

1 City of Prairie City
2 City Council Meeting
3 October 16, 2024
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5 **Attendance:**

6 Mayor Ed Clark
7 Councilor Pam Gangler
8 Councilor Brook Williams
9 Councilor Chase McClung
10 Councilor Jenny Shaw
11 Councilor Colby Bradford
12 Chris Camarena, Public Works Director
13 Marvin Ryneerson, Fire Chief
14 Shonalie Oakes, City Recorder
15 Rob Gaslin, CPA

16 **Visitors:**

17 Frances Preston
18 Georgia & Steve Patterson
19 Mike Springer
20 Sue Maloney
21 Mary Wompler
22 Colin Kolb
23 Jeannine Sibley
24 Sandy Murray
25 Todd McKinley
26 Debbie and Reagan Emmel
27 Fran Bunch

28 Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, the pledge of allegiance recited, and
29 the roll was called. The agenda was amended to announce that no public comment will
30 be made at this meeting, mainly for time restraints, but also provide everyone with a
31 refresher on the City Council Meeting rules, so that the meetings may be run better.

32 Councilor Candy Reagan was not present.

33 **Minutes:** The city council meeting minutes of August 14, 2024, were considered. Mayor
34 Clark said the City could not make the changes Councilor Gangler requested because the
35 City's attorney advised us not to include quotes in its meeting minutes. Councilor Gangler
36 didn't like that and insisted her recommended quotes be included in the minutes.

Councilor Williams asked the other council members present if they thought the minutes

37 reflected the intent of what was said. Councilors Bradford, McClung, and Shaw said yes,
38 the minutes were an accurate summarization of the meeting. **MSP: To approve the**
39 **minutes from August 14, 2024, City Council Meeting. Councilor Bradford/Williams.**
40 **Councilors McClung, Shaw, Bradford, and Williams account for the 4 Yaw votes to**
41 **approve the minutes of August 14, 2024, and Councilor Gangler was the 1 Nay vote**
42 **present.**

43 The City Council Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2024, were considered. **MSP: To**
44 **approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2024. Councilor**
45 **Williams/Bradford.**

46 **Law Enforcement:** Mayor Clark introduced Sheriff McKinley and gave him the floor.
47 Sheriff McKinley wanted to provide clarification on the policing contract between the
48 City of Prairie City and the County, and to explain what services the City has been paying
49 for. Some of the key things were as follows: The contract was originally entered in 2018,
50 and not much has really changed since then. The most recent contract was to provide 40
51 hours per week for \$100K a year. Law enforcement has had high turnover. The County
52 had to hire a full-time officer to be able to provide service to Prairie City for 40 hours a
53 week. They sent their new hire to the academy for training and in the meantime their
54 current officers have been back filling the void. They responded to 288 calls in Prairie
55 City from January to September. The County said the total cost to employ one officer is
56 around \$130-140k per year. That dollar amount covers the hours for one officer, fuel,
57 vehicle, health insurance, SAIF, pers, uniforms, equipment, and the necessary tools to
58 perform their duties. The contract includes city ordinance enforcement, but it doesn't
59 state who covers the cost of the enforcement, such as towing, impoundment, etc. The
60 County will not pay costs associated with enforcement, suggesting the City look at
61 updating their ordinances as they are outdated, and most likely toeing the line with State
62 Statutes. Sheriff McKinley said that before we get too excited about ordinance
63 enforcement, he wants the City to have its ordinances reviewed to make sure that they
64 are current with State law. The City's contract with the County is currently expired but
65 will be happy to put together something to get through the rest of the year.

66 Mayor Clark suggested the council have a workshop to discuss the future of law
67 enforcement in Prairie City, what that looks like and how to pay for it.

68 **Downtown Beautification Committee:** Sandy Murray the president of the Downtown
69 Beautification Committee, displayed the map and legend, describing the types of trees
70 and plants that they have planned for the planters located downtown. Murray explained
71 that the committee has done extensive research to determine the best types of trees and
72 plants for our region, and best practices for planting and maintaining those trees. They
73 consulted with nurseries to gain tree knowledge and design ideas. Some of the research

74 included calling many eastern Oregon cities to learn what trees and practices were
75 successful and what were not, so that they may implement the successes to their plans.
76 The Beautification Committee called on the Council to adopt the streetscape as part of its'
77 parks, caring for them in the same way. Mayor Clark suggested before deciding,
78 consulting with the City's attorney to make sure that there is something we can do and
79 recommended a workshop session for council members to discuss this more, a meeting
80 was scheduled for November 6, 2024.

81 **Parks & Recreation Planning Grant:** Mayor Clark announced that Prairie City was
82 awarded \$35,000.00 for a Parks & Recreation Planning Grant. Once we are updated with
83 the details, the City will begin to schedule town hall meetings to get active community
84 involvement and feedback from the public to provide the council with ideas and a vision
85 of what Prairie City should look like.

86 **Fiber Fest:** Fiber Fest asked the city council for consensus to allow them to use the park
87 for one weekend a year for their annual event, for the next three years. All the Council
88 present agreed Fiber Fest may use the park but wanted it to be clear that the City is not
89 taking reservations for Depot RV Park.

90 **Accounts Payable:** Rob Gaslin the City's CPA read aloud the financial overview, and the
91 appropriations review. The council reviewed the check detail. **MSP: To pay the City's**
92 **bills, Councilor Williams/Gangler. All the members present voted in favor.**

93 **Public Works Report:** Public Works Director Chris Camarena said the City recently had
94 a sewer emergency with one of its mainlines running through the Emmel's property.
95 Public Works contained and repaired the broken pressure line immediately, following
96 DEQ's guidelines and procedures for abatement, also working closely with the property
97 owners to do so.

98 Public Works has been working on an agreement with the Winegar's and Wendal
99 Black/Coombs Ranches to attain an easement through their properties to the City's
100 Faiman Well. OTEC walked the property with Winegar to show him where the power
101 poles will be placed on his property and to receive input from the property owner.
102 Camarena called on the City Recorder, Shonalie Oakes, for an update from the City's
103 insurance for the damaged slide at the park. Oakes said the invoice for the new slide has
104 been submitted and was recently approved by CIS for reimbursement, and that we may
105 also turn in the man hours our public works employees spend installing the new slide.

106 **Fire Report:** Fire Chief Marvin Rynearson announced that burn barrel permits are now
107 available to be issued lifting the burn ban for barrels and small campfires.
108 Chief Rynearson also reported that the radio repeaters are not working properly, and
109 that this is a countywide issue that could potentially affect the City if there is an
110 emergency.

111 **Adjourn: MSP: To adjourn the City Council Meeting, Councilor Williams/Shaw. All**
112 **members present voted in favor.**

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114 Approved by the City Council on this 30th day of December 2024 and signed by the Mayor.

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119 Ed Clark, Mayor

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123 Attested:

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127 Shonalie Oakes, City Recorder

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