

City of Prairie City  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
October 12<sup>th</sup> 2016, 6:00pm

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Attended: Jim Hamsher, Mayor  
Viola Rose, Councilor  
Carole Garrison, Councilor  
Les Church, Councilor  
Butch Goslin, Councilor  
Taci Philbrook, City Recorder  
Bob Shive, Museum Director  
Chris Camarena, PWD Director  
Carlos Bortell, resident  
Luann Bortell, resident  
Joe Phippens, resident  
Frank Primozik, resident  
Jeff Moore, ODOT  
Shane Giffin, ODOT

20. The Mayor opened the regular meeting at 6:00pm. Roll Call was taken. All
21. councilors were present, except Councilors Miller and Patterson. Both councilors
22. were excused.
- 23.
24. The mayor recognized Jeff Moore from the ODOT Maintenance and Operation
25. Branch in Salem, and Shane Giffin, the Transportation Maintenance Manager
26. from Canyon City. Both gentlemen are present to propose a partnership with
27. Prairie City for animal carcass composting. They submitted to the council two
28. documents for review, an article about carcass composting, and the one page
29. proposal (see attached). Jeff explained the need for the service, stating the
30. Mortality Compost Facility would be receiving 250 to 400, 120 lb. deer a year.
31. Jeff also explained they were using the quarry, but scavengers, and dogs, created
32. a problem. ODOT is working with local government agencies such as ODF, to
33. eliminate the problem by putting up fencing, but it's going to take some time.
34. Those same local agencies would also use the decomposing site. The proposed
35. site would be located near our sewer lagoons. The service would be offered to our
36. immediate local area along Hwy. 26. They referenced a facility in Heppner that
37. has been operating for six years. ODOT would create, and dump carcasses at the
38. facility. We would supply the gray water. Our public works employees would
39. monitor and manage the Mortality Compost Facility during their daily checks on
40. the sewer lagoons. Monitoring would consist of using a probe to check the heat

41. and moisture. Managing would include turning the compost on a schedule.  
42. The councilors began a discussion about any permits that may be required. Public  
43. Works Director, Chris Camarena, has spoken to DEQ. He says, DEQ would not  
44. require a permit for a facility under 20,000 cu. feet. Chris would like to see the  
45. city take over the facility, and run it ourselves, thus profiting more from the  
46. venture. He sees this as a potential part-time position for someone one day. Chris  
47. also sees us opening this up to private individuals, such as Ricco's, who often  
48. have cow renderings to dispose of.

49. Taci was asked to schedule a Workshop on the matter to further the discussion.  
50. Shane offered a CD of the Heppner facility for reference. Shane reported he  
51. would go back to his office, and work out the details. He will get the information  
52. to Taci in time for the councilors to be able to use it for the workshop. **MSP: To**  
**53. further pursue ODOT's proposition. Councilor Garrison / Councilor Rose.**  
54. **All in favor.**

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**56. Reports:**

57. **Museum:** The mayor recognized DeWitt Museum Director, Bob Shive. Bob  
58. submitted his written report to Taci (see attached). He also reported Royce  
59. Dotson had donated a full scale photo of Bates to the museum. They will use it as  
60. a featured item in the Bates room they are creating. The Bates room is one more  
61. idea to draw more visitors. Bob will be seeking Grant funds through Restore  
62. Oregon to create a business plan tied in with a preservation plan.  
63.

**64. Fire Dept.:** Chief Rynearson, who is once again the acting fire chief, reported to  
65. the council he has kicked off a recruitment campaign for volunteer fire fighters. A  
66. recruitment banner is now hanging in front of the Texaco Bldg. Taci had the Blue  
67. Mountain Eagle do up a little article about the recruitment in last weeks edition.  
68. He also reported the department is doing maintenance on the brush vehicles.  
69.

**70. Public Works: Public Works Director, Chris Camarena, reported the water**  
71. **restrictions have been lifted as the reservoir is now at 29 feet. The issue was due**  
72. **to a sensor that has been replaced. His department has cleaned the filters. He will**  
73. **next send in a sample, then we will go back to the filters.**

74. Chris reported he is starting a beautification project at the little park next  
75. to city hall. The project would include replacing trees with more colorful ones  
76. such as Red Maple, and planting more trees to create a more inviting  
77. environment. He would like to get together with the Garden Club, Carole and  
78. Frank Primozik to create a beautification plan. Taci suggested a luncheon  
79. honoring the gardeners. We can then glean and discuss ideas with them.

80. He next reported on The City Park and it's fencing project. He has plans to fix  
81. sinking spots in the rubber mat, and taking care of spots of plastic that are  
82. exposed. When erecting the fence he would like to make it handicap accessible,

83. especially with wheel chairs in mind. Curbing will be replaced and gates properly  
84. positioned to allow wheel chair traffic.

85. Chris then reported the air relief in Well#3 has been fixed. He reported this past  
86. summer the water level dropped to 70 gpm. It is supposed to be pumping out 150  
87. gpm. Chris is getting quotes to drop the pump down to 600 feet. There will be  
88. two quotes coming in. He is also working on getting the DEQ required Master  
89. Water Plan done. He reminded the council it would cost \$40,000 and we had to  
90. have it done within the next three years.

91. Lastly, Chris reported to the council he will be meeting with OTEC and Industrial  
92. Energy Solutions to evaluate all city assets throughout the city. They will come  
93. up with a plan to replace lighting with more cost efficient solutions such as  
94. LED's.

95.

96. Mayor Hamsher asked the councilors, and audience, for volunteers to help on the  
97. Interpretive Kiosk. He needs willing, and able hands, to assist in completing the  
98. front and get started on the top facade. Joe Phippen, Carlos Bortell and Frank  
99. Primozik volunteered. Councilor Rose offered the use of her table saw, if they are  
100. willing to pick it up at her shop. Taci was asked to organize a work day  
101. once the weather cleared up next week. All the gentlemen are available  
102. during the week, as well as on the weekends.

103.

**104. Accounts Payable: MSP: To ratify payment of the bills.**

**105. Councilor Rose / Councilor Goslin. All in favor.**

106.

**107. City Recorder update:** Taci reported she received a phone call from  
108. ODOT regarding the letter cc'd to them, from the same citizen that sent us  
109. the letter, requesting us to address wheel chair accessibility issues  
110. throughout our city. Taci was happy to report to ODOT the city had taken a  
111. proactive approach to the letter. She reported; as well as the park becoming  
112. more handicap accessible, a sidewalk issue in front of the community center  
113. is now being repaired, and brought up to ADA standards due to combined  
114. efforts with the community association; the door handles at city hall, and at  
115. the public restrooms in the city park, have been changed out to levers  
116. instead of knobs; and there are plans to pour cold patch around a fire  
117. hydrant along a difficult path wheel chairs take, making it easier to get  
118. around the hydrant. Taci reported the handle replacement cost \$644.95, and  
119. that it will cost a little extra as she had the locksmith change the locks out  
120. to plugs, as they locked with a thumb, resulting in locking people out of  
121. both facilities. Chris Camarena reported his department had the crosswalk  
122. changed in front of city hall to meet the approaches for wheel chairs. He  
123. will be blacking out another crosswalk, and removing the caution crossing  
124. sign, as it does not have good approaches. Chris had ODOT come to

125. Prairie City, and do a yellow stripe on the curb near the electronic sign on  
126. Front St., as people parking next to the curb block the vision of those  
127. crossing in that cross walk.

128.

129. A workshop to discuss the ODOT Mortality Compost Facility proposal was  
130. scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup> of October at 6:00pm., in the council chambers here  
131. at city hall.

132.

133. Upon arriving at the council meeting each councilor received their copy of  
134. Iron Triangle's rejection of counter offer. They have withdrawn their offer  
135. for "the industrial property". They cite their reasons in the email  
136. (see attached). After individually reviewing the email all the councilors  
137. agreed there was not a need to discuss it any further.

138.

139. Taci also reported the city had just issued it's 19<sup>th</sup> business license to Prairie  
140. Sun Bakery, a home bakery. That brings the business license profits to  
141. \$475.00.

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143. **The Mayor adjourned at 6:50 pm.**

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145. Submitted by:

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**147.**

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Taci Philbrook, City Recorder

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Approved by the City Council this \_\_\_\_\_  
day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016 and  
signed by the Mayor:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Hamsher, Mayor