

# MINUTES

## COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2025



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Date: February 19, 2025

Time: 6:03 pm

Meeting called to order by: Mayor Anderson at 6:03 p.m.

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### IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Anderson, Councilor Campbell, Councilor Cannon, Councilor Wright, Councilor Estes, Councilor Koerner, Councilor Lindemyer

Staff – City Manager Rogers, City Attorney Westmeyer, Finance Director Morris, Projects Manager Coleman

Presenters: Stephanie Krell, Wasco County

Audience: Jane Elkin, Jack Anderson, Steven \_\_\_\_\_, Sarah Goodman, Brian Barrett

**AGENDA ADDITIONS:** None

### BUSINESS FROM AUDIENCE:

**Jane Elkin** comments that she's here for support and especially for the Hispanic Community

**Diana Calverly** requested clarification of timeline for the Senior Center postbox to be installed. Andrea Rogers replied that it's in progress. Heather from Mid-Columbia Housing agreed to purchase the post boxes for the Senior Center and the City will install it. Mayor Anderson announced an update that Senator Merkley is working on free post boxes or home delivery options for Mosier at the Washington DC level. His staff member asked what the people of Mosier want, and Mayor Anderson replied that people would likely be happy to have a post office box with no fee. Mayor Anderson forwarded the information to Senator Merkley. It's on his list to follow up.

**Brian Barrett** – Does anyone want to stand with me and protest the Trump administration? It seems that Trump and Co. are following Hitler's model to gut the government and assume power. Local militias are forming to intimidate local communities. We need to be prepared to stand together and defend our right to be here. Militias are illegal yet tolerated in every state. Mosier, small enough to make a difference, the slogan perplexes me. But is now not the time to make this slogan come true? This is your chance to be leaders, not just

**Mayor Anderson** noted that we did not receive his email with his recommendations for .

**Brian** responded that he would provide them to Andrea Rogers, City Manager.

**APPROVAL OF Jan 8, 2024, MINUTES:** Mayor Anderson noted a few typos and Councilor Campbell noted the missing times for reconvening the public meeting at 8:51 pm and adjournment at 9pm

**MOTION:** Councilor Campbell moved to approve as corrected, Councilor Cannon seconded.

### OPEN MEETING

1) **Stephanie Krell, Wasco County Public Information Officer – Presentation of a New Mapping System**

- The new mapping and communication system will allow firefighters and emergency responders to update evacuation zones and emergency response information in real time
- Sheridan McClellan, Wasco Emergency Manager noted that the program is currently only accessible to Wasco County Emergency Mgmt., Local Districts and City officials.
- Councilor Lindemyer asked if there is an app available for use of the mapping system. Stephanie responded that the app is being developed now and will be available soon.
- Councilor Campbell asked who could update the information? Stephanie responded that the City could send information, but it would go directly to Sheridan (Wasco Em. Mgmt) or Stephanie (Wasco Co.) for review before publishing.
- Councilor Campbell asked if it is a nationwide program and Stephanie said some other states have it, but not all, and our region is first to use it in Oregon.
- Councilor Estes asked if it's an additional service to EverBridge. Stephanie said no, this will work with EverBridge. Stephanie is happy to provide training to anyone that needs it

## 2) **Main Street Mosier Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

- A Memorandum of Understanding for the Main Street Revitalization Grant administration was presented to Council. Councilor Wright asked for an explanation on scope of the economic development component of the building. Colleen responded that the scope of the grant is for the large Visitor & Exhibition Hall to Host and Exhibit Mosier Historical Society photo collection as well as small events and Kiosk for Friends of the Gorge and others during high tourist seasons. The grant is focused on economic development. **MOTION:** Councilor Lindemyer motioned to approve the MOU and have Mayor Anderson sign it after MSM's next board meeting. Councilor Campbell seconded. All in favor.

## 3) **Budget Update**

- Monica noted that the budget is appropriation of the City's constituent funds. This is a budget adjustment to the budget approved last summer. Not all of the resources are changing. Changes only reflect current plans for resources to be used this fiscal year.
- Reducing capital outlay, increasing service. For capital projects, we don't budget the entire cost of the project, only what will be used in this fiscal year.
- Monica made accounting changes to more accurately reflect current spending. For example, some of the funds went into general fund, when they should have been in Joint Use Facility
- Budget last year was considerably less than it should have been. This isn't a reflection to say you're spending more, instead we're showing a more accurate picture of what you're spending
- Mayor Anderson asks if this is a more accurate accounting picture? Monica answers yes.
- Mayor asks if the numbers in the ending fund balances are accurate to how we'll start the beginning fund balances next fiscal year. Monica answers yes.
- Councilor Estes asks about funds taken out of the JUF budget, did it go away or is it real? Monica noted that the funds are committed but won't be spent this year.
- Councilor Lindemyer asks about the transient lodging tax, Monica responds that revenue is showing better than expected this fiscal year.
- Councilor Koerner asks about reserve funds in the general fund and if it is supposed to be at zero for the fiscal year? Monica responds that this is typically a budgeted amount not designated to any project. This year, the City doesn't have additional funds to set aside to save for future projects, so we're not allocating any now. There is no requirement for "reserve for future expenditures" funds.
- Councilor Cannon asks if we're allowed to use resources from one fund to the other? Monica responds that loans can be made between funds. You don't want a fund to go negative but sometimes you do want to make purposeful use of overall funds. Council has approved loans from one fund to another.
- The City of Mosier has an account with Oregon State Treasury. Total cash on hand is slightly over \$2 million.

- Councilor Cannon notes that the budget should be reviewed on a monthly basis. Line item by line item.
- Monica responds that normally Council gets a monthly financial report.
- **MOTION:** Councilor Cannon moves to “ approve the attached budget resolution” Councilor Lindemyer seconded, “All in Favor”

- 4) **Council Work Session** – Andrea began the work session by introducing the idea that Council’s strategic plan is still good, but may need updating.
  - **Mayor Anderson** – noted that certain things have to be done such as water operations, snow removal, sewer operations, etc. There are also things we want to do. For instance, we wanted to do a Transient Lodging Tax and short-term rental policy. When you think about it there are a lot of things we could do but aren’t mandatory like updating the Comprehensive Plan. We need to take Andrea’s list home and think about it. Also, staff needs to be clear about what’s possible to get done within the staff capacity.
  - **Councilor Cannon** – Notes for instance, how much more beneficial would it be to have someone at minimum wage to field phone calls, instead of having our city manager do those things?
  - **Andrea Rogers** – Mentions that bringing on interns is a great way to expand our staff capacity. She asked Council to review and think about this list to identify Council priorities as compared to staff projects--such as archiving.
  - **Mayor Anderson** – Asks Andrea to go through the list and make recommendations to Council
  - **Councilor Lindemyer** congratulated the City on the wonderful improvements our public works officer has made at the west end of town. He also noted that he helped the City of Hood River complete the update to their comprehensive plan. He said he’d been talking with Cindy (past HR city planner) who is willing to assist Mosier with an update to its comp plan free of charge. He then noted that perhaps Brian has a recommendation for how to form a coalition to do what may make a positive impact. Discussion ensued.
- 5) **Updates:** Mayor Anderson spoke about a meeting with Aaron Hunt from UPRR and the second track through Mosier. The Tribes and Wasco County will not contest it at this point. They will be 9000ft. to the west for a total of 3miles. They can use the bridge over Rock Creek, but the Mosier Creek Railroad bridge will require rebuilding. Andrea and Witt asked him to come to a public meeting and answer questions. Andrea notes that the second track will impact the city’s waterfront trail. She looks forward to having more conversations with Aaron about access to the trail through Mosier Creek. Discussion ensued regarding the capacity of the property to allow a second track and UPRR’s statement that there “won’t be more trains, but the second track rather makes train traffic more efficient.” There is no comment period.
- 6) **Hiring:** City Recorder/Clerk Position – Bookkeeper gave notice 3 weeks ago. That allowed room for new full time city recorder at salary range of \$26 to \$30/hr. Andrea will post on web page. Hiring committee needed. Andrea and Monica will create a list of questions for the committee and the committee will score. At this point we have 3 qualified individuals.
- 7) **Short Term Rental process.** The Committee has an application process set up. Andrea is getting a list of short-term rental operators and will get them registered. There will need to be some ordinance changes due to the timeframe that this will be approved and a change in more reasonable fee. Application time is confusing. Andrea will talk to Laura to make an ordinance amendment.
- 8) March meeting will be one meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> 2025.
- 9) The Council went into executive session at 8:07pm under ORS 192.660(2)(f) *To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection.*
- 10) Council adjourned the executive session at 8:23pm and reopened the public meeting. No action was taken.
- 11) Mayor Anderson adjourned the public meeting at 8:23pm.