FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of La Grande
Vacancies on City Boards, Advisory Committees/Commissions
February 15, 2019

The City Council of the City of La Grande has established by Ordinance ten Advisory Commissions; a Building Board of Appeals, and the Budget Committee which is mandated by State Statute. In addition, the Council has appointment privileges for other City and County Boards of Directors; for example, the Union County Tourism Advisory Committee. Individuals serving as unpaid Board, Committee, or Commission members play a vital role in assisting Staff and Council by making recommendations in connection with a variety of important administrative and/or policy-making decisions that directly impact City operations in particular, and our community in general. Such recommendations include providing input to appropriate Staff regarding Department or Program annual budgets.

AIR QUALITY COMMISSION: The Air Quality Commission was established in response to the City’s mandated Air Quality Program in 1995. The intent of the Program is to benefit our citizens’ health and welfare by ensuring we all have clean air and improved visibility, as well as improving economic development opportunities within the community. Commissioners meet on an as-needed basis and are provided with administrative staff support for routine Commission meetings and events. There are 7, 3-year seats, the terms for which shall begin immediately upon appointment: 1 shall expire on December 31, 2019; 3 shall expire on December 31, 2020; and 3 shall expire on December 31, 2021. Applicants may express a preference for term duration. 2 of these seats may be filled by a resident of the area within the City’s Urban Growth Boundary or within the boundaries of Union County.

ARTS COMMISSION: The primary purpose of this seven-member Commission is to encourage greater opportunities for and recognition of the arts in our community including providing coordination of and communication among groups and individuals engaged in the arts to enhance the artistic diversity available for the citizens of La Grande; promoting development of the arts as an economic driver to the area; assisting with programs and projects that encourage the arts for local youth; advising the La Grande City Council on art related issues. There are 4 vacancies on the Arts Commission, the terms for which shall begin immediately upon appointment: 1 shall expire on December 31, 2019; and 3 shall expire on December 31, 2021.

BUDGET COMMITTEE: The Budget Committee is comprised of the City Council and seven members of the public. This Committee meets once a year to conduct a Public Hearing at which the Committee receives and reviews the City’s budget for the coming Fiscal Year. The Committee forwards the proposed budget with their comments and recommendation(s) to the City Council for adoption. This Commission meets on an as needed
Basis, and has 1 vacant seat, the term for which shall be filled immediately upon appointment, and shall expire on December 31, 2021.

**BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS** This five-member Board was established by Ordinance Number 3224, the Dangerous Building Ordinance. The purpose of the Board is to hear appeals of decisions of the Building Official regarding application of the various Building Codes and Ordinances. Members shall be residents of the City, except that one member may be from the area within the City Urban Growth Boundary, or within the boundaries of Union County. Board members shall be individuals who have an interest in construction issues facing the City of La Grande, and who are qualified by experience and training to decide matters pertaining to building construction. There are 4 vacancies on this Board; one will expire on December 31, 2019; two will expire on December 31, 2020; and one will expire on December 31, 2021. This Board meets as needed.

**COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE AND FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMISSION:** The Commission serves as an advocate of the City’s urban forest and encourages improvements through long-term planning and policy development, as approved by the City Council. The Commission is responsible for reviewing the annual Tree City USA application and nominating individuals who have given outstanding efforts for Community Forestry Awards. The Commission also promotes appreciation of trees, provides landscaping information to residents and businesses and encourages landscape installation and maintenance on private property. The Commission reviews, maintains, and updates as appropriate the Community Landscape and Forestry Master Plan. This Commission has 2 vacant seats, the terms for which shall be filled immediately upon appointment, and shall expire on December 31, 2022.

**LANDMARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION:** The Commission consists of five (5) members. Three of the seat holders must reside with the City limits or the Urban Growth Boundary and two may reside within Union County. The Commission is empowered by the City Council and charged with reviewing projects within the Downtown Historic District and those involving historic landmarks; and determining whether those projects are "historically appropriate." This Commission has 2 vacant seats, the term for which shall be filled immediately upon appointment; 1 shall expire on December 31, 2019; and 1 shall expire on December 31, 2021.

Applications may be found on the City’s web site at www.cityoflagrande.org, obtained from Stacey Stockhoff, Assistant to the City Manager, or City Recorder Kayla Nichols on the Second Floor of City Hall, 1000 Adams Avenue; 962-1309.