

CITY of LA GRANDE
City Council Regular Session

January 3, 2024

**Council Chambers
La Grande City Hall
1000 Adams Avenue**

MINUTES

COUNCILORS PRESENT:

Justin Rock, *Mayor*
David Glabe, *Mayor Pro Tem*
Nicole Howard, *Councilor*
Molly King, *Councilor*
Mary Ann Miesner, *Councilor*

COUNCILORS ABSENT EXCUSED:

Corrine Dutto, *Councilor*
Denise Wheeler, *Councilor*

STAFF PRESENT

Robert Strobe, *City Manager*
Stacey Stockhoff, *City Recorder*
Keri Quinn, *Assistant to the City Manager*
Gary Bell, *Police Chief*
Timothy Bishop, *Economic Development Director*
Michael Boquist, *Community Development Director*
Kyle Carpenter, *Public Works Director*
Emmitt Cornford, *Fire Chief*
Stu Spence, *Parks and Recreation Director*

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/
ROLL CALL/AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mayor ROCK called to order this Regular Session of the Council at 6:00 p.m. Roll Call was taken and a quorum was determined to be present.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **Consider:** Approving Regular Session Minutes; December 6, 2023
- b. **Consider:** Transferring Ownership of Surplus Ambulance to Unity

The following Motion was introduced by MIESNER; HOWARD providing the Second:

MOTION

MOTION: I move that we accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and MIESNER; No: None)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Will ANDERSON, a resident of La Grande, voiced concerns about the safety of pedestrians at two different intersections and felt something could be done to improve safety in the

area. The first intersection of concern was on Washington and Sixth Street near Side A Brewing and the Post Office and the second intersection was Second Street and H Avenue. He discussed that he had reached out to Kyle Carpenter and Robert Strobe about these intersections and these concerns would be presented at the next Parking, Traffic Safety and Street Maintenance Advisory Commission meeting that was to be held on January 9, 2024.

Brent CLAPP wanted to inform the Council he was running for Union County Commissioner. He would like to hear concerns from the citizens of Union County and invited everyone to view his website and all social media platforms.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. **Consider:** Resolutions: Annexing 25
Properties in Urban Growth Boundary,
File Number 01-ANP-24

STAFF REPORT

Mayor ROCK requested the Staff Report.

Michael BOQUIST, *Community Development Director*

BOQUIST stated that on October 23, 2023, during a Work Session of the City Council, Staff and the Council discussed potential opportunities for annexing properties within the City's urban growth boundary (UGB) that met the following criteria: (1) where the current or prior property owner(s) have a signed consent to annex agreement, which was recorded in the property deed records of Union County; (2) the property directly benefited from receiving City water and/or sewer services; and, (3) the property was contiguous to the City limits.

BOQUIST noted consideration of annexing UGB property recently became a priority as the City had undertaken a number of long-range planning projects that evaluate future housing, commercial and industrial land needs; and the demands for providing City water, sewer and street infrastructure to underserved areas in our community. Through this effort, Staff had discussed with the Council the requirements of both State law and City code for annexing urban growth boundary properties as they develop.

BOQUIST explained the annexation requirement partially stemmed from Oregon State law and Statewide Planning Goal 14 (OAR 660, Division 14), which outlined the responsibilities for cities to conduct long-range planning efforts and pursue urban growth boundary expansions by: (1) forecasting the City's 20-year growth and land needs; (2) establish or expand the UGB to accommodate the needed land; then, (3) annexing UGB properties and providing urban

services as they develop. These annexation requirements were implemented through four City ordinances, all of which required annexation at the time of receiving City services:

- Land Development Code Ordinance 3266, Series 2023
- Comprehensive Plan Ordinance 3255, Series 2022
- Sewer Ordinance 3072, Series 2008
- Water Ordinance 3051, Series 2006

BOQUIST noted procedurally, as properties immediately adjacent or contiguous to the City limits were developed, they were annexed into the City and were provided with City services. However, as in many communities, there are many parcels within the UGB that were not immediately adjacent or contiguous to the City limits, which need or desire City services but could not be annexed without forcing the annexation of other UGB properties. In such instances, State law provides a mechanism for cities to support development without annexation, and to provide urban services (water and sewer) in exchange for the property owner(s) signing a consent to annex agreement. All the proposed annexations before the Council fall within this category and at the time the City offered the opportunity for the property owners to sign agreements consenting to future annexation in exchange for receiving City services. These agreements, as required by law, were recorded in the Union County property deed records, they run with the land and are binding on all successors, heirs, etc. (future property owners).

BOQUIST explained at the time of signing a consent to annex agreement, the property owner was advised that by signing the agreement, they understood and agreed that when the City was able to annex their property, the City would move forward with the annexation.

BOQUIST noted the consent to annex agreement, the above State law, and City codes were all discussed during the City Council's October 23, 2023, work session. At the conclusion of the work session, by consensus of the City Council, Staff was directed to bring forward the annexation of all eligible properties within the UGB, with the first phase being those properties meeting the criteria discussed earlier.

BOQUIST stated that the proposed annexations had been grouped into 9 areas. Each area proposed to be annexed would be by a separate City Council Resolution. The purpose for separating the proposed annexations into groups and separate Resolutions was that if the annexation of one property or area was successfully challenged in Court, overturning the annexation of that property or area,

the entire Resolution would become void. By separating the properties into groups and separate Resolutions, this would ensure that all other annexation Resolutions would remain valid and in effect.

BOQUIST noted as discussed during the October 23, 2023, work session, there were multiple avenues for annexing properties by Resolution of the City Council. This proposed annexation was pursuant to the criteria provided in Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 222.125, which may be approved by Resolution.

BOQUIST stated that the legal descriptions were completed for each of the proposed Resolutions except for Area 8, but because a map and a listing of each of the properties was included in the Resolution for Area 8, our legal counsel said it was acceptable to sign the paperwork, if approved. Once City Staff received the correct description for Area 8, those pages in the Resolution would be replaced and the paperwork would be finalized.

In response to MIESNER's question, BOQUIST answered that all of the property owners received letters for the annexation detailing when the January Council Meeting was to take place. Further explaining, the letters were sent mid-December and were sent with a copy of the agreement and map.

BOQUIST also spoke of sending letters to people who have not been annexed yet. He shared that he would be gathering information for these property owners on details regarding the property tax, water, and sewer rates as well as the annual cost out of pocket today versus after annexation, if they were to call him. These rates would be a good piece of information to have for folks who want to know if this would benefit them. Naturally some properties would see an increase in cost, some would have a decrease due to their assessed values and going from a double water sewer rate to a single rate would save them money.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

None.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

MIESNER asked if property owners had reached out to his department, to which BOQUIST replied he had only spoken with two of the 24 property owners. One of which understood the process and the other was unhappy and wondering why this was suddenly important for the City to pursue.

Mayor ROCK clarified that the owners had already signed these agreements when they purchased their properties.

BOQUIST added some of the frustration came from when the prior owners signed the agreement and the current owner may not have realized there was an agreement to annex when they purchased the property.

MIESNER asked if this was being explained when buying a house, to which BOQUIST replied it was presented when signing papers but it may not have been fully explained or understood due to the amount of paperwork to sign when purchasing a home, however, this was the purchaser's responsibility to understand what this paperwork was at that time of buying their property.

MOTION

The following Motion was introduced by HOWARD; GLABE providing the Second:

MOTION: I move that the proposed Resolutions annexing properties within Areas 1 through 9, each be Read by Title Only, Put to a Vote, and Passed.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

None.

Upon Mayor ROCK's request, City Recorder STOCKHOFF read the proposed Resolution by Title Only for Area 1.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, DECLARING CERTAIN TERRITORY ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON; SPECIFICALLY, PROPERTIES LOCATED WITHIN "AREA 1" IN TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 38 EAST, SECTION 31DD, TAX LOTS 700 AND 1200; AND, ALL OF THE ADJACENT THIRD STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY EXTENDING NORTH FROM LAKE AVENUE; AND, REMOVING SAID PROPERTY FROM THE LA GRANDE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT [4847]

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and MIESNER; No: None)

Upon Mayor ROCK's request, City Recorder STOCKHOFF read the proposed Resolution by Title Only for Area 2.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, DECLARING CERTAIN TERRITORY ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON; SPECIFICALLY, PROPERTIES LOCATED WITHIN "AREA 2" IN TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 38 EAST, SECTION 05AB, TAX LOTS 2300, 3500, 3602, 3607, 3610, 3611, and 3701; AND, ALL OF THE ADJACENT MAPLE STREET AND RUSSELL AVENUE RIGHTS-OF-WAY EXTENDING TO THE INTERSECTION OF MAPLE STREET AND RUSSELL AVENUE; AND, REMOVING

SAID PROPERTY FROM THE LA GRANDE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT [4848]

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and MIESNER; No: None)

Upon Mayor ROCK's request, City Recorder STOCKHOFF read the proposed Resolution by Title Only for Area 3.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, DECLARING CERTAIN TERRITORY ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON; SPECIFICALLY, PROPERTIES LOCATED WITHIN "AREA 3" IN TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 38 EAST, SECTION 05AB, TAX LOTS 3000 AND 3200; AND, ALL OF THE ADJACENT N. MAPLE STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY EXTENDING FROM Z AVENUE, NORTH TO THE SOUTH BOUNDARY OF TAX LOT 3500; AND, REMOVING SAID PROPERTY FROM THE LA GRANDE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT [4849]

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and MIESNER; No: None)

Upon Mayor ROCK's request, City Recorder STOCKHOFF read the proposed Resolution by Title Only for Area 4.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, DECLARING CERTAIN TERRITORY ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON; SPECIFICALLY, PROPERTIES LOCATED WITHIN "AREA 4" IN TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 38 EAST, SECTION 05AB, TAX LOTS 3900 AND 3902; AND, ALL OF THE ADJACENT N. PINE STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY EXTENDING SOUTH TO Z AVENUE; AND, REMOVING SAID PROPERTY FROM THE LA GRANDE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT [4850]

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and MIESNER; No: None)

Upon Mayor ROCK's request, City Recorder STOCKHOFF read the proposed Resolution by Title Only for Area 5.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, DECLARING CERTAIN TERRITORY ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON; SPECIFICALLY, PROPERTIES LOCATED WITHIN "AREA 5" IN TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 38 EAST, SECTION 05AB, TAX LOTS 4300, 4400, AND 4401; AND, ALL OF THE ADJACENT RUSSELL AVENUE, EXTENDING WEST FROM INTERSTATE 84 TO THE

EAST BOUNDARY OF AREA 2; AND, ALL OF N. CHERRY STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY EXTENDING NORTH TO INTERSTATE 84; AND, REMOVING SAID PROPERTY FROM THE LA GRANDE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT [4851]

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and MIESNER; No: None)

Upon Mayor ROCK's request, City Recorder STOCKHOFF read the proposed Resolution by Title Only for Area 6.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, DECLARING CERTAIN TERRITORY ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON; SPECIFICALLY, PROPERTIES LOCATED WITHIN "AREA 6" IN TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 38 EAST, SECTION 05AB, TAX LOTS 5000 and 5001; AND, ALL OF THE ADJACENT N. CHERRY STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY EXTENDING FROM Z AVENUE; AND, REMOVING SAID PROPERTY FROM THE LA GRANDE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT [4852]

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and MIESNER; No: None)

Upon Mayor ROCK's request, City Recorder STOCKHOFF read the proposed Resolution by Title Only for Area 7.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, DECLARING CERTAIN TERRITORY ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON; SPECIFICALLY, PROPERTIES LOCATED WITHIN "AREA 7" IN TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 38 EAST, SECTION 05AA, TAX LOTS 1800, 1805, 1806, and 1901; AND, ALL OF N. CHERRY STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY EXTENDING SOUTH FROM ANNEXATION AREA 5 TO ANNEXATION AREA 6; AND, ALL OF THE ADJACENT Z AVENUE RIGHT-OF-WAY, EXTENDING EAST FROM N. CHERRY STREET; AND, REMOVING SAID PROPERTY FROM THE LA GRANDE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT [4853]

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and MIESNER; No: None)

Upon Mayor ROCK's request, City Recorder STOCKHOFF read the proposed Resolution by Title Only for Area 8.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, DECLARING CERTAIN TERRITORY ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF

LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON; SPECIFICALLY, PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN “AREA 8” IN TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 38 EAST, SECTION 5DB, TAX LOT 100; AND, ALL OF THE ADJACENT V AVENUE RIGHT-OF-WAY EXTENDING WEST TO THE EXISTING LA GRANDE CITY LIMITS BOUNDARY; AND ALL OF THE ADJACENT N. WILLOW STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY; AND, REMOVING SAID PROPERTY FROM THE LA GRANDE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT [4854]

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and MIESNER; No: None)

Upon Mayor ROCK’s request, City Recorder STOCKHOFF read the proposed Resolution by Title Only for Area 9.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, DECLARING CERTAIN TERRITORY ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON; SPECIFICALLY, PROPERTY LOCATED AT 80 OAK STREET, WITHIN “AREA 9” IN TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 38 EAST, SECTION 18, TAX LOT 500 [4855]

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and MIESNER; No: None)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consider: Resolution: Adopting the City of La Grande Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

STAFF REPORT

Mayor ROCK requested the Staff Report.

Kyle Carpenter, *Public Works Director*

CARPENTER stated that natural disasters occur when natural hazard events impact people, structures, and the environment. The dramatic increase in the costs associated with natural disasters over the past decades have fostered interest in identifying and implementing effective means of reducing these impacts. Natural hazards mitigation planning was a process for identifying and understanding the hazards facing a jurisdiction and prioritizing actions that the jurisdiction can take to reduce injuries and deaths; damage to buildings, critical facilities, and infrastructure; interruption in essential services; economic hardship; and environmental harm. Reducing impacts also speeds up recovery and lowers costs.

CARPENTER noted the City of La Grande was previously covered under a Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP) which expired on June 5, 2019. The absence of an adopted plan, approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), removed the City's eligibility to receive funds from several Federal and State assistance and grant programs. In cooperation with The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), City Staff developed a City specific hazard mitigation plan for adoption. DLCD utilized a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP-PF-FM-5327) grant to assist the City with updating the NHMP, which generally required a 25% non-federally-funded cost share. However, the cost share for this specific grant was provided by the State of Oregon with funds appropriated under House Bill 5006 (2021). The developed plan was a 480-page document that was currently in the final review process with FEMA, with a final approval anticipated in early January, 2024. City Staff was requesting Council to adopt the City of La Grande Hazard Mitigation Plan as an official plan. Once the Council adopted this Resolution, the City would provide the Resolution and NHMP to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 10 officials to enable final approval of the City of La Grande Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

HOWARD asked if the City would be double covered under this mitigation plan which would include taking advantage of County funds for emergencies, to which STROPE explained it would depend upon the emergency if Union County would provide funds specifically allocated to the City.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

MIESNER asked if the City would have to match the funds, to which CARPENTER answered that it would depend on the program that the City qualified for. He described an example program called 'flood mitigation assistance' that would pay 75% of the project cost and the City would have to pay 25% of the project cost to fix the culvert on 18th Street. MIESNER asked if Public Works had the funds for this project, to which CARPENTER explained funds had been saved for that particular project but if they could be allocated to other projects, it would be beneficial for the City.

MOTION

The following Motion was introduced by GLABE; MIESNER providing the Second:

MOTION: I move that the proposed Resolution adopting the City of La Grande Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan be read by Title Only, Put to a Vote, and Passed.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

None.

Upon Mayor ROCK's request, City Recorder STOCKHOFF read the proposed Resolution by Title Only.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, ADOPTING THE CITY OF LA GRANDE NATURAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN [4856]

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and MIESNER; No: None)

- b. Consider: Awarding Contract for Analysis and Establishment of System Development Charges

STAFF REPORT

Mayor ROCK requested the Staff Report.

Kyle Carpenter, *Public Works Director*

CARPENTER stated in response to Council discussion during their annual Retreat, as well as numerous work sessions, City Staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) in November, 2023, for the review and adoption of System Development Charge (SDC) methodology for the water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and transportation divisions. After a prolonged advertising period, one proposal was received and after thorough evaluation, was determined to be a through and complete submittal. The proposal from FCS Group was recommended for Council approval to enter into a contract for professional services, subject to the City negotiating a contract for services within the available funding.

CARPENTER noted the contract would provide the following services:

1. The consultant would hold a kickoff meeting to align expectations of the project team and outline the required data request to the City.
2. Provide technical analyses of the data resulting in the maximum defensible SDCs for water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and transportation. Analysis would also provide an outline of the calculation of the reimbursement portion of the proposed fees, an outline of the calculation of the improvement portion of the proposed fees, and providing the available options for adjusting the cost basis of the fees as well as the fee schedules for the four SDCs.
3. Assistance in the communication of the results of the technical analyses to meet the state requirements for

SDC public hearings and fee adoption. Consultant would provide an on-site presentation of the analyses to the City Council, provide a template for the public hearing notice, and deliver presentations in support of the SDC public hearing.

In response to GLABE's question, CARPENTER answered that the timeline to complete this would be by July 1, 2024, which allowed time to update Ordinances and adopt the System Development Charges (SDC) in the new budget year. If the contract was awarded by mid-January, he was hopeful the work would be completed on time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

None.

The following Motion was introduced by MIESNER; HOWARD providing the Second:

MOTION

MOTION: I move that we award the La Grande System Development Charges Analysis and Establishment contract to the FCS Group within available funding and authorize the City Manager to finalize and sign all required documents.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

None.

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and MIESNER; No: None)

- c. **Consider:** Ratifying Councilor Board, Committee and Commission Assignments for Calendar Year 2024

Justin ROCK, Mayor

Each January Councilors are provided with a list of Boards, Commissions and Committees established by other agencies to which Councilors are appointed as City Representatives. Councilors prioritize and submit to the Mayor their preferences as Representatives or Alternates to these Boards, Commissions and Committees. Their choices are forwarded to the Mayor prior to this evening's Session for determination of selection.

In situations where multiple Councilors are interested in Representation or Alternate positions for the same group, a discussion takes place during the Session to determine the actual Representative or Alternate.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Council Committee Assignments were made as follows:

Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
Representative: Molly King
Alternate: Justin Rock

Council Audit Committee
Representative: David Glabe
Representative: Nicole Howard

Northeast Oregon Housing Authority Board of Directors
Representative: Mary Ann Miesner
Alternate: David Glabe

Union County Airport Commission
Representative: David Glabe
Alternate: Corrine Dutto

Union County Safe Communities Coalition
Representative: Corrine Dutto
Alternate: Justin Rock

Union County Senior Council
Representative: Mary Ann Miesner
Alternate: Denise Wheeler

Union County Tourism Promotion Advisory Committee
Representative: Nicole Howard
Alternate: Molly King

d. **Consider: Appointing Citizens to
Various Committees and Commissions**

Justin ROCK, *Mayor*

The following Motion was introduced by ROCK; HOWARD
providing the Second:

MOTION

Motion: I move that Peter Donovan and Meredee Lloyd be
appointed to the Air Quality Commission, each for a three-
year term, which will expire December 31, 2026.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

None.

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and
MIESNER; No: None)

The following Motion was introduced by ROCK; HOWARD
providing the Second:

MOTION

Motion: I move that Nicholas Avila and Taylor Scroggins be
appointed to the Arts Commission, each for three-year term,
which will expire December 31, 2026.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

None.

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and MIESNER; No: None)

The following Motion was introduced by ROCK; MIESNER providing the Second:

MOTION

Motion: I move that Megan Keating and Roxie Ogilvie be appointed to the Budget Committee, each for a three-year term, which will expire December 31, 2026; and Toni Smith be appointed for a two-year term, which will expire on December 31, 2025.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

None.

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and MIESNER; No: None)

The following Motion was introduced by ROCK; MIESNER providing the Second:

MOTION

Motion: I move that Toni Smith and Lia Spiegel be appointed to the Community Landscape and Forestry Commission, each for a three-year term, which will expire on December 31, 2026.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

None.

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and MIESNER; No: None)

The following Motion was introduced by ROCK; HOWARD providing the Second:

MOTION

Motion: I move that Cassie Hibbert be appointed to the Landmarks Advisory Commission, for a three-year term, which will expire on December 31, 2026.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

None.

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and MIESNER; No: None)

The following Motion was introduced by ROCK; MIESNER providing the Second:

MOTION

Motion: I move that Meredee Lloyd and Ryan Zastrow be appointed to the Library Advisory Commission, each for a four-year term which will expire December 31, 2027.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

None.

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and MIESNER; No: None)

The following Motion was introduced by ROCK; HOWARD providing the Second:

MOTION

Motion: I move that Mike Remily and Rodney Sands be appointed to the Parking, Traffic Safety and Street Maintenance Advisory Commission, each for a three-year term, which will expire on December 31, 2026.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

None.

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and MIESNER; No: None)

The following Motion was introduced by ROCK; HOWARD providing the Second:

MOTION

Motion: I move that Max Koltuv be appointed to the Planning Commission, for a four-year term which will expire on December 31, 2027.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

None.

VOTE

MSC: 5-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, and MIESNER; No: None)

STAFF COMMENTS

CARPENTER announced a project that Public Works had collaborated on with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) had been completed. Air monitoring stations were placed in the City and were up and running. There would be an app to access each station's readings as well as other air related information in the near future.

CARPENTER noted that Public Works had been working with Union County on the mass text notifications for snow plowing, leaf removal, and street closures. An option was found that was free and signing up for these notifications would be available in the next two weeks.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

STROPE informed the Council that an extension was requested for the submission of the City's audit. A future work session was scheduled for January 29, 2024, to discuss the audit.

STROPE reminded the Council of the upcoming retreat on the 22nd and 23rd of January, 2024. He was currently working on the topic list and a draft would be sent to the Council next week.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

MIESNER thanked everybody for the success of the New Year's Eve ball drop that occurred downtown in La Grande. She acknowledged a few issues that occurred during the event and extended her apology for the mishaps. Overall, she felt the event was successful.

Mayor ROCK thanked those who sent holiday cards to the Council and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

There being no further business to come before this Regular Session of the Council, Mayor ROCK adjourned the meeting to the Urban Renewal Agency Session at 6:51 p.m. The Council is scheduled to meet again in Regular Session on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1000 Adams Avenue, La Grande, Oregon.

Stacey M. Stockhoff
City Recorder

Justin B. Rock
Mayor

APPROVED: _____