

**North Powder City Council Meeting**  
**April 3, 2023**  
**7PM City Hall**

Attendance: Mayor John Frieboes, Councilors Logan McCrae, Jeff Grende, Cody Anderson, Justin Wright Vicki Townsend, and Lindsey Thompson, City Recorder Beth Wendt, Public Works Director Rick Lawyer. Others: Barbara Weeks, Susie Wirkkala, Jeff & Wynn Nielsen, Mike Schoeningh, Jake Jones, Shorty Schwehr, Lynne Borisoff, Mike & Jane Wisdom, Nanci Klein, Susann Watson, and Linda Dixon.

Mayor John Frieboes called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**Public Comment:** None

**Agenda:** Vicki moved to accept the agenda. Jeff seconded. All were in favor.

**Minutes:** John asked for amendments or acceptance of the minutes from March 6, 2023 and the special meeting and work session on March 21, 2023. Logan made a motion to accept the minutes from March 6, 2023. Vicki seconded. All were in favor. Jeff moved to accept the minutes from the special meeting and work session on March 21, 2023. Cody seconded. Motion carried with 3 in favor (Jeff, Cody & Vicki). Logan, Justin & Lindsey abstained as they weren't at the special meeting.

**Accounts Payable:** Beth reviewed the Wastewater grant bills for a total of \$4649.88. Additions to the regular bills were CenturyLink for a total of \$349.35, Magic Valley Labs, 2 additional BOD & TSS tests, for a total of \$507, Dan Van Thiel, ordinance enforcement and reviewing the wastewater loan resolution, for \$175, O'Reilly for a total of \$186.38, City of Union, Ecoli tests, for \$250 and Cashway Lumber for a 12' step ladder for \$265.99. The total came to \$17,556.69. Beth noted the total included payment to the RFD for the emergency services contract. Jeff made a motion to pay the bills. Justin seconded. All were in favor.

**Library Report:** Susie Wirkkala reminded everyone about the Easter Breakfast at the Grange on Saturday, April 8 from 8AM to 11AM.

The Library is having a cleaning day on April 17<sup>th</sup>. They need volunteers to help. Call the Library for the time.

The Community Yard Sale is June 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be another yard sale during the Huckleberry Festival. The Library will have a movie night on Friday before Huckleberry Festival. They are asking for suggestions for a movie.

April 23<sup>rd</sup> thru 29<sup>th</sup> is National Library Week. Anyone who comes into the Library and checks something out during that week will get a free book bag.

The Library Board would like to move their meetings to the first Tuesday of each month at 5PM. It will be before the Grange meeting. There were no objections.

**Huckleberry Report:** Lindsey noted there will be Huckleberry Committee meeting on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at the Grange. They've been getting a lot of good feedback. They are still looking for more volunteers.

**Public Works Report:** Rick reported that they've started mowing and trimming trees in alleys. Rick will be attending an on-line class Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, this week so he will be unavailable.

We need to take an e-coli test to Union on Wednesday.

The VAC truck is still waiting on repairs.

There has been a lot of broken glass at the playground. Rick spent several hours in the past couple of weeks picking it up. He wondered if putting up security cameras or signage might help. There is a

garbage can next to the playground. The last bunch of glass was from a bottle thrown against the well house door. The time before that it was scattered around the merry-go-round, the slide, and teeter-totter.

**Recorder Report:** Water overages in March came to \$178.59. No freeze credits were applied. We used 1,021,532 gallons of water.

The Oregon Government Ethics Commission sent out filing notices on March 15th and they are due by April 15<sup>th</sup>. So far Lindsey is the only one who hasn't filed.

Beth reminded that the filling date for ARPA Funds is April 30<sup>th</sup>.

We can now accept debit and pre-paid cards. There is no fee for them. As of April 10<sup>th</sup> we can accept credit cards but there will be a 3.3% charge on them.

CIS Annual Report was included in the Council packets. It show rate increases for 2024. Some are pretty substantial increases.

CIS has a Risk Management Grant for security cameras. There is no match required but the grant will only pay up to 1% of our total liability premium which would be about \$204. We need to decide how many cameras we want and get a cost estimate before we can submit the application.

There is a SAIF meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4PM in La Grande. There is no charge to attend.

**Ordinance Enforcement:** Beth sent out three letters regarding garbage and rigs in right-of ways. She has had response to one. Shawn will keep an eye on the places and if necessary we will contact them again. We received one complaint of people living in an RV that is parked on the right-of-way.

**Mayor's Message:** John attended a Union County Commissioners meeting to talk about reimbursement money for our Clean-Up Day. They agreed to match the City for up to \$2000.

Cody and John met with Beth and Rick for a Safety meeting. We talked about different things that are being done and still need to be done. Afterward, Cody and Rick visited Barry Princevalle about his water situation. Barry thought things were going well for now but he will keep an eye on it.

The solar light has been put up on the flag pole next to City Hall.

John has been working more with the School to get a trailer for watering planters this summer.

We got a sink and an on-demand water heater for the lagoons so there will be hot water for testing and clean-up.

John found out some more information on grant money for the Huckleberry Festival for advertising.

Lindsey said they extended the deadline to May so she will work a more in extensive application.

Kevin Bell was at City Hall and John & Beth talked with him about security. That is where we found out that we could get a grant to help purchase cameras. We need to look at getting cameras for different places such as City Hall, the Park, and other places.

John got some information about the Safe Routes to School sidewalk grant. He forwarded it to the school so maybe they will start working on it.

Jeff asked if we had running water at the lagoons. John noted that there is a tank that we can pump water from. The water heater attaches under the sink and is turned on for on-demand hot water. Beth noted that we also have a sterilizer on order.

#### **New Business:**

**Byrnes Oil Liquor License:** Beth noted that Byrnes Oil has applied to change the name on their Liquor License. New OLCC rules require that the City recommend to approve or deny the application. In order to do that we have to have a public hearing to allow citizens to make comments. The application is only to change the name on the License from Byrnes Oil Investment Co. to Byrnes Oil Inc. There were no comments. Jeff moved to approve the application. Logan seconded. All were in favor.

**Historic Foundation:** Mike Wisdom noted that several people in town formed a Historical Foundation with the mission of trying to save and share local history. It has always bothered him that we don't have a place in North Powder to show off our local history. He encouraged people to join their group. They want to try to preserve some history before it is gone. For example, in the 1940's the sexton at the cemetery took care of all the paperwork out of his house. They had a fire so all of that information has been lost. There are a lot of people around town who have boxes of things that contain some kind of North Powder history. Haines and Union Museums are "foster caring" some of our history but it needs to come back to North Powder. The group has spent most of the last three months putting together by-laws and registering them with Salem. They would like for the city to give them a chance to find out if the old City Hall and library building is salvageable and worth trying to save. They would get a feasibility grant to have the 110 year old building looked at structurally and inspected. If it is, it would start another conversation with the City. If not, they would shift their focus to another project. Mike read a letter from the Library Board in support of the Powder Valley Historical Foundation and their efforts to preserve critical landmarks in North Powder and using the building as a museum. Mike had a second letter from the Union County Museum Society in support of the foundations efforts. He has spoken to other museums in the area and they would like to help where they can. Initially the foundation would like to restore the old fire station as a fire museum and if there is room they would include other pictures and items. They would like to store the city's old fire truck in the museum and would apply for grants to resort the truck. It would still be available to utilize in events in the same way it is being used now. Barbara interjected that signage on the freeway would bring people into town. It could be part of a tourism route thru North Powder to Union, etc. Jeff really liked the idea but wondered if the foundation wanted to inherit the building after the feasibility study was done. Mike thought we could talk about that after the feasibility study is done. If it shows the building is not worth salvaging, they would notify the City, with the results of the study, and the foundation would move on to something else. There is no point in getting to deep into it until they know what they are working with. It is zoned public so it's limited on outright uses. It would make sense to work with the City so that it remains in the public zone. Again, that's a conversation for a later date. John clarified that the foundation was asking for permission from the City to get grants in the name of the foundation to do a feasibility study. Mike agreed that it would not cost the city any money at all. They are partnering with the North Powder Community Partners to work under their 501C3. He reiterated that they are not asking for any money from the City. John requested that when and if they have an inspector go through the building, we be allowed to have a City representative there, too. Mike agreed that would be okay. He added that we need to make sure that an appraisal and/or inspection can be done without interfering with the Library. Vicki wondered what was upstairs. Mike noted that it used to be the library. There are still a lot of old books stored there. Vicki wondered if it was usable. Mike said that is something the foundation is going to look at. Jeff moved to allow the Historical Foundation to move forward on their evaluation of the building. Vicki seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mike will keep in touch.

#### **Old Business:**

**Clean-Up Day:** Beth reported that we will have 2 dumpsters delivered on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. They will be setup at the well site where they were last year. Les Schwab in La Grande will take a trailer load of tires. They have to be from passenger cars or small trucks and they must be off the rims. E-cycle can be taken to Baker. Hazardous household material containers such as bleach bottles, cleaners and aerosol cans must be empty and separated from other items. B&K will bring a dumpster for large appliances and scrap metal. Normal recycle items should go to the recycle center. Things we can NOT take are oil, ashes, or regular household garbage. Clean Up day will be April 22 from 8AM to 4PM. There will be a \$5 fee for a pickup load of stuff to help pay the cost. Last year we spent almost \$2000. We need

somebody to man the site for the day and volunteers to help haul for people who need help. Last year Jeff (Nielsen) and Shorty did a really good job at that. John and Logan volunteered to man the site.

**Building/ Library Update:** Beth commented that we got the \$5000 Technical Assistance Grant from the Ford Family Foundation for the Library. She has been working with Nick Ducote to get cost estimates for the grant application.

As for the meeting room, we awarded the contract to JBK Construction. Logan will be ordering doors and windows within the next month or so. He predicted it would be June before we get started on construction.

**Wastewater Project Update:** We had a pre-construction meeting. In attendance were representatives from the Saunders Company, Anderson Perry, Ducote Consulting, Business Oregon, Myron Miles, CenturyLink and John, Rick and Beth from the City. They hope to get started on construction the first part of May. They will start with the evaporation pond, then move to the pump station, and finish with the distribution system and manholes. Contracts are all signed and we have permits. We are just waiting for the weather to clear. Jeff wondered about the signage we are supposed to do. Beth is working with Anderson Perry and the Tribes to develop the signs. There is no big rush as we have 5 years to get them done, but we would like to get them as soon as possible. Beth has a meeting scheduled later this month to talk more about that.

**Council Comments:** Jeff wondered if there was a way to put links to places, like the Fire Department and Neighborhood Watch, on the City Hall phone so they would be easily located in case of an emergency. It was suggested that it could also include contact numbers for things like the Historical Foundation and the Huckleberry Festival. Beth thought we'd have to get permission from each one, especially since some of them are personal numbers. John noted that a lot of them are in the newsletter. Cody added the Neighborhood Watch has a facebook page. Jeff thought for now we could post as many numbers as possible at City Hall. Beth will see about getting permission to do so.

Linda Dixon announced that the Community Easter Egg Hunt will be at 9:30AM on April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Methodist Church and the Annual Silver Tea will be April 26<sup>th</sup> at 1PM.

Linda wondered if the dump truck was fixed yet to haul some gravel behind the church. Rick will try to get a couple of loads with the backhoe.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Attest:

Beth Wendt  
City Recorder