



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
FEBRUARY 27, 2024 - 6:00 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Call to Order/Introduction

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| 1. Call to Order | The meeting was called to order at 6:07pm by Mayor Daugherty in the Baker City Hall Council Chambers. |
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| 2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation | Councilor Carman led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation. |
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| 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, Finance Director Paula Brown, and City Recorder Megan Langan. |
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| 4. Agenda Additions, Deletions, Modifications | City Manager Barry Murphy introduced the new Finance Director, Paula Brown. |
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| 5. Public Comment | Public comment was made by Dan McQuisten regarding the operating levy, public safety fee and franchise fees. |

Old Business

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| 6. Consent Agenda | MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Joseph
MOTION: To Approve the Meeting Minutes for January 23rd
SECONDED: Councilor Perason
IN FAVOR: Unanimous
OPPOSED: None
Motion Passed. |
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New Business

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| 7. Non-Rep Salary Discussion/Approval | City Manager Barry Murphy presented the non-rep salary report. In the past, City Councilor made increases to the salary schedule and those increases were static and did not include a cost of living increase like the labor unions have in their contracts. In this respect, the non-represented employees tend to fall behind the employees that are in the union.
The main change will be introducing a COLA that aligns with the corresponding labor unions. If approved, it will be added each July.
The comparison chart shows that Baker City is lower than most comparable cities when it comes to non-represented salaries.
The updates to the salary schedule will include removing positions we no longer have or renaming the ones that have been changed.
The council reviewed the reports and asked questions for discussion.
Barry will work with Heidi on some clarifications and bring it back to an upcoming meeting. |
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8. Fire Department Deployment Plan	Chief Jaynes presented a fire deployment plan as a way to raise funds. In order to start we would need to get the ambulance licensed with the state and get the firetrucks figured out and move some equipment around. Mayor asked what type of ambulance license and if it would conflict with metro west? Chief Jaynes stated that they are not looking at doing 911 we are looking at being able to transport. We are looking into a transport license. We would like to keep the deployments in the west. Texas maybe, New Mexico, Arizona and California and work out way back up here for our fire season. We would contract for staffing till we can get our guys trained up. Mayor Daugherty asked how do we get on the list? Chief Jaynes stated that every week the local fire defense president asks what assets we have, and the president looks at what is needed to deploy. The equipment is covered under our insurance regardless of who is driving it. Barry stated that if we need this we would want to reserve revenue for maintenance and wear and tear. Councilor Bruland stated that we need to take care of Baker City first, we need to staff our house. Councilor Joseph stated that right now we have 2 ambulances that are sitting idle, and we could use contractors to run them. "I think we try to find somewhere to see how it works." Councilor Pearson stated this is an excellent chance for revenue. Councilor Loennig stated she has lots of questions and would like to see a report from a City who has done this and a cost analyst. Chief Jaynes stated that the equipment is ours, the soft stuff we supply. The contract agency staffs it. Councilor Bruland asked if this would have to go out to RFP and Barry stated it would most likely have to go out to RFP to find the contracting staffing. Mayor Daugherty stated the first thing that should be done is pursuing the license and then bring it back to council for a yes or no. Councilor Bruland wanted to make sure that we verify it does not conflict with Metro West and Pioneer. Chief Jaynes stated that if we have the asset it makes sense to help the community. City Manager will bring back some more information.
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9. Realtor RFP	Mayor Daugherty stated we will hold off on this for now.
10. Operating Levy Discussion/Approval	City Manager Barry Murphy presented the updated levy with the changes suggested in the work session. As soon as it is approved we will get it posted publicly to allow the 7 days for the public to chance to challenge it if they desire through the circuit court. Once the 7 days is up we will file the 802 with the county.

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Pearson
 MOTION: To proceed with the operating levy
 SECONDED: Councilor Joseph
 IN FAVOR: Mayor Daugherty, Councilor Pearson, Joseph, Coles, Loennig and Carmen
 OPPOSED: Councilor Bruland
 Motion . Passes

**11. Public Safety Fee Ordinance
Discussion/Approval**

City Manager Barry Murphy updated the ordinance based on the feedback from the work session.
The main changes that were done were change the rates to \$10 for residential and \$20 for commercial. They could go up to \$15 and \$30 and that will be evaluated during the budget process every year.
Since we don't have a public safety committee for the appeal process, it will come to the City Manager and then to the City Council.
Discussion was had about how to find the buildings that have multiple dwellings and if there is an end date on this.
Councilor Joseph stated he doesn't feel like we should add a date but, that we can lower if it we see fit. Suggested to add that it will reset to zero yearly unless the city adopts an amount in the fee schedule.
City Manager Barry will make the changes needed and bring to the next meeting to move forward.

12. Franchise Fee

City Manager Barry Murphy presented the resolution to increase franchise fees from 5% to 7%.

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Joseph
MOTION: To Approve resolution 3957
SECONDED: Councilor Bruland
IN FAVOR: Unanimous
OPPOSED: None
Motion Passed.

13. VRBO

City Manager Barry Murphy presented moving short-term rentals from residential to commercial effective July 1.

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Pearson
MOTION: Short-Term rentals from residential to commercial
SECONDED: Councilor Coles
IN FAVOR: Unanimous
OPPOSED: None
Motion Passed.

14. Business License

Discussion was had about business licenses and the cost to charge.
Mayor Daugherty suggested, as time permits, we can start looking into this, something simple.

Updates and Future Items

15. Council Committee Updates

Councilor Joseph provided an update on R3.
Councilor Coles provided an update on the Airport committee.
Councilor Loennig stated the first public arts meeting is looking like March 12th.
Councilor Bruland stated they have a PWAC meeting scheduled March 4th.

16. City Manager / Director Updates

No updates from the directors.
City Manager Barry Muphy provided updates;
Police and Fire staffing continues to be very positive.
Housing task force meeting with the county and next on my plate is getting all the large employers together for a meeting to discuss the housing issue.

17. City Council Comments

Councilor Carman asked where are we at with the newsletter?
Councilor Loennig will work on drafting something up.
Councilor Coles complimented Barry on attacking this project and the good work he is doing.
Councilor Pearson asked about the status of the Marijuana issue and suggested to start working on.
Councilor Loennig wanted to know the status of the customer service and the City Hall hours?
Barry stated we are working on that with the directors.

18. Upcoming Agenda Items**Adjourn**

19. Adjourn

Mayor Daugherting adjourned meeting at 7:14pm.

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.