

**North Powder City Council Meeting**  
**October 7, 2024**  
**7PM City Hall**

Attendance: Mayor John Frieboes, Councilors Lindsey Thompson, Alan Brown, Midge Clause, Justin Wright, Don McClure, City Recorder Beth Wendt, Public Works Rick Lawyer, Library Lisa Aichele.

Others in attendance: Jake Jones, Tonya Dias, Mike Wisdom, Dan Van Thiel (and company), Marie Johnson, Steven Butcher, Lynne Martin, Maryanne Ritches, Barbara Weeks, Tina Kandle, Nanci Klein, Madelaine Koller, Crescencia Witherspoon, Shorty Schwehr, Josh Guthrie.

Mayor John Frieboes called the meeting to order. The pledge of allegiance was said.

**Public Comments:** None

**Minutes:** John asked for amendments to the minutes from September 9<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Midge made a motion to accept the minutes from all of the September meetings. Don seconded. All were in favor.

**Accounts Payables:** The accounts payable came to \$25,806.77. We are still expecting a bill for the webpage domain hosting that is generally due by November 1<sup>st</sup>. The Wastewater Project bills came to \$11,676.20 and Library Grant bills came to \$20,077.94. Beth will transfer about \$15,000 from the LGIP account to the checking account to pay the bills. The funds will be reimbursed by the grants. Don made a motion to pay the bills. Alan seconded. All were in favor.

**Library Report:** Lisa reported that the number of visitors to the library last month was over 100. She asked the Council to accept the Mobile Hot Spot Policy that was approved by the Library Board. It was patterned after another Library's policy and adapted to fit North Powder. It includes a checkout and return policy, fines, and deposit fees along with an acknowledgement agreement that a patron must sign. Lindsey noted that in the past there was no accountability for checking out the hot-spots. Justin wanted to review the policy before voting on it. The issue was tabled until the next meeting.

**Public Works Report:** Rick is working with ACI to get a quote for the influent meter at the lagoon. The old one can't be repaired. Rick would like to get internet access at the lagoon so that if there is a failure, it can send an alarm.

Rick and David are working on preparing buildings and equipment for winter. They've also been mowing right-of-ways.

Repairs on Vicky Day's sewer line are finished.

Contractors are getting ready to dredge. Myron has the crop off his field. We still need to complete the paperwork.

Rick is going to have surgery on his foot and will be off for several weeks.

Don volunteered to help mow right-of-ways.

**Recorder Report:** Water overages in September were \$1424.80. We used 3,338,212 gallons of water. For the record, Beth noted that after checking with the League of Oregon Cities attorney, it was confirmed that it is not illegal to have the radar speed sign plugged in at a councilors home if there is no compensation for doing so.

Beth has submitted her resignation with the intent to retire, effective January 3, 2025. The City Recorder position is being published in the local paper and associated websites for Baker, Pendleton, La Grande, Hermiston, and Wallowa. Copies of the job description and application are available at City Hall and on the city website. Applications are due by October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Mayor's Report:** John noted that he has attended several meetings over the past two months. A lot of them for the new library. Some were for the wastewater project. He and Alan took down the flower

baskets. He thanked everyone who helped with watering. He will work with the FFA kids to get baskets again next year.

#### **New Business:**

**Council Letters of Interest-** Beth read the letters from Mike Wisdom, Tonya Dias, and Josh Guthrie who were interested in filling the open Council position. Midge noted that Tonya is already on the ballot for Justin's position, #4. Tonya said she's just eager to get started. Beth checked with both the Oregon Ethics Commission and League of Oregon Cities and there are no ethical or legal reasons why Tonya can't apply for the opening, but she obviously can't hold both positions. Position #4 would be filled by a write-in candidate or appointed by the council if there are no write-in votes.

Mike felt it would behoove anybody interested in serving on the Council to find out about who they will be working with. He asked what the Council thought would make a good Council member. Midge felt it took someone who was willing to put community first. Someone with good integrity who wants to serve the community. Mike noted that as council members, you are spending other people's money. He wondered if the Council felt they have done that wisely and if they do so as if they were their own finances. Don said he has tried to do just that while finding the best deal for the City. Most recently it has been cleaning up the sewer ponds. We looked at more than just cost. We also considered capability of completing the job and doing it on time and within budget. He hoped that we got the best deal we could. Alan added that everybody has a system for paying their own bills. In addition to that, the City tries to have a back-up or contingency plan for everything, particularly for infrastructure. He felt the Council was very clear on what had to be done in order to secure a loan for the dredge. There are community outreach programs to help people with hardships.

Tonya noted that as far as applying for the current open position, it is nothing more than wanting to be a part of making some important decisions for the City and one of those is choosing a new City Recorder. She felt her background in office management would lend special skills to finding a replacement. She is eager to get started and help in any way she can.

Josh commented that he has experience with construction projects and potable water management. He would like to be a part of the Council.

Justin moved to accept Tonya. Alan seconded. Motion denied with 2 in favor (Justin & Alan) and 3 opposed (Midge, Don, & Lindsey). Midge moved to accept Josh and Don seconded. Motion carried with Midge, Don & Lindsey in favor. Justin and Alan were opposed. Josh was sworn in.

**Barry Princevalle** – Barry Princevalle was not in attendance. Tabled.

**Madelaine Koller w/EOCIL-** Crescencia Witherspoon noted there are four office locations of Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living (EOCIL). They are in The Dalles, Pendleton, La Grande and Ontario. Their job is dealing with harm reduction. They work with people who are affected by substance use, infectious disease or harms associated with drug use and help them when they are ready to get help. They provide an array of testing and connections to treatment. They have a medical ambulance that they move to different towns where they can offer services to people. They can offer a place for someone to get warm or get something to eat or drink. They like to take the ambulance to areas where there is a lot of substance abuse and they try to build a relationship with those people. Madelaine added that she works closely with CHD and the Union County Warming Center. Crescencia noted they can help people connect with services to get showers, clothing, food, etc. Midge asked if they did crisis counseling. Crescencia noted they don't have master level psychology degrees but they can help if someone is thinking of harming themselves or someone else. The program is non-profit and funded by OHA with Measure 110 funds. Crescencia added that even though we are still losing people, this harm reduction program has proven to be effective.

#### **Old Business:**

**Water Rates:** Alan felt we had already addressed water rates in discussions with Barry Princevalle. He suggested we table the issue for another time since Barry was not in attendance.

**Old Dump Truck (price to list for sale):** Justin recommended listing the dump truck for \$8000. He and Rick did some research to come up with that number. It may be a little high, but we can come down if we need to. Josh asked for an update on the dump truck. John explained that it is the old highway dump truck. We have the “new” one ton with a blade that we use now. We also have a backhoe and access to the County road grader if necessary. Justin added that the old dump truck has had a lot of issues and we have just been dumping money into trying to keep it going. Josh was concerned about whether or not the smaller truck would be able to keep up if we get a lot of snow. Rick thought it wouldn’t be an issue if they can get out early enough. John verified that it should have a minimum bid of \$8000. Don made a motion to proceed with the sale. Alan seconded. Motion carried with 5 in favor. Josh was opposed.

**Fall Clean-Up Day Report:** Beth noted that we get to use the \$599 from the County that was left over from the spring clean-up day. We filled 2 big dumpsters and a metal dumpster. We collected \$113 in donations. John expressed appreciation to Rick, Alan, and Don for working the Clean-Up Day.

**Wastewater Project:** Beth noted that bids for the dredge were opened on September 12<sup>th</sup>. The Council held a special meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup> and voted to accept the low bid. Now we are just waiting on the contracts to be approved and signed. We will work with Myron to schedule a time to start. We were approved for an extension to April of 2025 on the Recycled Water Use Plan so that we can include possible irrigation of effluent water. We need to have a soil scientist do some evaluations to determine what monitoring and testing will be required to do that.

**Library Update:** An Open House was held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> to present the plans for the new library. There were about 20 people in attendance. Copies of the plans are on the wall in the meeting room. We are still working out a few details regarding storm water mitigation. When that is done, the architects will start working on cost estimates. John thought the project was moving along well and the architects have been a pleasure to work with.

**Council Comments:** Lindsey noted that the PTCO is doing a “Trunk or Treat” event for Halloween. They would like Council approval to close G Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets, in front of the old school, from 4PM to 7PM on Halloween. Don thought it was a good idea. Lindsey said the PTCO talked about parking a bus and an ambulance in the street and using cones to block the rest of the parking area. There were no objections from the Council as long as the PTCO takes care of blocking the street. Lindsey asked if the Council would like to help sponsor the event by providing candy for the event. John thought if councilors wanted to donate, they should do it with their own funds.

Alan noted that we are having issues with dogs again. There have been a few incidents of dogs being poisoned with anti-freeze. There have also been some cats shot. He suggested better communications between neighbors. The situation is getting out of control again. Marie interjected that she had been confronted 8 times on Main Street, and not by the same dog. She has taken to carrying a club. Alan said Union County Animal Control is a good resource, especially if they know where the dogs come from.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Beth Wendt  
City Recorder