



BAKER CITY, OREGON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
MAY 10, 2022 - 7:00 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MAYOR
Kerry McQuisten
COUNCILORS
Shane Alderson
Johnny Waggoner Sr.
Joanna Dixon
Jason Spriet
Kenyon Damschen
Dean Guyer
CITY MANAGER
Jonathan Cannon

Meeting Info

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| 1. Call to Order | The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor McQuisten in the Baker City Hall Council Chambers. |
| 2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation | Mayor McQuisten led the pledge of allegiance and invocation. |
| 3. Roll Call | Roll call was answered by Mayor Kerry McQuisten and Councilors Kenyon Damschen, Dean Guyer, Joanna Dixon, Johnny Waggoner Sr., Jason Spriet, and Shane Alderson. Also present were City Manager Jonathan Cannon, Police Chief Ty Duby, Administrative Services Manager Jennifer Spencer, Kent Bailey, and City Recorder Dallas Brockett. |
| 4. Agenda Additions, Deletions, Modifications | Mayor McQuisten discussed Agenda Additions, Deletions, Modifications. Councilor Damschen suggested allowing the Fire Union speak for 15 minutes during the meeting. During some shouting during the meeting, Chief Ty Duby explained the rules of a public meeting and advised everyone to be respectful. |

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Dixon
MOTION: moved to amend the agenda to have the new officer presentation after item #6, and to remove items #9 and #10.
SECONDED: Councilor Waggoner Sr.
IN FAVOR: Unanimous
OPPOSED: None
Motion Passed.

5. Consent Agenda

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Dixon
MOTION: Approve the Consent Agenda
SECONDED: Councilor Spriet
IN FAVOR: Unanimous
OPPOSED: None
Motion Passed.

6. Citizen's Participation

No one signed up besides the ambulance topic, which was an agenda item

7. New Officer Presentation	Chief Ty Duby presented the new officer that was hired, Emily Oller.
8. Ordinance 3383; Camping Ordinance	City Recorder Dallas Brockett read Ordinance 3383 by title only.

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Waggoner Sr.

MOTION: Motion to pass Ordinance 3383.

SECONDED: Councilor Dixon

IN FAVOR: Unanimous

OPPOSED: None

Motion Passed

9. Ambulance Update and Discussion 27 people signed up to speak regarding this agenda item.

Katie LaFavor discussed having the vote for the people to extend ambulance services. Ms. LaFavor stated that home insurance rates will increase. This is a rash decision.

Robbie Langrell discussed the two-man structure, and they liked it. If we cut the fire dept. now, we are never going to get those people back. We have an amazing department that cares about the community's department. She compared BCFD to the City of Saluda, NC.

Julie Gentry stated she urged to keep an ambulance service. Silence is consent - she stated she must not remain silent. We currently have some amazing folks within our department. What does the city manager have as far as investment in this community? She stated that the fire department gives back to the community.

Sean Peterson talked with the fire department today - with the current changes, they will not be able to enter a property due to the staffing projections.

Marissa Eggers stated: hands down urge council to keep what we have - we have skill here with the current staff. With the 2 in 2 out rule - Chief and Division Chiefs are available, and it has to come to her understanding they are unable to wear the PPE's - so they are still unable to enter burning buildings.

Richard Cockren with Baker Rural Fire District stated "I am here to inform you, this could be detrimental to the community. You got professionals here already, training officers - the best of the best at that office right now. I trust them with my life. Dont let this happen, it is in your hands, you all know, people are here and they are concerned and upset and they want it resolved."

Casey Johnson - Public concern and public safety. Mr. Johnson brought a history of a the fire department. 50% person proposed cut in the safety. He stated the fire department is committed to safety. He stated that City carry over is 30% over from last year. Government does a lot of things and he stated to re-think this decision.

Todd Siddway: Mr. Siddway wanted to stress - what you are trying to do is going to cost lives. We have many accidents that the fire department runs to.

Jesse - I've been in the medical profession for 24 years. You have a top notch crew - proud to work beside them.

Tamara Keller stated "I'm going to go after one of your hearts. Kerry - I see your signs all over town. I come in as an advocate of horrible tragedy. The amount of paramedic care that my husband got was amazing". She stated it was great to see our first responders work so hard for her husband's life.

Robert Hall stated "I come to you as a retired veterinarian - I have a son and his wife and a grandson and my family lives in Baker City. Private companies are going to more considered of money and volume. I do not live in the city, I live in the county. Please if you have to work with the county - I am willing to pay more taxes for ambulance service."

Mayor asked the audience how many of them attended the council meeting - about 7-8 raised their hand in the audience which was less than 1/4 of the total in the room.

Camille Hern stated that she has a lot of children, and moved to Baker City for medical service. She stated that the current service we have is great, and it is disheartening the city is willing to cut. I definitely encourage to keep our current ambulance service.

Mike Davis stated that we can't cut these guys and there is a lot of finger-pointing. At the very least, he said to bring a reasoning bid. He stated he is only 37 years old, if you can ask for addendums and changes you can put in a reasonable bid. Either stand behind your firefighters - and show your ems services you support them.

Samantha Slattery: I get to see the action as a neighbor of the fire department and as a stay at a home mom. She stated that the elderly make up 23% of Baker's population - anything with fire you can count them to be there.

Vanessa Tachencko - Married to Ryan who is with the fire department. I have the privilege to be a hospice nurse and be able to work with the ambulance service in both LaGrande and Baker City. This is more of a billing issue. This is serious and this is something that goes beyond politics.

Penny Reinks stated her concerns about cutting the fire department staff but giving money to

Mr. Watt stated that you are about to make the high-risk, high staff. Part of my problem is that this is something that, the can has just been kicked down the road. I have concerns about this. You have not been creative - hopefully, this is a ploy. I hope you have a plan for that.

Casey Husk spoke on behalf of the fire department and provided his opinion of the financials. He stated that he has looked at the budget and that this is not a crisis.

Mr. Cannon spoke regarding this and provided a summary. Mr. Cannon also provided an update on the RFP.

Councilors had a brief discussion on this agenda item.

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Damschen

MOTION: Make a response for the RFP

SECONDED: Councilor Spriet

IN FAVOR: Mayor McQuisten, Councilor Damschen, Councilor Spriet,
Councilor Dixon, Councilor Waggoner Sr., Councilor Alderson

OPPOSED: Councilor Guyer

Motion Passed.

10. Wildfire Awareness Month Proclamation	Mayor McQuisten read the Wildfire Awareness Month Proclamation.
11. Mental Health Month Proclamation	New Directions representative spoke before the proclamation was read. Mayor McQuisten read the Mental Health Month Proclamation.
12. Taxi Cab Fare Resolution	Mr. Cannon presented the taxi cab resolution fee proposal, resolution 3906. Stephanie Sanders who owns Elkhorn Taxi explained the reason for the fee proposal.

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Dixon

MOTION: move to adopt resolution 3906

SECONDED: Councilor Alderson

IN FAVOR: Unanimous

OPPOSED: None

Motion Passed.

13. Baker Sanitary Franchise rate discussion	Mr. Cannon brought a history of Baker Sanitary Franchise Agreement. 5% increase is being brought forward.
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MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Spriet

MOTION: to approve resolution 3908.

SECONDED: Councilor Damschen

IN FAVOR: Unanimous

OPPOSED: None

Motion Passed.

14. Financial Quarterly Report	The Administrative Services Manager brought forward her quarterly financial
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report. She provided an update on the quarterly financials.

15. Council Committee Updates There were no council committee updates.

16. City Manager / Director Updates City Manager Jon Cannon provided some updates.

Mr. Cannon requested an executive session. This was scheduled labor/union negotiations: 6:00pm May 24th 2022.

17. City Council Comments Mr. Guyer asked Jennifer about financials for the record. I went through and the figures do not lie, and liars do not figure. Those numbers reflected an actual \$700,000 on an average loss, for the previous three years operating cycles.

There were other brief city council comments.

18. Upcoming Agenda Items Mr. Cannon presented upcoming agenda items.

19. Adjourn MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Waggoner Sr.
MOTION: To adjourn the meeting
SECONDED: Councilor Damschen
IN FAVOR: Unanimous
OPPOSED: None
Motion .

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

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.