

**CITY of LA GRANDE**  
**City Council Regular Session**  
**Wednesday, December 1, 2021**

**AGENDA**

The meeting will be available for viewing via the City's scheduled Charter Communications channel 180 that will begin at 6:00 p.m. on December 1, 2021, on the La Grande Alive website at <https://eoalive.tv/city-events/> or on the Eastern Oregon Alive.TV Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/EOAliveTV>.

Any person may submit written comments or questions in advance of the meeting. Written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 30, 2021. The written comments will be read during the public comment section of the respective Agenda Item. Please email Public Comments to [rstrope@cityoflagrande.org](mailto:rstrope@cityoflagrande.org).

**1. WELCOME to this REGULAR SESSION of the LA GRANDE CITY COUNCIL**

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call

- Per ORS 192.670(1), Councilors will be participating in this Regular Session by electronic communication.

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL**

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

*The Consent Agenda includes routine items of business which may be approved by one Motion of the Council. Any Councilor so desiring may by request remove one or more items from the Consent Agenda for individual consideration under the Unfinished or New Business portion of the Agenda.*

- a. **Consider:** Approval of Regular Session Minutes; November 3, 2021

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Written comments received will be read during this portion of the Agenda for non-Agenda items. Written comments for Agenda items will be read when those items are considered.*

**5. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Consider:** Approving Grant with Oregon Community Paths Program

[Carpenter]

**8. UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE**

**9. STAFF COMMENTS**

**10. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

**11. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**12. ADJOURN to EXECUTIVE SESSION ORS 192.660(2)(i)**

- a. The City Council will not reconvene

---

**Sandra Patterson**  
City Recorder

*The City Council is currently scheduled to meet again in a Regular Session on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. The City Council of the City of La Grande reserves the right to convene an Executive Session for any purpose authorized under ORS 192.660. Persons requiring special accommodations who wish to participate in the City Council Meeting are encouraged to make arrangements prior to the meeting by calling 541-962-1309. The City of La Grande does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities.*

CITY of LA GRANDE  
COUNCIL ACTION FORM

Council Meeting Date: **December 1, 2021**

**PRESENTER:**                    **Robert A. Strobe, City Manager**

**COUNCIL ACTION:**            **CONSIDER CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. MAYOR:      Request Staff Report
- 2. MAYOR:      Entertain Motion

**Suggested Motion:** I move we accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

OR

**Suggested Motion:** I move we accept the Consent Agenda as amended.

- 3. MAYOR:      Invite Council Discussion
- 4. MAYOR:      Ask for the Vote

\*\*\*\*\*

**EXPLANATION:** A Consent Agenda includes routine items of business with limited public interest, which may be approved by one Motion of the Council. Any Councilor may, by request, remove any item of business from the Consent Agenda.

a. **Consider:**    **Approval of Regular Session Minutes; November 3, 2021**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Reviewed By:** (Initial)

City Manager                    \_\_\_\_\_

City Recorder                   \_\_\_\_\_

Aquatics Division              \_\_\_\_\_

Building Department           \_\_\_\_\_

ED Department                   \_\_\_\_\_

Finance                            \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Department                 \_\_\_\_\_

Human Resources Dept        \_\_\_\_\_

Library                            \_\_\_\_\_

Parks Department               \_\_\_\_\_

Planning Department           \_\_\_\_\_

Police Department               \_\_\_\_\_

Public Works Department      \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNCIL ACTION** (Office Use Only)

- Motion Passed
- Motion Failed; \_\_\_\_\_
- Action Tabled: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: \_\_\_\_\_
- Resolution Passed  
Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ordinance Adopted  
First Reading: \_\_\_\_\_  
Second Reading: \_\_\_\_\_  
Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY of LA GRANDE**  
**City Council Regular Session**  
**November 3, 2021**

The meeting was available for viewing via the City's scheduled Charter Communications channel 180, on the La Grande Alive website at <https://eoalive.tv/city-events/> and on the Eastern Oregon Alive.TV Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/EOAliveTV>.

***MINUTES***

**COUNCILORS PRESENT:**

Stephen E. Clements, *Mayor*  
Gary Lillard, *Mayor Pro Tem*  
John Bozarth, *Councilor*  
David Glabe, *Councilor*  
Nicole Howard, *Councilor*  
Mary Ann Miesner, *Councilor*  
Justin Rock, *Councilor*

**COUNCILORS ABSENT EXCUSED:**

**STAFF PRESENT**

Robert Strope, *City Manager*  
Sandra Patterson, *City Recorder*  
Stacey Stockhoff, *Assistant to the City Manager*  
Gary Bell, *Police Chief*  
Timothy Bishop, *Economic Development Director*  
Mike Boquist, *Community Development Director*  
Carrie Bushman, *Interim Library Director*  
Kyle Carpenter, *Public Works Director*  
Emmitt Cornford, *Fire Chief*  
Heather Rajkovich, *Finance Director*  
Stu Spence, *Parks and Recreation Director*

Per ORS 192.670(1), Councilors and Staff participated in this Regular Session by electronic communication.

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**  
**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mayor CLEMENTS 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:** Approval of Regular Session Minutes; *October 6, 2021*
- b. **Consider:** Approval OLCC Application; *The Local Station, LLC*

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

**MOTION**

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

**VOTE**

**MSC.** (unanimous)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Upon Mayor CLEMENTS' request, STOCKHOFF shared a letter received from Ashley JONES regarding the lack of places to shop for clothing in our community; a copy of which is now a permanent document in the master file for this Regular Session and by this reference incorporated herewith as if fully set forth.

STROPE stated that he had reached out to JONES after receiving her letter and explained some of the efforts that the City has made in the past to remedy this situation.

Now that Timothy BISHOP has started with the City of La Grande as the new Economic Director, Mayor CLEMENTS noted that BISHOP could respond further on this topic later.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Consider:** MOU Between City and La Grande Firefighters Union, Local No. 924

**STAFF REPORT**

Mayor CLEMENTS requested the Staff Report.

Emmitt CORNFORD, *Fire Chief*

CORNFORD stated the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of La Grande and the International Association of Firefighters Local 924 (the Union) was negotiated in an effort to address challenges in staffing ambulances for out of the area transports. Grande Ronde Hospital (GRH) has been unable to transport patients due to the private party provider not being able to operate the service and the City not being able to provide off-duty crews to transport non-emergent patients. This could result in a patient being transported at a much higher cost by air ambulance. Given the current challenges in placing patients due to COVID-19, City Manager STROPE felt it was important to proceed with the increased incentives immediately. The increased costs to the City would be more than covered by the revenue received from these transports. The MOU was entered into effective the 11<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021, to

implement new compensation rates for out of county ambulance transfers for full-time employees.

CORNFORD noted that the intent was to increase the incentive for employees to return to work and staff out of county ambulance transfers. Should the Council not ratify STROPE's decision to sign the MOU, employees would be paid under the MOU for any transports that may have been performed between October 11, 2021, and November 3, 2021. Any transports occurring after November 3, 2021, would be subject to compensation under the pre-MOU provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

On a monthly average, MIESNER asked how many times would an employee be called in to staff an out of county ambulance transfer, to which CORNFORD estimated around five to eight times per month and it would increase in the winter months if Life Flight cannot operate.

In response to MIESNER's question regarding Life Flight transportation verses ambulance transfer, CORNFORD stated that the condition of the patient would determine how the patient would be transferred out of county. He added that the cost of transportation for a patient was cheaper by an ambulance transfer compared to utilizing Life Flight. This agreement was not changing current procedures that were already in place. The intent of the agreement was to increase the incentive for the employee under these conditions.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

None

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

**MOTION**

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

**MOTION:** I Move City Council ratify the City Manager's decision to sign the attached Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the La Grande Firefighter's Union, Local No. 924.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

**VOTE**

**MSC.** (unanimous)

**b.** **Consider:** Amend Resolution 4775, Series 2019; *Administrative Fees*

**STAFF REPORT**

Mayor CLEMENTS requested the Staff Report.

Stu SPENCE, *Parks and Recreation Director*

SPENCE stated that during the October, 2021 Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting, staff presented a revised fee Resolution for pavilion rentals. With the City's new booking website up and running, staff realized that the kitchen rate needed to be standardized. Staff recommended the revisions based on the experience and changes to the reservation system that was now online.

SPENCE added that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission voted unanimously to recommend these changes at their October, 2021, meeting.

With the new rate changes presented in the Resolution, Mayor CLEMENTS noted that three of the rates were increased and one of the rates was decreased. When asked for clarification as to how the new rates were established, SPENCE explained that the old rates were inconsistent. In order to standardize the rates across all fee tables and for user friendly access to the website reservation page, these changes needed to be made.

Mayor CLEMENTS also asked how many times the pavilion was rented out, to which SPENCE estimated, that during high peak months, the pavilion would be rented out at least two times a week and it was usually rented with the kitchen. The usage rate was typically high for the Riverside Pavilion.

Mayor CLEMENTS stated that the one decreased rate did not make sense and suggested raising them all consistently. SPENCE explained that the website had to list a standard rate for the increase no matter what day of the week the rental landed on. He further explained how the website functioned with the different rates listed for each rental fee.

Due to the size difference with Birnie Park's Pavilion compared to the other spaces and other pavilions available for rental, MIESNER asked why the rental fees were the same for all of them. SPENCE stated that the rental demand for all of the pavilions, regardless of size, was so high that people did not mind paying the rental fee for any of them because they desired a reservable area. The only fee changes made in this Resolution were the fees for the kitchen use at Riverside Pavilion only.

SPENCE clarified that if the Councilors passed the motion for the new fees, they would go in effect immediately; however, if someone had already reserved the Riverside Pavilion for a future date prior to tonight's decision, they would pay the old rate and not the new rate.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

None

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

**MOTION**

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

**MOTION:** I move that the proposed Resolution amending Resolution Number 4775, Series 2019, establishing fees for park facilities be Read by Title Only, Put to a Vote and Passed.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

Upon Mayor CLEMENTS' request, City Recorder PATTERSON read the Proposed Resolution by Title Only:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, ESTABLISHING FEES FOR CITY OF LA GRANDE PARK FACILITIES; REPEALING RESOLUTION NUMBER 4775, SERIES 2019, AND ALL OTHER RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HERewith AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE [4815]**

**VOTE**

**MSC.** (unanimous)

**c.** **Consider:** Resolution: Annexation of Property at 108 South Second Street, File Number 03-ANP-21

**STAFF REPORT**

Mayor CLEMENTS requested the Staff Report.

**Michael BOQUIST, *Community Development Director***

BOQUIST stated the subject property, 108 South Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Street, was located within the City of La Grande's Urban Growth Boundary and the property owners requested annexation into the City of La Grande, City Limits in exchange for receiving City water and sewer services for the construction of a new dwelling. City Ordinances required annexation prior to receiving the requested City services.

BOQUIST noted that in accordance with Oregon Revised Statutes 222.125, this request may be approved by Resolution when the request included 100% property owner consent(s) and consent from the majority of the electors. If these requirements were met, the legislative body (City Council) may "proclaim the annexation" by Resolution. In this case, the property owners had signed a Consent to Annex Agreement, which represented 100% of the property ownership. The property was currently developed with accessory farm structures and there were no electors

residing on the property. The applicable requirements were met to annex the property by Resolution.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

None

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

**MOTION**

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

**MOTION:** I move that the proposed Resolution annexing property located at 108 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, be Read by Title Only, Put to a Vote, and Passed.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

Upon Mayor CLEMENTS' request, City Recorder PATTERSON read the Proposed Resolution by Title Only:

**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 AT 108 SOUTH SECOND STREET; T3S, R38E, SECTION 18, TAX LOT 10,500 [4816]**

**VOTE**

**MSC. (unanimous)**

**d. Consider: Approve La Grande Arts Commission Recommendation to Authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to Enter into an MOU with Jason Hogge for Development of Public Art Piece**

**STAFF REPORT**

Mayor CLEMENTS requested the Staff Report.

**Stu SPENCE, *Parks and Recreation Director***

SPENCE stated that since 2020, the La Grande Arts Commission had been working under the City's Public Art Policy to recruit an artist to develop a public art piece that would be installed on the bulkhead in front of the Library's Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Street entrance. After a request for qualifications and separate request for proposals, the Arts Commission, along with a committee made up of representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, La Grande Mainstreet Downtown, and the Library, Jason Hogge, an artist from Pendleton, Oregon, was selected. Per the City's Public Art Policy, City Council must approve the Commission's recommendation first before proceeding. The City desired to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Jason Hogge, that would allow



staff to finalize the design and seek grant funding for the project. No City General Fund dollars would be used to fund this project. The La Grande Arts Commission and committee voted unanimously to recommend adoption on October 5, 2021.

Mayor CLEMENTS voiced that he thought this was an interesting project that provided different angles of past, present and future elements for display, depending on which angle a person would view it from.

Because this project would be funded with grant funds, Mayor CLEMENTS asked if this money was place marked in the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget, to which STROPE confirmed that \$56,000 was budgeted under the Grants and Donations line for the Arts Commission for this project.

Because of the different display angles, GLABE raised concerns that the perspective art piece would not be adequately visible from Max Square, where the majority of foot traffic occurred. Though the historic element concept was captured from the front view, GLABE felt that the bright colors on the side facing the library did not tie in together. He also suggested for a broader public input process on the design itself before moving forward with the decision.

HOWARD noted that the Arts Commission was in place to make these types of decisions before they were presented to the Council to move forward and she supported that process.

For clarification on who was involved in the review process of selecting the art piece, Mayor CLEMENTS asked MIESNER if she had spoken with or heard from other groups from the Arts Community on their involvement. MIESNER stated that the only person she spoke with was Taylor SCROGGINS, Main Street Director, who expressed his excitement over the art piece. MIESNER also noted that she was uncertain about the bright colors as well but overall did not have a problem with it.

Mayor CLEMENTS addressed GLABE's concerns regarding the art piece but voiced that he felt the concerns for the angles of the art piece and the colors used would not be an issue, to which MIESNER agreed.

With the process in place for the Arts Commission to make the selection for the art piece, Mayor CLEMENTS expressed that he respected the role of the Arts Commission and added that the Council's role in this process was only to approve what the Arts Commission had already done in order to move on to the next step in the process.

SPENCE elaborated on the different elements of the artwork. He also explained the reason the art pieces would be displayed at tilted angles, adding a view between the art pieces, was to make it harder for someone to loiter or hide behind the art, which would add security to the community.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

None

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

**MOTION**

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

**MOTION:** I move that we adopt the La Grande Arts Commission recommendation and authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with artist Jason Hogge for the development of a public art piece in front of Cook Memorial Library.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

**VOTE**

**MSC.** SIX (6) of the SEVEN (7) Councilors voted in the affirmative; GLABE voted in opposition because he felt that more public involvement was needed before finalizing the decision.

**e. Consider:** Authorize Agreements for use of Veteran's Memorial Pool; City and La Grande Swim Club; and City and La Grande High School Swim Team

**STAFF REPORT**

Mayor CLEMENTS requested the Staff Report.

**Stu SPENCE, Parks and Recreation Director**

SPENCE stated that the agreements between the City and the La Grande Swim Club and the La Grande High School Swim Team would expire on December 31, 2021. Normally the City would negotiate increased rates, but due to COVID, the City wished to simply extend the expiration dates and freeze the rates with the exception of La Grande Swim Club pool rental rates under Appendix A of the agreement. These minimal increases would align the High School and Club agreements so they reflected the same rates.

In response to MIESNER's question regarding the number of lifeguards on duty for different situations, SPENCE answered that the pool followed the two (2) lifeguards on duty for the first 25 patrons and adding guards for additional patrons, which followed state-wide rules and regulations. Only one (1) lifeguard, up to forty (40) swimmers, was

required to be on duty for organized groups, such as the Swim Club and Swim Team. Though this regulation for organized groups was recently changed at the state level, the Veterans' Memorial Pool already had this regulation in place.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

None

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

**MOTION**

The following Motion was introduced by LILLARD; BOZARTH providing the Second:

**MOTION:** I move that we authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement between the City and the La Grande Swim Club and between the City and La Grande High School Swim Team for the use of Veterans' Memorial Pool as presented.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

**VOTE**

**MSC.** (unanimous)

**f. Consider:** Award Bid for Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project

**STAFF REPORT**

Mayor CLEMENTS requested the Staff Report.

**Kyle CARPENTER, *Public Works Director***

CARPENTER shared that the Public Works staff continually reviewed the conditions of sewer mainlines with a camera designed to travel inside the main lines, allowing staff to view the existing condition of sewer mains, some of which have been in use almost 100 years. Several locations were in need of major repair and cured-in-place pipe was the most cost effective and least disruptive method to recondition these lines to like-new condition. The cured-in-place-pipe process involved installing a new pipe within the existing pipe and then reinstate the sewer services by cutting out the service line connections from within the new line. This process does not require excavation unless major problems develop. The City had 85 miles of sewer main lines and had reconditioned approximately 29 miles of main lines (4,310 feet in 2020) over the last 29 years with the cured-in-place pipe lining with great success. This Bid Award would allow staff to proceed with the execution of this project.

CARPENTER added that staff advertised for competitive bids and received three (3) qualified bids, with the low base bid of \$ 192,250.00 from *Planned and Engineered Construction, Inc., of Helena, Montana*. The main project would consist of installation of approximately 5,840 linear

feet of 8-inch cured-in-place pipe and reinstatement of service lines. The amount budgeted for this work was \$300,000.

BOZARTH commented that he was surprised to see the lowest bid come in at \$100,000 under the budgeted amount of \$300,000, to which CARPENTER agreed stating that the company that won the bid was familiar with the City's system because they have worked for the City in the past and they were also recently awarded a bid from the City of Baker City. Because both jobs were in close range to one another, it could have been another reason for the lower bid since the two jobs could piggy-back off each other, due to location.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

None

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

**MOTION**

The following Motion was introduced by LILLARD; BOZARTH providing the Second:

**MOTION:** I move that we award the 2021/2022 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project to *Planned and Engineered Construction, Inc.*, in the amount of \$192,250.00, as shown in the Bid Summary, and, further, that City Manager Strope be authorized to execute the contract documents for the bid for the 2021/2022 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

**VOTE**

**MSC.** (unanimous)

**UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE**

Union County Commissioner Matt SCARFO stated that on Thursday, November 4, 2021, Center for Human Development (CHD) would be offering a vaccination clinic at the Union County Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There would also be COVID testing events held every Tuesday through December 21, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fairgrounds. SCARFO added that CHD was still working on obtaining a FEMA bus to reach the outline areas of the county for easy access to vaccines.

SCARFO added that Union County's positive COVID case numbers were slowly continuing to decline.

SCARFO announced that Buffalo Peak Golf Course, located in Union, Oregon, was awarded the *Facility of the Year Award* from the Oregon Golf Association.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

SPENCE announced that the City of La Grande was recently awarded a grant to extend the Greenway Trail and gave a brief update on the plans for improvement.

Chief BELL gave a staffing update in the Police Department, stating there were two vacancies to fill. Field testing for those positions was held earlier that day and there appeared to be a good set of candidates from the group.

In preparation for the upcoming winter season, CARPENTER stated that the Public Works Department had started sweeping streets and cleaning out the catch basins. He also voiced that the department would advertise more proactively ahead of the leaf removal season and was hopeful for a smoother transition with the cleanup.

Timothy BISHOP, new Economic Development Director, introduced himself to the City Council and voiced his excitement with a quick recap of his first week on the job.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

STROPE stated that all Director positions with the City of La Grande were fully staffed.

With the Federal ruling in regards to the vaccination mandate expected to be announced soon, STROPE affirmed that a plan for the City departments could then be finalized.

**CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

LILLARD asked when the City Council would resume in-person meetings in the Council Chambers, to which Mayor CLEMENTS suggested December, 2021, if possible. STROPE clarified with mask wearing and social distancing, meeting in person was an option, if the City Council chose to do so.

With the mask mandate still in effective for in-door meetings, MIESNER stated that she preferred to continue to meet online at this time. Though meeting in-person would be ideal, being able to communicate with one another was easier without having to wear masks.

MIESNER commented that she heard the Halloween Trick-or-Treat event that was held in downtown La Grande on Friday, October 29, 2021, was successful.

GLABE voiced that he was in support of meeting in-person for the Council meetings and was ok with having to meet with a mask on.

With the consistent homeless population lingering around Max Square, BOZARTH asked what the City could do to remedy the issue, to which STROPE stated that he received a letter earlier that day from several business owners also

addressing this topic. Chief BELL, Stu SPENCE, and himself would be meeting the following week to discuss legal options, though limited, on how to move forward with a plan, if possible.

If changing the ownership of Max Square to a private entity, corporation, or non-profit organization, BOZARTH asked if the laws could be more strictly enforced. STROPE answered that he was not clear if this would make a difference but he would look into the deed restrictions on the property.

In response to Mayor CLEMENTS' questions regarding the loitering of several homeless individuals in and around Max Square and the activities that are happening there, Chief BELL noted that the Police Department had received fewer calls for service recently, but it could be due to people becoming accustomed to seeing homeless individuals congregating in downtown areas. BELL stated that the service calls received regarding crimes committed or violations with park rules were feasible to deal with and within the legal limits. He voiced that other Oregon cities shared the same social issues as La Grande and it was a much bigger issue than the law enforcement could handle. The effects from Oregon Ballot Measure 110 (editorial note: Drug Decriminalization and Addiction Treatment Initiative; 2020), which reclassified drug possession offenses, were starting to show. He also added that he was in regular contact with the downtown business owners and would continue to provide support and education on how to handle this situation within the legal limitations allowed.

In response to GLABE's question regarding smoking in city parks, SPENCE confirmed that there was a park rule in place and there should be no smoking allowed in the parks. Unfortunately, the Police Department has dealt with these types of interactions before, but have not been successful with court rulings. These types of issues were complicated to deal with.

MIESNER asked if a rule could be put in place that states no overnight camping in city parks, to which Mayor CLEMENTS and Chief BELL explained that if a person was involuntarily homeless with no place to stay overnight and the city did not provide such a place for an individual to stay overnight, that individual could not be criminalized for their need to rest in a public place, under House Bill 3115.

HOWARD asked if there was a timeline to when the warming station in La Grande was available to open, to which STROPE stated Monday, November 15, 2021.

Mayor CLEMENTS thanked Mark GOMEZ for his service on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.

Mayor CLEMENTS also added that he would support in-person meetings as soon as the mask mandate was dropped.

There being no further business to come before this Regular Session of the Council, Mayor CLEMENTS adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m. The Council is scheduled to meet again in Regular Session on Wednesday, December 1, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

---

Stacey M. Stockhoff  
Assistant to the City Manager

---

Stephen E. Clements  
Mayor

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY of LA GRANDE

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

Council Meeting Date: December 1, 2021

PRESENTER:

Kyle Carpenter, Public Works Director

COUNCIL ACTION:

**CONSIDER APPROVING GRANT WITH OREGON COMMUNITY PATHS PROGRAM, FUNDING MANAGER ODOT.**

- 1. MAYOR: Request Staff Report
- 2. MAYOR: Request that Public Testimony be read into the Record
- 3. MAYOR: Invite Council Discussion
- 4. MAYOR: Entertain Motion

**Suggested Motion:** I move that we authorize City Manager, Robert A. Strobe to enter into a Cooperative Improvement Agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the funding of a planning project under the Oregon Community Paths Grant Program as presented.

- 5. MAYOR: Invite Additional Council Discussion
- 6. MAYOR: Ask for the Vote

\*\*\*\*\*

**EXPLANATION:** The Oregon Community Paths (OCP) Program is a new grant program dedicated to assisting communities create and maintain connections through multiuse paths. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) manages the program with an ultimate goal of utilizing the grant funds to complement existing active transportation programs in communities across the state. Eligible projects for the OCP include project development, construction, reconstruction, major resurfacing, or other improvements of multiuse paths that improve access and safety for people walking and bicycling. This grant program is the evolution of the bike/pedestrian portion of the Connect Oregon Program.

The proposed project will include the hiring of a consultant to complete a refinement study to identify possible corridors for a future construction project (Critical Link Project) that will link the southern residential areas of the City to the downtown district with multiuse paths. The project grant covers 89.73% of the estimated cost of \$150,000, or up to \$134,595 in Federal funds. Under the agreement, the State will deliver the project and administer the contract of the consultant hired to perform the study. The City's contribution will consist mainly of in kind work of Public Works Staff and financial resources if the final project costs exceed estimates. City staff is requesting Council authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with ODOT for this project.

The City Manager recommends approval of this proposed Council action.

\*\*\*\*\*

Reviewed By: (Initial)

- City Manager \_\_\_\_\_
- City Recorder \_\_\_\_\_
- Aquatics Division \_\_\_\_\_
- Building Department \_\_\_\_\_
- ED Department \_\_\_\_\_
- Finance/Human Resources Department \_\_\_\_\_
- Fire Department \_\_\_\_\_
- Library \_\_\_\_\_
- Parks Department \_\_\_\_\_
- Planning Department \_\_\_\_\_
- Police Department \_\_\_\_\_
- Public Works Department \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinance Adopted  
 First Reading: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Second Reading: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution Passed  
 Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNCIL ACTION (Office Use Only)

Motion Passed  
 Motion Failed  
 Action Tabled: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Recessed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Session: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_