

**BOARDMAN CITY COUNCIL- REGULAR MEETING MINUTES– SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**  
**BOARDMAN CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA ZOOM**

Mayor Paul Keefer called the meeting to order at 7:01pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Keefer read a prepared statement regarding Councilor Isaac Williams. Councilor Williams turned in his resignation from the council effective immediately and Mayor Keefer accepted his resignation. Roll Call was taken.

**Councilors Present:** Brenda Profitt, Heather Baumgartner, Cristina Cuevas, Karen Pettigrew, Richard Rockwell, and Paul Keefer

**Staff:** Brandon Hammond – City Manager, Rick Stokoe – Chief of Police, Marta Barajas – Finance Director, Carla McLane – Planning Official, Toni Connell – Acting Recorder/Utility Clerk, Nancy Orellana – Associate Planner, and Jose Fernandez – Code Compliance Official

**Audience:** Justin Nelson - Morrow County DA, Steven Munkers, Stephen Fuss, Lisa Pratt, Scott Vaner Bos, Gerard, and (3) iPhone

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 1, 2023 Regular Meeting**

Councilor Profitt moved to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2023 regular meeting as presented.

Councilor Baumgartner seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Motion passed. 6-0 with 1 vacant.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Stephen Munkers – Irrigon Citizen and Morrow County Health District (MCHD) Board Member*

Mr. Munkers stated he was representing himself as a citizen of Irrigon and he is also a Morrow County Health District Board Member. He had a handout he wanted to give the council regarding some of the things that has happened with the health district this year. Mr. Munkers invited the council and residents of Boardman to attend the next MCHD Board meeting on September 25, 2023.

*Introductions*

Chief Stokoe introduced three new hires for the police department. He stated he was very excited to have these gentlemen on board and being involved with the community. Jason Navarro has been with the police department for a while and is currently in the academy. Jason is graduating from the academy on September 15, 2023. Jason addressed the council stating he and his family moved to Boardman when he was about seven years old. He served in the Army during COVID. He always knew he wanted to be an officer and got his break with Boardman and loves it. He stated he wanted to start serving his community the best way he can.

Chief Stokoe introduced Thomas Way. He is a certified officer with five years of experience and will be able to transition easily. Thomas addressed the council stating he has three children who go to school here in Boardman. He started with Morrow County Sheriff's Department then went to the City of Umatilla. Thomas said it has always been his goal to keep his children in Boardman; they have grown up here, their friends are here and it is a good place to raise kids.

Chief Stokoe introduced Zach Stutzman. Zach is from Heppner and started with the department on August 21<sup>st</sup>. He will be going to the academy in December. Zach addressed the council stating he moved to Heppner from the valley about two years ago. He has always had an interest in law enforcement and being able to have that interaction with people. He is excited to start serving and building relationships in this community.

Councilor Cuevas asked Chief Stokoe if he has hired a new SRO. He stated they did an assessment and was able to promote within. Officer Cory Rosen was assigned as the SRO but would go more into detail during his report.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### Ordinance 2-2023 – North Urban Renewal Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Councilor Baumgartner moved to approve the second reading, by title only, of Ordinance 2-2023, an ordinance making certain determinations and findings relating to and approving the North Urban Renewal Plan and directing that Notice of Approval be published. Councilor Profitt second the motion. Mayor Keefer asked for discussion and there was none.

All were in favor.

Motion passed. 6-0 with 1 vacant.

City Manager Hammond read Ordinance 2-2023, by title only, into the record.

### Ordinance 2-2023 – North Urban Renewal Plan Adoption

Councilor Baumgartner moved to approve Ordinance 2-2023, adopting the North Urban Renewal Plan and directs the City Recorder to publish the notice of adoption within four days of this adoption. This ordinance shall be effective thirty days after approval. Councilor Cuevas second the motion. Mayor Keefer asked for discussion and there was none.

All were in favor.

Motion passed. 6-0 with 1 vacant.

### Resolution 15-2023 – Consolidated Fee Schedule

Councilor Baumgartner moved to approve the adoption of Resolution 15-2023, a resolution adopting a fee schedule to govern fees for city services and repealing Resolution 13-2022. Councilor Profitt second the motion. Mayor Keefer asked for discussion and Councilor Rockwell stated at the last meeting he made his argument if the city didn't have to raise fees he would rather not and the city absorb the cost.

All were in favor.

Motion passed. 6-0 with 1 vacant.

### Resolution 18-2023 – CREZ III & Lamb Weston

Councilor Cuevas moved to approve the adoption of Resolution 18-2023, a resolution adopting an agreement between the sponsors of the Columbia River Enterprise Zone III and Lamb Weston, Inc. Councilor Rockwell second the motion. Mayor Keefer asked for discussion and there was none.

All were in favor.

Motion passed. 6-0 with 1 vacant.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### LOC Voting Delegate Appointment

Councilor Baumgartner moved to appoint Councilor Profitt to serve as the city's voting delegate during the League of Oregon Cities annual business meeting on October 14, 2023. Councilor Cuevas second the motion.

All were in favor.

Motion passed. 6-0 with 1 vacant.

### Councilor Williams Resignation - Declaring Vacancy

City Manager Hammond stated in the past the city would issue a public notice and accept letters of interest then interview the candidates during the next meeting. He stated the next council meeting is

October 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was council consensus to set the deadline for accepting letters of interest by September 26<sup>th</sup> and to interview on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION**

### Police Report

Chief Stokoe asked if there were any questions in regard to the report submitted. There were no questions. Chief Stokoe reported DUI's is on a significant increase. He explained these arrests are not necessarily alcohol but also includes narcotics resulting in three to four arrests on a weekend. He stated when narcotics were decriminalized, it became easier for people to think they can do them but it still falls under the DUI statute. The department plans on doing more patrolling for DUI's. Chief Stokoe stated with the increase of DUI's, there is an increase in hit and run accidents. The department is fully staffed with thirteen sworn officers and two reserves. With Officer Rosen taking the position as the SRO, that opened up a narcotics detective position. This open position was filled with someone who has worked previously with the BENT Team for another agency. Chief Stokoe explained he will not disclose this candidate's name allowing him to notify his current employer that he will be joining our team but will let the council know as soon as he is able to.

### Building Department Report

There were no questions regarding the report.

### Public Works Department Report

There were no questions regarding the report. City Manager Hammond mentioned he would like to start a newsletter going more into depth of exactly what all the Public Works Department does. Councilor Profitt asked if the number of meters installed each month could be added like it was before. Acting City Recorder Connell said she would let Public Works Director Prag know of her request.

### City Manager Report

City Manager Hammond ask if there were any questions in regards to the report he submitted. He stated the format of his report was more like discussion points then a written statement. Councilor Profitt mentioned she likes the project update with a list of what's happening and where the city is on the projects. City Manager Hammond stated he would like to establish a vision and goal statement for both council and city staff.

Mayor Keefer stated he was excited about the safe school route at Sam Boardman and asked City Manager Hammond to go into more detail on this project. City Manager Hammond explained it was brought to his attention the concept of kids getting to school and the traffic and parking issue in front of Sam Boardman. The concepts would be to build a retaining wall and move the parking lot up. There will be a sidewalk going to the corner of Sam Boardman along Wilson Road and connect to the sidewalk at Windy River. He had Mike Lees from Anderson Perry start the process of doing the survey and cost analysis and stated there have been entities that have reached out and this project should be fully funded. The city did have the expense of Mr. Lees' time and drawings but everything else should be fully funded by these entities. He is hoping this project will be completed this year.

Council Profitt asked about the Bella Vista sidewalk project. Associate Planner Orellana addressed the council stating the Bella Vista Board and residents are really excited about this project. When she was employed by Bella Vista, she reached out to the city about a pathway for all the children to walk to school. She explained the speed limit between Paul Smith Road and Kunze is forty mph without sidewalks and the children are at risk of being hit as they walk to school. With the new development happening to the east of Bella Vista, the developer is ready and willing to build a pathway at the southeast area of Bella Vista. Regardless of what area you live in Bella Vista, this area will be very convenient for everyone.

The council discussed restarting the Youth Advisory Board for the high school students. This would allow the students to be more involved and learn how the city works, and the students would meet their graduation requirement. City Manager Hammond will speak with Mr. Christy and see what options there may be to get this process going.

City Manager Hammond asked the council if they would be interested in a training from Eileen Howard on Urban Renewal. Ms. Howard is willing to put on a one-to-two-hour course on what urban renewal entails and as a possible option gave a date of October 25<sup>th</sup> if anyone thinks it would be beneficial. Council Profitt stated the information Ms. Howard went over at the last meeting was great information. Council Rockwell stated the information was in detail and asked if the council could get a copy of what she presented so they could go back and use it as a reference. City Manager Hammond stated he is working on putting a brief summary on the website for the community to be able to understand as well what an Urban Renewal actually is.

City Manager Hammond asked the council if he could have permission to go to CREZ and request a enterprise zone boundary change for proposed development in the down town areas which would qualify an exemption status for potential developers. There are developers who are interested in putting hotels in on NE Front Street and possibly on Olson Road. If the council gives City Manager Hammond permission this would give any hotels a three-year standard tax exemption and would help the development started and would be a good development tool. The council all agreed for City Manager Hammond to move forward on this request.

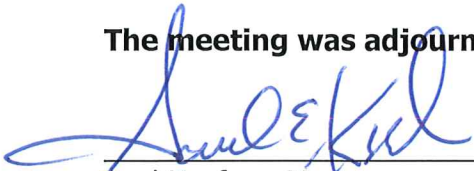
#### Councilor Report

Councilor Pettigrew stated she attended the Lower Umatilla Ground Water Management Association (LUBGWMA) meeting and found the meeting to be very interesting and a lot of information was given. She stated JR Cook is willing to come speak to the council about the city's water issues in this area.

#### Mayor Report

Mayor Keefer stated Senator Bentz will be in Heppner on September 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm and would like to meet with the leaders of Morrow County communities if anyone would like to meet with him. Mayor Keefer stated the Health District has a bond measure coming up and finds it hard to be supportive because of his mistrust of the CEO of the Health District.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm**



Paul Keefer – Mayor



Toni Connell – Acting Recorder