



BAKER CITY, OREGON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAYOR:
Beverly Calder
COUNCILORS
Jason Spriet
Raymond Duman
INTERIM CITY MANAGER
Jon France

REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2023 - 6:00 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Call to Order/Introduction

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Call to Order | Interim City Manager, Jon France, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. |
| 2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation | Jon France led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilor Pearson led the meeting in Invocation. |
| 3. Roll Call | Roll call was answered by Councilors Bruland, Coles, Daugherty, and Pearson. Also present were Interim City Manager Jon France, Public Works Director Joyce Bornstedt, Fire Chief Todd Jaynes, Police Chief Ty Duby, and City Recorder Rheann Weitz. |

Councilor Pearson made a motion to appoint a Mayor to the Council.

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Pearson
MOTION: Appoint Councilor Daugherty as Mayor of the Baker City Council.
SECONDED: Councilor Coles
IN FAVOR: Unanimous
OPPOSED: None
Motion Passed.

Randy took the chair as Mayor.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 4. Public Comment | <p>There were 2 citizens who signed up for public comment.</p> <p>Greg Baxter - Greg stated that he works at the District Attorney's Office and that they work closely with the Baker City Police Department, especially the detectives. He stated that the detectives have a lot more training than normal cops do and that the City and County would suffer a huge loss if they were not supported.</p> <p>Mayor Daugherty stated that the department was funded as presented at the budget board. However, the Council does believe in public safety and they are looking to sustain funds for public safety.</p> <p>Tamara Kellar - Tamara stated that she received her water bill, and noticed that the public safety fee for both fire and police was on her bill. She said that she moved here because the fire and police departments were good, and that she wasn't in favor of doing away with the fee, but it was just a shock to her that the fee was on her water bill. She asked if the department was fully funded this year, and why were they introducing the fee now. Mayor</p> |
|--------------------------|---|

Daugherty mentioned that the reason was to ensure they have funds for the next fiscal year.

There was some discussion on Division 36, water utility, and the mention of letting the state know of additions to water utility charges, and asked if the City had done that. Public Works Direction, Joyce Bornstedt, mentioned that the fee wasn't going to utilities, it was just on the water bill for easy billing. Jon France asked Tamara to reach out to him to meet at another time to discuss more in depth.

Old Business

5. Revenue Options

Jon France gave a briefing on the public safety fee, and why it was crucial to the fire and police departments. He stated that multiple businesses had been contacting him about having multiple charges on multiple accounts for the same business. He stated that the City was working to iron out the hiccups, as it wasn't the intent of the City to fee one business multiple times.

Councilor Pearson stated that he had met with both the fire chief and the police chief and he was in support of having good departments but was concerned about how to support them long term. He mentioned proposing a 5-year 1 million dollar/year tax levy on the May ballot. He stated that the funds would go towards the Police and Fire departments, as well as paying back the \$490,000 that was taken from the Streets Fund during the budget board meeting in May.

Councilor Bruland stated that she didn't want to see another levy go onto a ballot, but rather look at the reduction in expenses. She stated that the City owns 73 properties and requested that the City get a list of what they are used for and their approximated appraisal value. She stated that she would be interested in looking into these properties and seeing if they could sell any of them. She also said that she would be interested in a hotel tax, and adding air b&bs to the list.

She also explained that she felt that \$15 was too much for a public safety fee and that she would be interested in setting up Town Hall meetings to get input from the citizens.

Mayor Daugherty stated that he thought they should fill the remaining 3 councilor seats, and then meet with Jon to discuss the idea of Town Halls. He said that they need to focus on resolving the general fund because all of the other operations are fine.

Councilor Burland asked if they had the ability to suspend the public safety fee for 60-90 days and Jon France stated that he believed that the City Council would have to revoke the resolution entirely, he believed. Councilor Pearson stated that he didn't believe that suspending the public safety fee was a good idea as they would lose fire-fighters and police officers.

Mayor Daugherty requested that revenue discussion be added to their next agenda.

New Business

6. City Council Appointment Process

Mayor Daugherty stated that while they have a quorum with the 4 of them, if something was to happen to any of them, they would be right back in the same

spot they were a few weeks ago, so he thought they needed to appoint at least one of the three vacant seats immediately. Councilor Pearson agreed and stated that there was one candidate from the 17 that submitted applications to the County, that scored the highest in their rankings, and believed they should appoint them.

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Pearson

MOTION: Appoint Loran Joseph to the City Council immediately and choose the other 2 vacancies at another time.

SECONDED: Councilor Coles

IN FAVOR: Unanimous

OPPOSED: None

Motion Passed.

7. Special Meeting Date

Jon France requested that the City Council hold a special meeting before their next regularly scheduled meeting on November 14th. Randy said that he wasn't interested in meeting before November 14, and that they would appoint the remaining 2 vacancies on that day. Councilor Bruland mentioned opening up applications for others to apply.

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Bruland

MOTION: Open up councilor applications to the public until November 10

SECONDED: Councilor Pearson

IN FAVOR: Unanimous

OPPOSED: None

Motion Passed.

There was a discussion from Jon France, Joyce Bornstedt, and Ty Duby about needing to swear in Loran Joseph immediately so that the City can hire budgeted positions within the City. Joyce explained that with an interim city manager, according to the City Charter, the City has to have the approval of at least 5 members to hire/fire any positions within the City. They decided to have a special call meeting on Friday, October 27, 2023, to swear in Loran Joseph to the City Council, and vote on hiring for budgeted positions within the City.

8. Equipment Purchase: Public Works and Fire

Public works director Joyce Bornstedt was requesting approval from the City Council for a hydro excavator. She explained that the one they have is on its last leg, and they have been searching for a new one since May, when the budget board approved the budget for it. Joyce explained that they had found a new one, and she believed it was a 2021, and she was requesting the City Council's approval to get it ordered.

Councilor Pearson stated that from his experience, it is an absolutely essential vehicle for Public Works to have.

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Coles

MOTION: Approve the City to get a new hydro excavator for the Public Works department

SECONDED: Councilor Pearson
IN FAVOR: Unanimous
OPPOSED: None
Motion Passed.

Fire Chief Todd Jaynes was seeking approval from the City Council to purchase a new fire engine. He stated that the one they were looking to replace was 32 years old, and the last pump test it took barely passed. He stated that the agency that administered the test told them that it wouldn't pass another one. He stated that they had 3 options for a lease/purchase. The 2 more expensive options were 3-5 years out, and not exactly what the fire department was looking for. However, the cheapest option was their preferred option and would be the fastest here as well. He stated that the only downside of this option was that they weren't entirely sure what the lease payments would be. Councilor Pearson asked the chief to explain the consequences of failing a pump test. The chief stated that it isn't an option to fail. The pump gives water to the firefighters inside buildings that are on fire. If that fails, it could be catastrophic. He also explained that the ISO rating would go down as well if a pump test failed.

Mayor Daugherty stated that he wasn't comfortable approving something without knowing what the lease payment was. The Chief understood and let them know that they were also looking into grants for the lease as well.

Jon France stated that they would move forward with looking into what the lease payment would look like and bring it back to the Council at their meeting on November 14.

Updates and Future Items

9. City Manager / Director Updates

Councilor Coles wanted to give a shout-out to Joyce Bornstedt and her crew. He stated that the Cemetery and parks are the best they have looked for in years, and he wanted to let them know that their work didn't go unseen.

Police Chief, Ty Duby, wanted to thank the Council for the support they had shown for the Police and Fire departments and stated that it would go a long way with the firefighters and police officers.

Councilor Pearson requested assistance in understanding the new water bills and the software change. Jon France mentioned that Rheann Weitz could assist him with that further. Rheann let Councilor Pearson know that he could reach out to her when he wanted to set up a time.

Adjourn

10. Adjourn

MADE BY: Councilor Pearson
MOTION: Adjourn
SECONDED: Councilor Coles
IN FAVOR: Unanimous
OPPOSED: None

Motion Passed.

Mayor Daugherty adjourned the meeting at 7:01 pm

Signed: Raly Daugherty
Mayor

Attest: Gracy Sprunt
City Recorder

A link to this City Council meeting can be found www.bakercity.com or upon request to the City Recorder.

