

1 City of Prairie City
2 City Council Meeting
3 August 14, 2024
4

5 **Attendance:**

6 Mayor Ed Clark

7 Councilor McClung

8 Councilor Bradford

9 Councilor Gangler

10 Shonalie Oakes, City Recorder

11 Chris Camarena, Public Works Director

12 Rob Gaslin, CPA

13 Marvin Rynearson, Fire Chief

14 **Visitors:**

15 Georgia Patterson

16 Steve Patterson

17 Sue Maloney

18 Colin Kolb

19 Fran Bunch

20 Nancy Hitz

21 Jennifer Kingsford

22 Scott & Susan Moore

23
24 Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, the pledge of allegiance was
25 recited, and roll taken. Candy Reagan, Jenny Shaw and Brook Williams were not
26 present with excused absences. Mayor Clark amended the agenda to include the
27 consideration of the June 20, 2024, special meeting minutes.

28
29 **Minutes:**

30 The minutes of the May 15, 2024, Special Meeting were considered. **MSP: To**
31 **approve the May 15, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes, Councilor**
32 **McClung/Gangler. All present approved.**

33 The June 12, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes were considered. **MSP: To approve**
34 **the regular Council Meeting Minutes of June 12, 2024, Councilor**
35 **McClung/Gangler. All present approved.**

36 The Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes of June 26, 2024, were considered. **MSP to**
37 **approve the June 26, 2024, Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes, Councilor**
38 **McClung/Gangler. All present approved.**

39 The regular City Council Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2024, were considered. **MSP:**
40 **To approve the July 17, 2024, regular City Council Meeting Minutes,**
41 **Councilor McClung/Gangler. All present voted unanimously.**

42 The June 20, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes were considered. **MSP: To approve**
43 **the June 20, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes, Councilor McClung/Gangler. All**
44 **present approved.**

45

46 Mayor Clark recognized the audience, and asked them if they had any
47 comments or questions regarding topics not on the agenda. Mayor Clark
48 addressed Colin Kolb. Mr. Kolb wanted to know if there could be a consistent
49 lunch time for city hall. Mayor Clark said that was something we could look into.
50 With one person in the office, often that person takes lunch break the first chance
51 they get in between helping customers. The City is currently advertising for the
52 City Clerk position, having two people in the office will help with that.

53 Mayor Clark addressed the next visitor who had signed up on the speaker's
54 rooster, Scott Moore. Mr. Moore said that he was going to start coming to the City's
55 meetings, wanting to be informed and actively involved in what is going on in
56 Prairie City.

57 **Cell Tower:**

58 Mayor Clark asked the Council if they were interested in selling the City's other
59 cell tower lease? Councilor Bradford suggested the Mayor begin negotiations with
60 the cell tower companies and see what they offer the City and decide from there
61 if we want to sell it. All present agreed to give Mayor Clark permission to move
62 forward with negotiating with the cell tower companies on the sale of the City's
63 remaining cell tower lease.

64 **Pam Gangler:**

65 Mayor Clark gave Councilor Gangler the floor. Councilor Gangler selected 8 pages
66 out of the City's old 2010 employee handbook and gave each City Council member

67 a copy of those 8 pages. Councilor Gangler highlighting the old verbiage that was
68 not included in the City's new handbook. Councilor Gangler did not give the City
69 Recorder a copy of the highlighted pages. Councilor Gangler said she was reading
70 through the City's employee handbook, and said there are a lot of things that have
71 been taken out that had been in there for as long as she can remember. Councilor
72 Gangler thinks the City should go back to the employee handbook from 2010.
73 Councilor Gangler proposed to the Council that they go back to the 2010
74 handbook so that the Council may have say over the City's employees. Councilor
75 Gangler wants the Council to have say over the hiring and say over the City Hall
76 clerk/staff etc. Mayor Clark reminded Councilor Gangler that we have had this
77 conversation before, that City Councilors only have hiring authority for 3
78 positions within the City, for legal reasons is a statewide standard for all cities:
79 The 3 positions are: City Attorney, of which Council approved, Police Chief, which
80 the City doesn't have, City Manager, of which the City does not have. Those are the
81 3 positions statewide that the city council have authority over, everything else
82 falls under the Mayor. Councilor Gangler said she didn't understand and asked if
83 CIS said if it was not legal? Mayor Clark told Councilor Gangler that the City's
84 attorney is going through the City's employee handbook, updating it to include
85 any recent changes required by the State of Oregon. Mayor Clark said based off
86 the confidential letter from the City's insurance company, that what Councilor
87 Gangler is requesting is a nonstarter, explaining to Councilor Gangler that from a
88 legal standing, what she's asking for can't be done. Mayor Clark then asked
89 Councilor Gangler if there was anything else regarding the employee handbook
90 that she wanted to discuss other than the hiring of the City Clerk? Councilor
91 Gangler wanted to know if the City Council will get to review the updated
92 employee handbook when we get it back from the City's attorney? Mayor Clark
93 assured her that they would be able to do so.

94 **Front Street Beautification Project:**

95 The Downtown Beautification Committee wanted the City to announce the date
96 for the upcoming meeting to discuss the downtown Beautification Project, so that
97 the committee may inform the public of their plans for beautifying the City and
98 answer any questions the public may have.

99 **Public Comment:**

100 None.

101 **Accounts Payable:**
102 Rob Gaslin, CPA, read aloud the City’s financial overview and appropriations
103 Review. The Council reviewed the provided check detail. **MSP: To ratify payment**
104 **of the City’s bills. Councilor McClung/Gangler. All present approved.**

105 **Public Works Report:**
106 Chris Camarena, Public Works Director, said that they have been working on
107 getting power up to Faiman well and using the generator only as a back up
108 resource. Camarena spoke with Rally Networks about the potential of running
109 fiber up there as well. The Water Meter Project is on hold due to SHIPPO. Mayor
110 Clark suggested Public Works save the remaining hours the City has budget for
111 the seasonal help for the installation of the water meters on hold until we get the
112 go ahead from SHIPPO. Camarena agreed that the was best.

113 **Fire Report:**
114 Fire Chief Marvin Rynearson said he is also on the County Defense Fire Board,
115 and that currently there are 13 task forces, 120 vehicles, 220 people in Grant
116 County on fires, so far, they only lost two primary residences and four structures.
117 Battle Mountain Complex demo’d turning it back over to local command.

118 **Adjourn:**
119 Mayor Clark adjourned the meeting at 6:39 pm. **MSP: To adjourn the City**
120 **Council Meeting Councilor McClung/Gangler.**

121
122 Approved by the City of Prairie City Council on this 11th day of September 2024
123 and signed by the Mayor.

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126 _____
127 Ed Clark, Mayor

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130 Attested:

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134 Shonalie Oakes, City Recorder