

CITY of LA GRANDE
City Council Regular Session

November 1, 2023

**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*
Denise Wheeler, *Councilor*

COUNCILORS ABSENT EXCUSED:

Corrine Dutto, *Councilor*

STAFF PRESENT

Robert Strobe, *City Manager*
Stacey Stockhoff, *City Recorder*
Keri Quinn, *Assistant to the City Manager*
Timothy Bishop, *Economic Development Director*
Michael Boquist, *Community Development Director*
Carrie Bushman, *Library Director*
Kyle Carpenter, *Public Works Director*
Emmitt Cornford, *Fire Chief*
Stu Spence, *Parks & 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; *October 4, 2023*
- b. **Consider:** Approving Memo of Understanding (MOU) with IAFF Local 924
- c. **Consider:** Authorizing Agreement between City and La Grande High School Swim Team for the use of Veterans' Memorial Pool

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: 6-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, MIESNER, and WHEELER; No: None)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kimberly ROSE, downtown business owner, spoke in regards to parking issues in the downtown area stating that her clients' appointments sometimes last longer than two (2) hours allotted per City Parking Regulations and have been receiving tickets. She also voiced concern for the safety of her clients, some are not able to walk from the free parking area near the railroad. Previously, she had spoken to the code enforcement officer about the issue and was looking for further assistance from the Council to find a solution.

In response to MIESNER's question, STROPE informed there had not been temporary parking passes given out for this type of issue in previous years. This topic was discussed in the past by the Parking, Traffic Safety and Street Maintenance Advisory Commission (PTSSMAC) and a decision was not made. The La Grande Mainstreet Downtown (LGMSD) was responsible for parking recommendations in the downtown area.

MIESNER ensured that she would bring the parking issue up with the LGMSD Board and come up with a recommendation.

A discussion was held regarding parking solutions in other cities.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Consider:** Authorizing City Manager to Sign Agreement for La Grande to Participate in 2024 Recast City Leadership Cohort

STAFF REPORT

Mayor ROCK requested the Staff Report.

Timothy BISHOP, *Economic Development Director*

BISHOP noted that the City has been working to develop and support small scale manufacturing as a core element of our economic development efforts as outlined in the Economic Strategic Plan. As part of that effort, the City had budgeted to work with a consultant this fiscal year to further refine and advance that effort. The consulting firm Recast City specializes in this kind of economic development strategy and annually coordinates a cohort of five (5) communities and leads them through a 10-month comprehensive program to develop and implement

economic development strategies based on developing and strengthening small scale manufacturing as a core economic development strategy. The cost to participate in the 2024 Recast City Leadership Cohort was \$15,000, and this consulting service was included in the Economic Development Department's 2023-24 Adopted Budget.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

MIESNER voiced support for the program.

MOTION

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

MOTION: I move that we authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement authorizing the City's enrollment in the 2024 Recast City Leadership Cohort.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

None.

VOTE

MSC: 6-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, MIESNER, and WHEELER; No: None)

- b. Consider: Resolution; Authorizing City Manager to Apply for Grants and Related Matters

STAFF REPORT

Mayor ROCK requested the Staff Report.

Robert A. STROPE, *City Manager*

STROPE stated at the October 4, 2023, City Council Regular Session Meeting, the City Council discussed the desire to streamline the grant application process to maximize opportunities for obtaining external funding in a timely fashion. The proposed Resolution delegates certain powers to the City Manager for the application of grants and related matters while retaining City Council approval of the acceptance of certain grants, if awarded.

If a grant was over \$10,000 and not budgeted, GLABE asked for clarification if it would come to the Council for approval, STROPE noted that was correct and explained there could be times when he still brought grant approvals before the Council for better publicizing; further, some grants explicitly stated that the approval of a governing body was necessary, typically from State grants. GLABE asked if that is something that needed to be budgeted for specifically, to which STROPE informed that it would be something we know we would be applying for; therefore, it would be budgeted for.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

None.

MOTION

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

MOTION: I move that the proposed Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for grants and related matters 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, DELEGATING CERTAIN POWERS TO THE CITY MANAGER FOR THE APPLICATION OF GRANTS AND RELATED MATTERS [4845]

VOTE

MSC: 6-0 (Yes: ROCK, GLABE, HOWARD, KING, MIESNER, and WHEELER; No: None)

UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONER UPDATE

Commissioner Matt SCARFO updated the Council regarding the concerns of decreased funding from Oregon Department of Transportation for snow removal and mentioned he forwarded them an email response from Representative Levy in regards to the funding issue. SCARFO added that locally, we would not be badly affected, however, the mountain passes might see more delays, closures, and less plowing. Safety was a concern this winter because of this.

In response to a question asked by Councilor HOWARD at last month's City Council meeting, SCARFO distributed a copy of an email to each of the Councilors showing a number of various county roads and the Average Daily Traffic (ADT), which was obtained from Doug Wright, Union County Public Works and Airport Director. SCARFO further described the data collected as a means to understand which roads should be chip sealed and which should be maintained as is.

HOWARD commented these numbers were good to know from a tourism perspective as well.

A brief discussion was held about Morgan Lake Road and the need for it to be paved and maintained.

SCARFO shared that Anderson Perry obtained a current bid for \$1.62 million dollars on the fairgrounds project, which had increased significantly over the last five years. He was

hopeful that during the short session and with help from Senator Hansell, Representative Levy, and the Governor's office, that they would receive funding to complete this project. The commissioners would be asking for \$1.5 million, meaning \$100,000 would be needed to complete the project. MIESNER asked if the bid from Anderson Perry had a time limit before it is defunct, to which SCARFO responded by explaining there were two bids, one for funds the fairgrounds currently had and one for funds they do not have yet. The timeline was known for the first bid and the second was unknown at this time.

SCARFO introduced Commissioner Todd Nash from Wallowa County, who was currently running for Senator Hansell's position in District 29.

STROPE stated that historically the Council has not entertained any candidates addressing the Council, except during public comment, to which SCARFO responded by inviting the Council members to speak with the candidate after the meeting.

WHEELER thanked SCARFO for his work on the fairgrounds project.

STAFF COMMENTS

None.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

None.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

MIESNER noted the success of the downtown Halloween trick or treating event. She shared that the City Council took first place during the chili cook event during the Harvest Festival. She also encouraged other City Departments to join in next year's cook-off.

There being no further business to come before this Regular Session of the Council, Mayor ROCK adjourned the meeting at 6:23p.m. The Council is scheduled to meet again in Regular Session on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 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: _____