



BAKER CITY, OREGON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAYOR:
Randy Daugherty
COUNCILORS
Loran Joseph
Roger Coles
Doni Bruland
Larry Pearson
Nic Carman
Helen Loennig
CITY MANAGER
Barry Murphy

REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2024 - 6:00 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Call to Order/Introduction

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Call to Order | The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor Daugherty in the Baker City Hall Council Chambers. |
| 2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation | Councilor Loennig led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation. |
| 3. Roll Call | Roll call was answered by Mayor Daugherty and Councilors Bruland, Joseph, Coles, Pearson, Carman, and Loennig.
Also present were City Manager Barry Murphy, Public Works Director Joyce Bornstedt, Fire Chief Todd Jaynes, Police Chief Ty Duby, Planning Director Holly Kerns, Human Resources Manager Heidi Quintela, and City Recorder Megan Langan. |
| 4. Agenda Additions, Deletions, Modifications | Addition of December 12th City Council Minutes. |
| 5. Public Comment | Citizen, Avid Anderson asked the City Council what is going on with the water shed? Is there a plan in place to clean up the water shed, and what happens if it burns up?
Mayor Daugherty said the City Council will follow up with the forest service.
Citizen, Curtis Martin would like to be proactive about the economic expansion of meat processing. There is a new meat processing program for the state he talked with Barry about. There is a group from the United Kingdom to talk about a new bio digester for animal process waste and organic waste. Curtis said he would like to have more meetings with Barry and restaurants and producers in Baker. |

Old Business

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6. Consent Agenda | |
| a. 2023.12.12 Regular Session Meeting Minutes
2024.01.02 Special Call Session Meeting Minutes | Councilor Pearson would like to make changes to the 12/12 minutes. On item 10, he would like to add that public works was to follow up with the HOA for Alpine Estates. Also, Item 13 adding the City hired Kent Bailey to oversee payroll and budget control.
Mayor Daugherty would like to add to the 1/2 meeting comments about thanking Jon France for his time as interm City Manager. |

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Joseph
MOTION: Approve meeting minutes with the modicaitions suggested
SECONDED: Councilor Coles
IN FAVOR: Unanimous

OPPOSED: None
Motion Passed.

b. Social Gaming Application

The police Chief approved the application. Council asked if there was an OLCC application and Chief Duby does not recall signing one.

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Joseph
MOTION: Approve social gaming application
SECONDED: Councilor Coles
IN FAVOR: Unanimous
OPPOSED: None
Motion Passed.

New Business

7. Public Works Certificate

Mayor Daugherty presented a certificate to Public Works for 9 years no time loss injury. Jake Fuzi and Dennis Bachman were present to accept certificate on behalf of Public Works.

8. Passenger Train

Matt Krabacher, a citizen of Baker City, stated that a group of people are working to collect signatures and generate a petition to restore the passenger rail through Baker City. The FRA has a final working group meeting on 2/8/2024 to talk about what rail lines they would like to restore. As of right now, there are no other future meeting dates.

Terry Miller, a citizen of Baker City here with that train group. I have a few questions after Ron Wyden was here. He seemed to not know who Baker City was, especially when he said we needed to pay them for putting in a railroad and a station. I have been working with business to get out a petition to be a destination city for the train. Businesses would love to have people do tours. Motels and hotels think business is slowing down. Having the rail come to town would boost tourism.

Are we getting paid by the RR using our facility.

Councilor Bruland stated that Sumpter RR is owned by BC parks. the RR rents half the building. They pay us for the building, and we pay them for the land. Not sure if the station would qualify as a modern day Amtrak station or if that is something they want. Concerned about operating costs and how many would ride. We could run a shuttle for the motels and hotels. Mr. Miller said even if it was just 2-3 times a week, they would want to come. Build it and they will come.

Shane Alderson, County Commissioner, stated that the Council did pass a resolution in favor of the passenger train 3 years ago to encourage a needs assessment. Which sounds to me like it was passed and funded and will be carried out. We would like to see passenger rail return on the pioneer line. The original idea was to restore and move the historic depot to where it is now because it sat further up the tracks. Commissioner Alderson would like to see, with congress and the president putting \$16.4 mil into passenger rail for the Eastern and Southern states, one of the them getting back online.

9. Emergency Response Discussion

Fire Chief Jaynes asked to talk about why we respond to medical calls when we are not an ambulance, but we are a fire department. We are also a QRT or a QRU which means we respond to the medical within our jurisdiction. That way if the ambulance needs help it is more hands or if they are delayed for any

reason, there is someone to help out. All the other states and places I have worked they have done the same thing so I decided to check to see if that is how it is done here so I called the Fire Division Manager for Disaster services that works with fire departments and I asked him and he said there are only 2 departments in Baker County that don't respond to EMS calls, they are not a QRU or a QRT they are just fire.

There was a discussion about why Metro West and BCFD respond to the same calls.

Mayor, so how do we get revenue? Seems to me we are wearing out a firetruck and we have no revenue?

Chief, that is something you would have to approve a fee schedule and bill for what we do.

Mayor, that seems to me like if we are taking a firetruck, two personal and medications to assist then somehow we should be able to find a way to reimburse for some of it. who are you going to bill?

Barry, Todd and I have talked about the fee schedule and he has a draft to start generate revenue from it. I did check with Jason Yancopal and he said that was standard and in the end, it's better for the residents because sometimes the fire department can get there first. Barry and Todd are working on a fee schedule.

There was a discussion about OT at the fire department and seeing the trucks around town.

10. County Planning Contract

City Manager Barry presented a MOA that Holly Kerns drafted up. The intent of this is to modernize the agreement we have with the County based on that fact that the annual contribution has only been increased once since the effective date which was back in 2012. Based on her experience, she also thinks there is a lot that is not covered in what they currently do. The MOA is essential just for us to work together to start that discussion, to have that agreement in place by 7/1/2014"

Mayor "Do you have anything to add Holly"

Holly Kerns "not unless Council has questions"

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Pearson

MOTION: Approve MOA

SECONDED: Councilor Joseph

IN FAVOR: Unanimous

OPPOSED: None

Motion Passed.

11. TLT Committee

Currently, Bev Calder is on the TLT Committee.

There was a discussion about this being something the Mayor should be on.

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Pearson

MOTION: Nominate Mayor Daugherty for TLT Committee

SECONDED: Councilor Coles

IN FAVOR: Unanimous

OPPOSED: None

Motion Passed.

Councilor Joseph " Thanks Bev for her time"

Mayor "and willingness to do it again"

12. Future Revenue Discussion

Citizen Tamyra Keller wanted to make a comment about the funding for police and fire. Her biggest concern is FD and PD part of general fund. City Manager Barry Murphy. As for as the current budget status, were hoping to get you a current working capital number for the end of this fiscal year but we don't have that number yet.

I can go over basically where we were at the end of November our expenditure rate we will have 65% of our current year budget remaining for expenditures so We are basically on track or doing slightly better. We are on track to have a normal starting working capital number when we start. We are expecting a short fall this next budget year. We will work on that specific number for you but based on the last projections I think we have enough to start recognizing for future revenue as all of you were tracking.

Copied the slides that Jon France had given to all of you that we can go over. Here is why we have a revenue short fall;

SHORTFALL: \$1.7M: Based on our projections for FY24-25 – Order of priority

- Baseline \$905K – Status quo in Police/Fire
- Additional Fire funding – \$400K (One Lieutenant and additional firefighter, Turnouts, Equipment, Training, New Union Contract (CY24))
- Personnel Needed to meet current ISO requirements & House Entrance Requirements
- Police (Solidify 24/7 coverage) – 150K (1 additional officer, uniforms, vehicle, training)
- Contingency fund Increase – \$100K
- General Fund Increase – restoration of a portion of legal/insurance/customer service person rehire – finance \$190K

Why Does Baker City Have a Revenue Shortfall?

- Not enough property tax revenue to cover costs
- Inflation – Attacked city operations like it has individuals, not anticipated.
- Pay increases to keep or attract personnel (labor market forces have driven decisions to increase pay) - Still under Eastern Oregon labor market prices in several areas – Public Works & Administration
- Cost of goods and services have gone up
- Used COVID grants to shore up the budget

Despite the budget and staff trimming that has been done – we are still short about \$1.7 Million dollars to be fully functional and somewhat healthy in the general fund in FY24-25

Seems pretty significant right now which is driving this discussion. I am committed to look at the budget, look at where to maximize efficiency with department heads. Doing our diligence and making sure we are good stewards of the cities money. As of right now, this is where we are standing.

How Do We Fill the Gap – \$1.7M?

_(Ideas not in any order of importance)

- Marijuana Sales (Revised) (Local and tourist) \$20K
(5K license annual (2), 5K in tax revenue per shop – thru local balloted tax)
- NOTE: Additional 3% city sales tax can't be balloted until Nov 24
- Franchise Fee Increase: From 5 to 7.5% (local) \$322K
- Short term Rentals (80) City Ordinance (tourist) \$ 72K
(\$500 annual license plus yearly license charge)

Mayor Daugherty, I am a big proponent of raising franchise fees, its all inclusive, 2% raise.

Councilor Pearson, the over riding concerns I have , no matter what we do is the voters need to have a say. Because it does effect 1/7 mil out of their

pocket without a say. Unless we arrange so they do have a say and a tax levy would be easy to do that. I guess you put a wager out there for a proponent on franchise fee, gas tax. But I would like to see the people have a say Mayor Daugherty no I am in favor of that. Its time to make a decision so I think we all need to come with our ideas next meeting and we will make some motions and will make some decisions. We have all looked at this a dozen times so it is time.

13. Finance Director Job Posting

Councilor Bruland said she met with Heidi Quintela one day and went through the previous job description that was called something else that time. We refocused the position back to finance director, which I thought the brand administration and the EDC and all the other things that position was supposed to take care of beyond the finance department.

The job description does now reflect solely a finance director. They will be responsible for that department, getting the audits ready, supervising the staff to get our customer service back.

Mayor Daugherty, I think you guys did a great job.

There was a discission about the job description and the new software and calculation of the bills.

Updates and Future Items

14. Council Committee Updates

Mayor Daugherty, we are going to fill the vaccines. Hopefully we have enough applications for our board and commissions at our next meeting.

Megan, maybe a few days before you could let us know if we are short some and as counselors we can gather a group of people to fill those slots.

Do we have to have counselors on all these boards and commissions.

Councilor Joseph, the charter doesn't mention we have to have but historically we have to have that tie back to council and to help out on staff.

Joyce Bornstedt, most of the board and commission were established by ordinance and I think the language varies between the ordinances. Some of them do call for a council member to sit on them and some don't. Staff should review that and see where we are at with council participation.

There was a discussion about where the openings would be posted.

Councilor Pearson, One other thing we should probably do is publicly thank the City Manager Search Committee for doing a great job.

Mayor Daugherty, Absolutely we agree. Randy Dodson, Erin Lair, Nathan Defress, Jackie Ward, Charlie Tracy.

Councilor Joseph, Fantastic job, good work all the way around.

15. City Manager / Director Updates

City Manager Barry Murphy, Big thank you for trusting me and selecting me to do this job. Thank you for putting your trust in me. Publicly thank the city as well for me and my family. Thankful for the opportunity to give back. Also thanks to Jon France for stabilizing everything here.

In terms of priorities for City Staff,

Serve with Excellence

Give Baker City residents a sense of pride in their city staff & administration Team with Baker City Council to ensure a prosperous future for the city

Completed

Visits to all Departments, Planning Discussion, In-depth Budget Overview

Way Ahead

Weekly Update Emails to Council (starting Friday)

Economic Development Discussion (this week)

Housing Discussion with County Commissioner (this week)

Discuss On-Site Planning Conference with Council to see where you would like the city to be, short term, mid term and long term. (next 1-2 weeks)

Councilor Pearson, Can I ask a question of one of the department heads?

Where are we at with the lagoon mess, any progress?

Joyce Bornstedt, yes and no. we are working on some of the legal aspects in regards to where we are going to head with that. We are still pursuing the additional sites and in the process of DEQ we have the environment and cultural work done and we are not finding anything that will preclude us from submitting the application for the site. We will be doing that later this spring.

Councilor Pearson, are you putting anything more in it?

We did put approximately 6 more inches in late November to see if would change the activity out there and there was no change.

16. City Council Comments

Councilor Carman, I just wanted to say good job today Barry. Looking forward to the Friday updates.

17. Upcoming Agenda Items

Adjourn

18. Adjourn

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Perason

MOTION: To adjourn 7:14pm

SECONDED: Councilor Joseph

IN FAVOR: Unanimous

OPPOSED: None

Motion Passed.

Signed: _____


Mayor

Attest: _____



City Recorder

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