



Where Life is Sweet

CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2023

Mayor Drotzmann called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Councilors Hardin, Peterson, Primmer, Barron, Duron, Linton, Myers, and McCarthy. City staff in attendance included: 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, IT Systems Network Engineer Jeremiah Gard, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. Youth Advisory Member Stormie Richmond was also in attendance. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Mayor Drotzmann announced the agenda would be amended to have item 12C, Review and Prioritization of Council Goals, be presented after 6A, Presentation- Hermiston School District Updates.

Presentation- Hermiston School District Updates

Hermiston School District (HSD) Assistant Superintendent Jake Bacon gave updates regarding: Total HSD enrollment, conferences, spring break, 2023-24 HSD calendar, Hermiston High School (HHS) annex construction, spring sports, winter sports achievements, Dance Team and bowling accomplishments.

There was some discussion regarding the Mayor reading to children at Rocky Height Elementary School for Dr. Suess Week, parking at HHS, and student attendance.

Review and Prioritization of Council Goals

City Manager Smith and Sara Singer-Wilson of SSW Consulting reviewed the Council Goals as delineated at the Goal Setting Session in February, asked for clarification on specific goal items, and helped the Council categorize their goals into priorities through live polling. The proposed prioritized goals will be presented for approval at a future meeting.

Public Comment

Jess Terry, 910 S. Townsend Rd- please use bigger print when presenting so the audience can read it easier.

Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

Jess Terry, 910 S. Townsend Rd- asked that the City consider placing bollards around the fire hydrant at the corner of Diagonal and Elm at the Diamond Run development as many vehicles are crashing into the fire hydrant when roads are icy.

Consent Agenda Items

Councilor Duron moved and Councilor McCarthy seconded to approve Consent Agenda items A-C, to include:

- A. Committee Vacancy Announcements
 - B. Committee Re-Appointment Confirmations for the Planning Commission of Patrick Collins, position 4; Joshua Burns, position 5; and Dean Fialka, position 6- terms ending March 31, 2026
 - C. Minutes of the February 27th City Council & Urban Renewal Agency Work Session and Regular Meeting
- Motion carried unanimously.



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Public Hearing- Home Run Land LLC has requested latecomer assessments in conjunction with public improvements installed as part of the Diamond Run Subdivision

After hearing no declarations of conflict of interest from the Council, Planning Director Clint Spencer read the hearing guidelines and Mayor Drotzmann opened the hearing at 7:41pm.

Planning Director Spencer and Anderson Perry Engineer Joshua Lott gave information regarding the Hermiston municipal code which contains provisions for reimbursement of development costs when infrastructure improvements benefit properties beyond the development itself, in this case, water and sewer improvements to neighboring properties from the Diamond Run Subdivision development.

Public Testimony

Janet Terry, 910 S. Townsend Rd- spoke in opposition stating her property has been in her family for five generations and she has no intentions of annexing into city limits.

City staff clarified that neighboring properties would only have to pay the latecomer assessments if they developed and requested city services.

No other parties wished to give public testimony and Mayor Drotzmann closed the hearing at 7:51pm.

After further discussion, Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor Linton seconded to adopt the assessments as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing- Eastern Oregon Development LLC has requested latecomer assessments in conjunction with public improvements installed as part of the Hermiston Mini-Storage project on E Elm Ave

After hearing no declarations of conflict of interest from the Council, Planning Director Clint Spencer read the hearing guidelines and Mayor Drotzmann opened the hearing at 8:01pm.

Planning Director Spencer and Anderson Perry Engineer Joshua Lott gave information regarding the Hermiston municipal code which contains provisions for reimbursement of development costs when infrastructure improvements benefit properties beyond the development itself, in this case, water improvements to neighboring properties from the Hermiston Mini-Storage project.

Public Testimony

John Eckhardt, Hermiston- spoke in opposition stating he allowed an easement to go through his property for this development not knowing a latecomer assessment would be a requirement to annex his property into the City, which he is planning on doing soon.

Steve Richards, Hermiston Mini Storage Developer- stated Mr. Eckhardt was his contractor and he would be happy to work with him on these fees.

Dalia Villegas, 678 E Elm- stated she plans to annex her property into the city soon and would like to discuss possible costs reductions for the latecomer assessments.



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City Staff directed her to speak with Steve Richards.

No other parties wished to give public testimony and Mayor Drotzmann closed the hearing at 8:09pm.

After some discussion, Councilor McCarthy moved and Councilor Myers seconded to adopt the assessments as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2261- Award Construction Contract for E Penney Ave. Extension

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan stated the resolution would award the E Penney Ave Extension construction contract to the lowest qualified bidder, James Dean Construction.

After some discussion, Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor Duron seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2261 and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously.

Preliminary findings regarding a potential North Highway 395 Urban Renewal Area

City Manager Smith, Planning Director Spencer, and Anderson Perry Joshua Lott gave information regarding the possible future development of a North Highway 395 Urban Renewal Agency in a newly created area with an east/west street connection from Highway 395 at the Home Depot driveway to NE 4th Street at NE Aspen Drive.

Public Comment

Josh Roberts, Hermiston – expressed concerns stating intersections and roads at 395 and Elm, Theater Lane, and Harper Road are dangerous with frequent vehicle crashes. His worry is that this proposed new lighted intersection will be insufficient to address further vehicle accidents and asked that the Council consider placing bollards along some of these areas on 395 like what was placed near Starbucks to help mitigate accidents.

After some discussion, Councilor Barron moved and Councilor Primmer seconded to direct staff to begin preparation of the relevant urban renewal planning documents. Motion carried unanimously.

February 2023 Financial Report

Councilor Hardin moved and Councilor Duron seconded to accept the February 2023 Financial Report as presented by Finance Director Mark Krawczyk. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Parks and Recreation Committee- Councilor Myers and Councilor McCarthy spoke regarding Legacy Park, swim lesson sign up changes, stolen equipment at Riverfront Park, and the HERO's Project at EOTEC.

Stepping Stones Alliance (not a city committee)- Mayor Drotzmann stated Stepping Stones is working on their 5-year plan; is working with Mike Atkinson, owner of the current building their sleep center is located in, to remain in this building until they are able to move into their permanent location; volunteers are needed to build conestoga huts each weekend from April through May, please contact Umatilla City Hall for more information.



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Mayors Report

Mayor Drotzmann spoke regarding:

- Distinguished Citizens Award Banquet (DCAB)
- Westend Mayors and Managers meeting
- OPB meeting and interview
- Oregon Bridge Podcast Interview
- Martha's House open house event
- Thanked HPD officers for their heroic efforts saving lives

Council Reports

Councilor Peterson spoke regarding their Oregon Disability Commission position and thanked Hermiston for being proactive in disability accommodations and accessibility within and throughout the city.

Councilor Duron thanked the Chamber of Commerce for the excellent work they did at the DCAB, all first-responders who quickly responded to the fire at HHS, and UCFD1 for their acknowledgement of females in their organization in appreciation of International Women's Day.

Councilor McCarthy also thanked the Chamber of Commerce for their efforts in making DCAB a success.

Youth Advisory Report

Youth Advisor Richmond spoke regarding:

- Dance Team competitions and achievements
- March 9th HHS fire, thanked HPD and UCFD1 for their quick response
- Band concert
- Sadie Hawkins Dance

City Manager's Report

No report given.

Adjournment

Mayor Drotzmann adjourned the City Council meeting at 9:11pm as there was no other City business.

SIGNED:

Doug Primmer, Council President

ATTEST:

Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC, City Recorder



HPD 2022 Animal Calls

Patrol officers handled 599 calls for service (5% of annual calls) involving animals

Of that, 519 calls were specific to dogs

From that total (599), 104 police reports were written. It should be noted even on calls where a formal report was not taken, there is an incident number and that incident allows officers/dispatch to add detailed notes.

A total of (19) charges were filed in 2022. This is roughly 20% of the cases taken.

Can more enforcement be done? Yes. But (and not trying to make excuses), all city ordinance violations (dog at large, maintaining a vicious dog, dog barking, etc.) MUST BE WITNESSED by the officer. The only way around that is if the citizen who witnessed said violation would sign the actual citation (there is a line on our citations for this) and in essence, promise to appear in court. This is not a department policy decision or city decision, rather, it is a court decision for the State of Oregon.