps.

Mayor Drotzmann thanked Mr. Hanson for his volunteerism.



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2023

Consent Agenda Items

Councilor McCarthy asked to remove Consent Agenda Item E; Councilor Duron moved, and Councilor Hardin seconded to approve Consent Agenda items A-D to include:

- A. Committee Vacancy Announcements
- B. Committee Appointment Confirmation of Christa Guerrero for: Planning Commission Position 5-term ending 03/31/2026
- C. Minutes of the August 28th Work Session and Regular City Council Meetings
- D. Minutes of the July 24 Public Safety Meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

Items Removed from Consent Agenda

- E. Public Notice of the May 21, 2024 Primary Election- Seeking City Official Candidates

Councilor McCarthy stated he removed this item as he was interested in a formal presentation of the item. After a presentation by City Manager Smith, Councilor McCarthy moved, and Councilor Duron seconded to approve Consent Agenda item E. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2348- Amending Chapter 33, 93, and 96 and adding Chapter 97 of the Hermiston Municipal Code

In 2021 Oregon legislative codified the Martin vs Boise decision from the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals regarding the right to rest. Cities may regulate time, place, and manner on resting on public property. City Manager Smith stated this ordinance was developed with the collaboration of the parks and recreation, police, legal, and administration departments after reviewing similar Oregon cities' regulations and creating an ordinance for our community.

Various methods were suggested for providing those affected with the new rules. The judge can require community service in lieu of a fine for those violating the ordinance. Federal property poses difficulty for enforcement due to jurisdictional authority.

Mark Gomolski- Commended the council on taking action on this. He has met with businesses that are concerned with student's safety while walking during lunch hours as they are being harassed and seniors who are not able to walk in the parks. He would like to remind them that the shelter will have 20 units for single people, and they see 200. In the last few weeks, he has had men come to him from Portland asking to be on a list for the housing they were told was available. When told it doesn't exist, they want funds to return to Portland. He is concerned for the amount of people that will come once the shelter is open. He offered to distribute printed materials related to the ordinance to those using the services of Agape House.

David Dorran- Mr. Dorran's backyard is adjacent to Hodge Park and he feels this ordinance will clarify issues. He sees a criminal culture coming into the park and it's a severe problem. He hopes the ordinance can be enacted tonight.



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2023

Jake Bacon on behalf of HSD Superintendent Dr. Tricia Mooney- Mr. Bacon read a letter on behalf of Dr. Mooney in support of the ordinance. The letter is attached.

Ann Minton 895 SW 7th St- As an avid trail walker, she has noticed an increase in the homeless population and no longer feels safe walking alone as she has been approached by homeless people. Ms. Minton sees the same homeless encampment vehicle moved from along the street frontage and from one side of the street to the other. She appreciates the effort to keep the community safe.

Aaron Wetterling 1350 SW 16th St- As the Post Commander for American Legion Post #37 he rents McKenzie Park each year for the veteran's picnic. The restrooms at the park are currently defunct. He asked who maintains and pays for the portable toilets. He does not feel he or others should have to pay for those who choose not to work and are therefore not paying taxes. Mr. Wetterling spoke of hobo signs to mark places and feels Hermiston will have a mark if this ordinance is not in place. He walks everyday at Riverfront Park and has seen homeless people spend the night locking themselves in the bathroom and has called the police on overnight vehicle campers. He's aware of drug use in the park bathrooms. Mr. Wetterling questions where the responsibility lies if children were to encounter the drugs. He is concerned with sanitation issues. As a former Corp of Engineer employee, he's had to clean up after people for many years and it's a sanitation nightmare. He proposes signs be posted and the community be kept safe.

David Hanson 1737 W Alleluia Ave- Responding to a comment from Chief Edmiston, he suggests the city partner with the county to see if mastication can be done as a safety and fire prevention matter at Riverfront Park. Other districts have used this effective method. He encourages working with the county, as the homeless population moves between the jurisdictions.

Councilors discussed several items to consider for future amendments including adding a definition for "moved" for vehicle camping and the possible addition of shopping carts to 97.03(B)(3)(a).

Mayor Drotzmann requested that the first reading be by title only. Hearing no opposition, City Attorney Tovey read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Drotzmann requested the ordinance be put on for final adoption at this meeting and that the second reading be by title only. After City Attorney Tovey read the ordinance by title only, Councilor Barron moved, and Councilor Myers seconded to that Ordinance No. 2348 be adopted and become effective 30 days after adoption by the City Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2291 – Intervention Services/Opioid Funding Intergovernmental Agreement

City Manager Smith stated the cities of Pendleton and Hermiston along with Umatilla County will contribute their opioid settlement monies to fund positions for a mentor type intervention service in the municipal courts of Hermiston and Pendleton.

Judge Cameron Bendixsen- The judge stated to have an objective peer mentor in court to aid the defendant is a valuable resource.



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2023

Councilor McCarthy moved, and Councilor Hardin seconded to adopt Resolution 2291 and lay upon the record. Roll Call. Motion passed unanimously.

Community Survey Report

City Manager Smith summarized the survey report.

Mayor Drotzmann theorized that citizens seem more optimistic post pandemic and questioned if this is true in other cities. City Manager Smith responded that while there is an upward positive trend, results are affected by the current events at the time the survey is sent out.

Councilors discussed timing and wording for future survey questions related to the budget in light of these survey results.

Committee Reports

Faith Based Advisory Committee- Councilor Harding reported the National Faith & First Responders Event is happening October 7, from 10am to 2pm at Butte Park in conjunction with the Kiwanis Kid's Day Event. All the schools have been adopted by faith groups. The committee received productive information on the direction of the committee's projects such as recycling event, CAB program, marriage training, and working with PATH.

Parks & Recreation Committee- Councilor McCarthy reported the committee will meet on the 14th.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Drotzmann shared that more people are interested in filling vacant committee positions. He encouraged those going to Round-Up to safely enjoy the event as they support the other side of county.

Council Reports

Councilor Duron shared that the Community Accountability Board met, and Officer Cobian will take over the lead from Officer Nava.

Councilor McCarthy stated the Kiwanis Kid's Day is a free event for the entire community. The activities will be at the park along with an AYSO soccer event. Cork & Barrell is also Oct 7 on Festival Street. The Youth Advisors anticipate being at the October council meeting. He wants to make aware that some of the homeless population here actually need help and encouraged those that support organizations serving them to continue doing so.

Councilor Linton received information regarding the emergency alerts for the county. Participants must sign up to receive the notifications. The Umatilla Emergency Management office administers the program.

Youth Advisory Report

None present.



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2023

City Manager's Report

City Manager Smith spoke regarding his meeting with the University of Oregon Board of Trustees to share the city's experience with a program involving several classes over the last few years.

Adjournment

Mayor Drotzmann adjourned the City Council meeting at 9:15pm.

SIGNED:

Dr. David Drotzmann, Mayor

ATTEST:

Heather La Beau, Assistant City Recorder

DRAFT

UMATILLA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1

EASTERN OREGON'S LARGEST, MOST HIGHLY-TRAINED FIRE, PARAMEDIC & HAZMAT TEAM



UMATILLA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1

FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

6,518

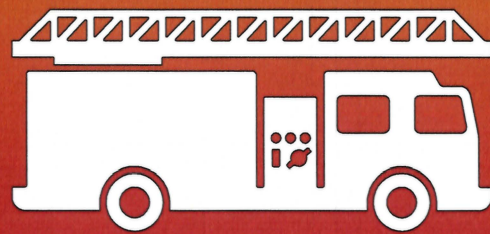
80% in the city Limits



An Average of 18 Responses Per Day

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

1. Fire Station Projects
2. Fire & Medical Apparatus
3. Cardiac Monitors



STATION 22

Diagonal Blvd & Punkin Center



EXPECTED COMPLETION: EARLY NOVEMBER

STATION 23

78760 Westland Road



PHASE 2 - EXPECTED START DATE: DECEMBER

STATION 24

280 w. Coe Ave.
Stanfield



EXPECTED COMPLETION: MID-NOVEMBER

HERMISTON SAFETY CENTER

1. Current Status
2. Infrastructure Funding



EXPECTED START DATE: SPRING/SUMMER 2024

FIRE & MEDICAL APPARATUS

1. Tower Ladder
2. New Engine
3. New Brush Engines
4. New Ambulances



CARDIAC MONITORS

1. ZOLL X-Series Cardiac Monitor
2. ZOLL ONE Program
3. AEDs
4. ZOLL Auto Pulse's
5. Grants



ON THE HORIZON

1. CDA Land Annexation
2. Stanfield Hutterian Brethren - Station & Volunteers
3. Camp Rees - Fire Protection
4. EMS Day Car Positions
5. Deputy Fire Marshal Position - OSFM Grant
6. Additional Firefighter/Medics – Options for funding
7. County Task Force on Homelessness

DISTRICT RECOGNITION

1. IAFC Fire Rescue International
2. UEC's "Our Power Is People"
3. OPB "Think Out Loud"





Future Focused: *Building Knowledge and Skills for Tomorrow*

September 11, 2023

Mayor Drotzmann and Hermiston City Councilors;

The safety and well-being of students is the top priority of the Hermiston School District. This includes students' time on campus, in transit to and from school, and in their home environment.

Students of all grade levels use public sidewalks and parks to walk to and from their schools each day. It is in the best interest of students and our community that these areas remain safe, open, well-maintained, and free of illicit activity.

It is also in our community's best interest to ensure children have a safe place to sleep each night, and that we make use of the available public resources to provide housing options for homeless families and individuals.

After reviewing City Ordinance 2348, I believe it creates fair and enforceable rules regarding the use of public areas and will improve the safety of our students. It also makes clear that playgrounds, sports fields, and areas surrounding schools are to be uniquely protected for the good of our youth and community.

I support the passage of City Ordinance 2348.

Tricia Mooney, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Hermiston School District