



CITY OF PRINEVILLE
Regular Meeting Brief
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City Council Meeting Brief
February 13, 2024

Council Members Present:

Marv Sumner
Jason Beebe
Gail Merritt

Scott Smith
Shane Howard
Janet Hutchison

Council Members Absent

Steve Uffelman

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Consent Agenda

1. Regular Meeting Brief 1-23-2023
2. Chevron Change in Ownership Liquor License

Councilor Howard made a motion to approve consent agenda as presented. Motion seconded. No discussion on motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Visitors, Appearances and Requests

No one came forward.

3. Jim Band Introduction – Interim Chief Wilson

Interim Chief Wilson announced that the two new hybrid vehicles are on the road and fuel refills are minimal. Katheryn Bottoms has been promoted and holds several master's degrees.

Interim Chief Wilson introduced Jim Band.

Jim Band, Police Department consultant came forward and provided some background information on himself. He is retired after 25 years in law enforcement, he is a member of a committee that deals with communities experiencing a re-set. So far he has interviewed all staff in police and dispatch. The staff loves what they do in public safety as well as Prineville. Usually in dealing with a significant change, staff will run for the hills. That is not the case here.

This is a good time to take a good breath as moving towards the future. They will be working towards goals for the future which might include some community involvement.

Council Presentations

4. Public Works Projects Presentation – Casey Kaiser

Casey Kaiser went through a power point presentation that highlighted some of the more significant projects that Public Works is working on. There are eight projects that total \$17 million.

The projects are Barnes Butte Paved Loop Path, Combs Flat to Peters Road Extension, 30” Waterline Resiliency Project, ASR 2 Injection & Recovery Well, Peters Road & N. Main Intersection, Transportation System Master Plan Update, Downtown Sidewalk/Streetscape Design and EV Charging Stations.

In summary, all of the projects combined has a total just over \$17 million dollars. The city secured funding from grants and private industry sources of \$16,872,000 leaving only \$155,000 in total costs to the city.

Discussions continued regarding how nice the paved path at Barnes Butte is, and no restroom at the north end. How impressive it is for staff securing all of this funding. Combs Flat Road extension will possibly be the biggest project in city history and how challenging it is to do any maintenance on north Main without a big detour.

Council Business

5. Consideration to Negotiate Purchase of Locomotive – Matt Wiederholt

Matt Wiederholt, Railroad Manager explained that the city has an opportunity to bid or negotiate the purchase of a switching locomotive from the Port of Coos Bay. They have two locomotives they are letting go of. Our existing locomotive from the 1950’s is great and better than expected, however it’s harder to get parts for. Everything from 1960 forward all has the same platform. If we get one of the locomotives it would end up replacing one the 1950’s locomotives.

Mr. Wiederholt talked about the Railroad’s fund balance and said it is going to take a little bit of a hit but believes it can be replenished within the next 14 to 16 months. He stated that he also actually has experience with these locomotives because he trained some engineers at the Port of Coos Bay.

Jered Reid, City Attorney explained that a motion would be needed to approve.

Mr. Wiederholt added that a new locomotive would cost about \$4.7 million and then talked about how there is an increase in railroad activity.

Councilor Sumner made a motion to approve negotiations for the engine up to \$275,000. Motion seconded. Discussions on motion regarding what we would end up doing with the two old ones. Mr. Wiederholt responded that he isn't going to resell them to replenish the fund balance and honestly doesn't know. They are old enough to where it's a catch 22 because they do run, they are worn out but they do run. They are land locked so that they are so old they don't have the right, you wouldn't be able to put them on the BNSF and take them to another rail line so, they are basically kind of stuck here. Unfortunately that's probably what would be their fate in the future would be, just cut them up. City of Prineville Railway Museum. Yeah it's kind of unfortunate because they do run, they've been taken care of, don't get me wrong. They have always been inside and they have been taken care of. Just they've outlived their parts essentially, their useful lives. As such with any equipment. Don't know a single one that's ran forever. What Mr. Wiederholt wants to make clear is \$275,000, that's not what, his goal is to be at \$275,000 all in. So, that's the transportation, which is going to be like \$10,000 so that's kind of his goal is you know the \$275,000 is all in, at the very top end of the most. Obviously we are not going to bid \$275,000. Tomorrow the bids get opened at 4:00 P.M. tomorrow. How long is the bid process for a couple of days? They did it for one week, he would have thought it would have been longer than that but, yeah they opened it on the 8th and closes tomorrow. They are very popular so you know it would be great but they are a very popular model. We haven't voted yet. All in favor, motion carried.

Staff Reports and Requests:

6. City Manager's Report– Steve Forrester

Steve Forrester, City Manager said they have already covered Public Safety except training for newest dispatcher is going well.

Mr. Forrester continued through activities of the rest of the departments.

Lisa Morgan, City Recorder/Risk Manager held up a picture that the Crook County Kids Club created as thanks to the City Council for their contribution recently, and passed along a thank you card from Executive Director Ashley Thrasher.

There were no further questions or comments.

Committee Reports

Councilor Smith attended a COACT meeting last week along with Casey Kaiser and Rich Evans. On the agenda was the new Connect Oregon is out for applications. Connect Oregon is pretty much anything mode of transportation that isn't highway.

They are pushing a carbon reduction program and Casey may look into some possible funding for solar street lights. However, there are usually so many strings attached that at the end of it you look at it as what did you really get from the funding.

Councilor Smith said that Councilor Uffelman is on the Road User Fee Task Force (RUFTF) and looking for funding resources for maintenance of roads and then distributed handouts from the COACT meeting he attended.

Another transportation package is being recommended for 2025 for funding opportunities during the legislative session. Something needs to be done for sustainable funding. There is some good reading for freight and trucking and they are already over paying and the lighter more efficient vehicles are actually underpaying. They are putting effort into really understanding. EV is better on the environment however it is a burden on maintenance.

There were no other committee reports.

Mayor Beebe talked about Meta construction being wrapped up. He attended a recent event at Meta where the parents put together a scholarship fund for skilled trade work training in memory of their sons who were on their way to work at Fortis and were an accident and died. Fortis donated \$32,500 to the foundation and Meta matched for a total of \$71,000.

There were discussions regarding a scholarship committee and Mayor Beebe offered to find out more information.

There were no other reports.

Ordinances:

None.

Resolutions

None.

Visitors, Appearances and Requests:

No one came forward.

Adjourn

Councilor Hutchison made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded. No discussion on motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Motions and Outcomes:

Motion:	Outcome	Beebe	Howard	Hutchison	Merritt	Smith	Summer	Uffelman
Consent Agenda as presented	PASSED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-
Motion to approve negotiations for the engine up to \$275,000.	PASSED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-
Adjourn Meeting	PASSED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-

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<https://www.cityofprineville.com/meetings> .