

**ONTARIO CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 14, 2015**

The special meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Ronald Verini at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 2015, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Ronald Verini, Norm Crume, Charlotte Fugate, Tessa Winebarger, Larry Tuttle, and Betty Carter. Thomas Jost was excused.

Members of staff present were Tori Barnett, Larry Sullivan, Marcy Siriwardene, and Dan Cummings. The meeting was recorded, and copies are available at City Hall.

Also present was Mike Ybarguen, Idaho Power, and Greg Smith, Malheur County Economic Development Director.

Mayor Verini led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

Charlotte Fugate moved, seconded by Tessa Winebarger, to adopt the Agenda. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Winebarger-yes; Fugate-yes; Jost-out; Tuttle-yes; Carter-yes; Verini-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

NEW BUSINESS

Idaho Power Readiness Evaluation Program

Dan Cummings, Community Development Director, presented.

The City of Ontario and Malheur County Economic Development both submitted applications for the first round of the Idaho Power Readiness Evaluation Program for two sites, those being the "Hasebe-Yanagawa-King Property" [*Treasure 200 Industrial Site*], and "Wada Industrial Site" [*Wada Property*] both within the city limits of Ontario and both zoned (IBP) Industrial Business Parking.

On July 6, 2015, both the City of Ontario and Malheur County Economic Development received letters stating both sites were selected to advance to the next phase of the program.

To advance to the next round, each participant electing to continue into the Evaluation Phase of the program was required to submit a matching commitment of \$6,250.00.

Councilor Fugate asked what the advantage of doing this project.

Mike Ybarguen, Idaho Power, explained that potential clients were looking for an area and would look at sites. The clients would ask about site readiness. Idaho Power offered ten matches through a grant program (\$6,250) and three were in this area. He did not know if the program would be offered next year or not.

Councilor Fugate asked if the site would have to be re-evaluated every year.

Mr. Ybarguen stated that there might be new properties next year that could be on the program.

Greg Smith, Malheur County Economic Development Director, stated that site certification was different than Idaho Power certification.

Councilor Fugate asked what the difference is.

Mr. Smith stated it was very, very thorough, and cost around \$25,000 to get completed.

Councilor Larry Tuttle asked if the Wada property was state certified.

Mr. Smith said that it was a step needed to get Ontario more competitive with other states. He also wanted to take this opportunity to address a past misstatement wherein he had informed the Council that the City of Boardman did not have SDCs, however, they actually do. He continued on

Councilor Crume stated he believed the city was willing to invest money, but would like to have some assurance.

Mr. Smith stated there were no promises, but they were working hard to stimulate economic development.

Mayor Verini stated that the area needed to be sold and believed this was a great opportunity for Ontario.

Larry Sullivan, City Attorney, stated he would work on the documents immediately, as Idaho Power would need to have the city's match money (\$12,500) today.

Mr. Cummings clarified that this was *not* a state certification.

Norm Crume moved, seconded by Charlotte Fugate, that the City Council approve the expenditure of \$12,500 for the city's share of continuing on in Phase Two of the Idaho Power Site Readiness Evaluation Program for both the Treasure 200 Industrial Site and the Wada Industrial Site, and authorize staff to prepare a resolution transferring funds from Contingency. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Winebarger-yes; Fugate-yes; Jost-out; Tuttle-yes; Carter-yes; Verini-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

Tori Barnett, Interim City Manager, stated that Councilor Fugate had presented an idea of having goats at the closed golf course property, to maintain the weeds. After looking into it, it was determined it would cost about \$50 an acre, and there was approximately 180 acres on the site.

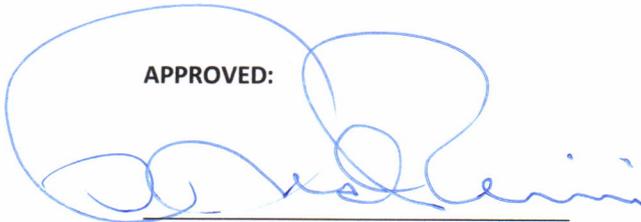
Both Councilor Crume and Councilor Tuttle asked for more information on the issue.

Cliff Leeper, PW Director, CH2M, indicated Public Works was willing to maintain it after it was initially cleaned up.

ADJOURN

Norm Crume moved, seconded by Charlotte Fugate, that the meeting be adjourned. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Winebarger-yes; Fugate-yes; Jost-out; Tuttle-yes; Carter-yes; Verini-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

APPROVED:



Ronald Verini, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder