



CITY OF PRINEVILLE
Regular Meeting Brief
387 NE Third Street – Prineville, OR 97754
541.447.5627 ph 541-447-5628 fax

Full Meeting Recordings Available at:
<http://cityofprineville.com/meetings/>

City Council Meeting Brief
January 14, 2025

Council Members Present:

Jason Beebe
Jerry Brummer
Marv Sumner
Janet Hutchison

Shane Howard
Scott Smith
Steve Uffelman

Council Members Absent

None.

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Consent Agenda

1. Regular Meeting Brief 12-10-2024
2. Special Meeting Brief 1-6-2025
3. Pine Theater Liquor License Application

Councilor Uffelman made a motion to approve consent agenda as presented. Councilor Brummer would like to make a correction to remove Gail Merritt from the January 6, 2025 Special Meeting Brief. Councilor Uffelman withdrew his original motion and made a motion to approve as corrected. Motion seconded. No discussion on motion. Motion carried.

Visitors, Appearances and Requests

No one came forward.

Council Presentations

4. **State of the City Address** – Mayor Beebe

Mayor Beebe read his annual State of the City Address, highlighting the accomplishments of the city in 2024 to the audience.

5. Republic Mid-Year Update – Courtney Voss, Erica Haitsma & Tim Long

Ms. Haitsma introduced Courtney Voss and Tim Long.

Ms. Voss went through a power point presentation that provided a franchise overview.

Mr. Long explained that he has been with Republic over 20 years and has been in Prineville about 7 months. He is looking to become more efficient and plans to continue to improve on maximizing efficiencies.

Ms. Voss provided an update on the call center stating that they are seeing a decline in calls to the call center and provided statistics for 2024. She explained that agents are trained to understand franchising and they have re-opened the Prineville office with quite a few customers coming in every month to pay their bills.

Councilor Hutchison asked about the call center and asked if local customers call, whether they get the local office. Ms. Voss answered that if the customer calls the 1-800 number they go to a national call center. If they call the 541 number it will go to a call center pod that is familiar with the Prineville franchise.

There were discussions regarding the number on the bill, the call center being able to forward a call to the local people, Councilor Smith experiencing a missed pickup and what it took to get resolved, whether service is better in the city or county, and Republic being laser focused on improving services.

Mr. Long, Ms. Voss and Ms. Haitsma continued with the presentation covering NPS survey results, community engagement efforts, a new program with the library, and RMA.

Ms. Haitsma went through the financials, CPI indexes, the inflationary impact outpacing the CPU and explained they are gearing up to go into financial reporting season.

The group continued with going through the historical margin and drivers of costs incurred.

Ms. Voss went through the rate setting process and Ms. Haitsma went through the financial transparency requirements and controls of a publicly traded company.

Ms. Voss provided a timeline they are hoping for the rate setting and they intend to request the rate increase in March with an effective date of July 1st.

Councilor Brummer asked if the local number could appear on the bills and Ms. Voss said she would look into that, though it would be difficult for one person to answer 15,000 calls per month. Councilor Hutchison asked why the calls couldn't be transferred if the line is busy.

There were no further discussions.

Council Business**6. Appointment and Re-Appointment of Budget Committee Members – Lisa Morgan / Lori Hooper Antram**

Lisa Morgan, City Recorder/Risk Manager presented the staff report noting the advertising process and extending deadlines to get applicants. Staff is making the recommendation to re-appoint Marty Bailey, John Charles and Casey Daly with new terms expiring December 31, 2028 and to appoint to Budget Committee members Brian Kroessin with term expiring December 31, 2028 and Gail Merritt with a term expiring on December 31, 2027.

Councilor Brummer made a motion to accept the re-appointments and new appointments as recommended. Motion seconded. No discussion on motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Staff Reports and Requests:**7. City Manager's Report – Steve Forrester**

Steve Forrester, City Manager presented his report highlighting activities through each department.

There were discussions regarding the airport runway being completed mid-summer, the Combs Flat Road project staying on time is impressive, and how busy the developing is on Tom McCall and Empire.

Discussions continued regarding the Ochoco Irrigation District project, their recent grant award and the improvements planned with that grant.

Council Reports

Councilor Hutchison talked about the Wildfire Committee she was on and that the plan has been completed with an opportunity to comment on it.

There were no further reports.

Ordinances:**8. Ordinance No. 1297 – Establishing Chapter 44 of the Prineville Municipal Code Adopting Financing and Deferral of SDC's – Josh Smith / Lori Hooper Antram**

Josh Smith, Planning Director talked about the public hearing at the last meeting. There still have been no questions or comments received, and no changes have been made to the proposed ordinance.

There were discussions regarding the city being in a first lien position, the certificate of occupancy tied to payment, and if a project did fall through there would not be any demand on the system.

Jered Reid, City Attorney explained that the ordinance would take effect after the first reading if unanimous since it has been posted online and available over a month.

Councilor Uffelman made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1297. Motion seconded. No discussion on motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Resolutions:

9. Resolution No. 1611 – Approving a Wastewater Disposal Agreement with Crook County– Casey Kaiser

Casey Kaiser, Asst. City Manager/Public Works Director presented the staff report and went through the process of the pick-up of the waste water. Mr. Kaiser explained that typically this would be an operational decision, but since it is with the county they wanted certainty for the time frame, which is why it is coming to council. All analysis' indicates that there is no significant impact to our operations and we are currently under ½ of our total treatment capacity.

There were no further discussions.

Councilor Hutchison made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1611. Motion seconded. No discussion on motion. All in favor, motion carried.

10. Resolution No. 1612 – Authorizing the Purchase of Meters for Prineville Water Treatment Plant - Casey Kaiser

Mr. Kaiser presented staff report providing details about the vaults along the crooked river in the well field and them being submerged in water with heavy rainfall.

There were discussions regarding keeping the meters that haven't failed in case they are needed.

Councilor Brummer made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1612. Motion seconded. No discussion on motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Visitors, Appearances and Requests:

No one came forward.

Adjourn

Councilor Howard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded. No discussion on motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 P.M.

Motions and Outcomes:

Motion:	Outcome	Beebe	Brummer	Howard	Hutchison	Smith	Sumner	Uffelman
Consent Agenda as Corrected	PASSED	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y
Motion to accept the re-appointments and new appointments to Budget Committee as recommended	PASSED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ordinance No. 1297 – Establishing Chapter 44 of the Prineville Municipal Code Adopting Financing and Deferral of SDC’s	PASSED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Resolution No. 1611 – Approving a Wastewater Disposal Agreement with Crook County	PASSED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Resolution No. 1612 – Authorizing the Purchase of Meters for Prineville Water Treatment Plant	PASSED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Adjourn Meeting	PASSED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Public Records Disclosure

Under the Oregon public records law, all meeting information, agenda packets, ordinances, resolutions, audio and meeting briefs are available at the following URL:

<https://www.cityofprineville.com/meetings> .