



Minutes  
City of Irrigon Council Meeting  
July 16, 2024 – 6:00 PM  
Irrigon City Hall – 500 NE Main Ave  
Irrigon, OR 97844

**1. Call to order/Pledge/Roll Call**

Mayor Michelle Patton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilors present: Mayor Michelle Patton, Mayor Pro-Tem Benji Calvert, Hector Cano, Heather Bishop, Darren Strong, and Melvin Lambert.

Councilors absent: Marlina Avila-Serratos

Staff present: City Manager Aaron Palmquist and City Clerk Trista Seastone

Audience present: Regan Bass, John Bass

Zoom: None

**2. Mayors Comments**

Mayor Michelle Patton started by saying “It’s HOT” referring to the current weather conditions. Patton wanted to remind residents to make sure they are checking on the elderly in the heat and to stay hydrated and indoors if possible. The mayor went on to remind the community about the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Watermelon Festival July 27. The parade starts at 10:00 AM and festivities commence after at the Irrigon Park Marina. She went on to list free events at the Watermelon Festival this year, and for the first time the festival will end with a fireworks display.

Due to the rising temperatures the mayor reminded the community that the Oregon Trail Library is also a cooling station for those who need a cooler place to hang out, water is also being offered. Cooling station hours are Tuesday – Friday 10:00-6:00 PM and could be extended if needed.

Striping on Hwy 730 is completed, and new flashing cross walk lights are up and working. The mayor encouraged residents to pay attention and slow down as there are new traffic control devices for both drivers and pedestrians. Staff made comment that there are two signs from the new crosswalks that will need to be changed from yellow to green, due to school zone colors.

- 3. Public comment – Maximum 3 minutes/person/topic. A maximum of 30 minutes may be allotted for the public comment. This is the time provided for individuals wishing to address the council, at their discretion. Multiple items on the same topic need to be combined through one speaker. Please email [clerk@ci.irrigon.or.us](mailto:clerk@ci.irrigon.or.us) your comments or questions by 4:00 PM of the meeting date so that the mayor and council can hear your comment or question.**

Regan Bass from 195 NE Main Ave Irrigon, OR 97844 requested to address the council regarding a letter she received from the City of Irrigon Code Enforcement. The letter was requesting action to be taken by the homeowner(s) regarding the exterior paint color they have chosen. The letter provided to the resident included the Development Code Title 10-3-2. The council was provided with a copy of the letter, along with current pictures of the home in question. Regan requested the city council to provide her with an approved color and requested an extension in addition to the 30 days given in the letter.

John Bass also from 195 NE Main Ave Irrigon, OR 97844 requested to address the council regarding the code letter received. John stated that he had gone to Home Depot and had asked the paint department to provide him "earth tones" as mentioned in the Title 10-3-2. Per John he reported that no one in the paint department could tell him what those colors would be. John held up a picture of the globe and stated that the color chosen by his wife Regan and himself was the same blue and should be considered an "earth tone".

Councilor Heather Bishop responded stating that Regan could at no cost take the paint back to Home Depot and have them tone the color down by adding some white and/or gray to the existing color. Bishop stated that the store would most likely be helpful in getting the Royal Blue paint choice to a less bright color that will adhere to the Title 10-3-2 requirement for residential dwellings.

John and Regan were reminded of the Property Enhancement Grant that is available for up to \$2,000 that would potentially assist them not only with any corrective costs due to repainting, but to assist with window replacement, fencing, landscaping, etc. Regan stated to council that they were not in need of any grant money, and this was not a money issue, and said they just wanted the council to give them the name of a color that would be approved.

The city council reiterated the paint should be taken to the store and have it toned down.

Public comment ended at 6:36 PM

4. **\*Consent Agenda – The Consent Agenda allows the Council to approve all items together without discussion or individual motions. Councilors can request an item be removed for later I the meeting and discussion.**

- a. Approval of Minutes June 18, 2024
- b. City Managers Report and Staff Updates
- c. Accounts Payable
- d. Law Enforcement
- e. Municipal Court
- f. Correspondence

City councilor Heather Bishop moved to approve and accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

City Councilor Melvin Lambert seconded the motion.

There was no discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. **\*Resolution 24-04 Food Pod – Revolving Loan with Umatilla Electric (UEC)**

Since the spring of 2022, at the direction of council, staff has been working diligently on the Food Pod project. J-U-B Engineers have finalized the design work, making room for five spaces for potential food trucks.

Resolution 24-04 and loan application documents are part of the next steps toward completing the project. The city council was provided with the necessary documentation that included loan repayment. Staff estimated that approximately \$390,000.00 will be needed for construction, bidding, and inspection work. CREZ funds over the upcoming years would be used for loan repayment. No funds will come from tax or general funds. The annual estimated payment would be \$45,500.00 with interest over the next years \$76,400.00. There are no early payoff penalties and staff will review each year.

Staff recommended that the City Council approve Resolution 24-04 as presented and authorize the mayor and city manager to sign respective UEC documents as presented.

City Councilor Benji Calvert moved to adopt Resolution 24-04 as presented and discussed authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to sign the respective documents.

City Councilor Darren Strong seconded the motion.

Councilor Heather Bishop asked staff if the city would be receiving any revenue from the food trucks that want to use the space. Staff stated that in the rent/lease of space, participants should at least be paying for utilities, taxes and insurance. City Manager Aaron Palmquist also suggested not locking vendors into long leases or rental agreements that did not allow them to be able to participate in other events. Allowing the vendor to be able to come and go would also be attractive if they were presented with a lucrative temporary event somewhere else.

Councilor Bishop asked about using CREZ funds as loan repayment. Bishop wanted to clarify that the CREZ funds were earmarked for this type of project and not funds that could be used elsewhere in the community. Staff advised that the CREZ funds are earmarked for infrastructure, non-discretionary money, this project is within the scope of requirements to use CREZ funds.

There was no further discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. **\*CREZ III IGA**

The City Council was given a copy of the CREZ III IGA in the council packets. The IGA had some language clarifications and a change of elected positions. This is an update to the

Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Sponsors of the Columbia River Enterprise Zone III (Port of Morrow and Morrow County). By signing the agreement this will make sure that Irrigon has a seat at the table when a project takes place within our area of influence.

Councilor Heather Bishop moved to designate the City Manager and Mayor as city representatives with the Mayor Pro Tem as the alternate and authorizing the mayor to sign and forward the CREZ III Sponsors.

Councilor Benji Calvert seconded the motion.

There was no discussion.

Motion passed unanimously

**7. \*Resolution 24-08 LOC Legal Advice Program Participation**

The City Council was provided with a copy of the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Legal Advice Program which is up for renewal. This program provides up to 10 hours of free limited legal advice to cities located in regions 11 and 12. This is a pilot program that offers a great fiscal savings for small communities like Irrigon and other cities that may not have legal representation on their city payroll.

City councilor Heather Bishop moved to adopt Resolution 24-08 as presented with the City of Irrigon agreeing and continuing in this program.

Councilor Melvin Lambert seconded the motion.

Councilor Bishop asked if this was something the City of Irrigon could get out of if they didn't want to participate any longer? Staff stated it is free, so you either use it or not, there is nothing requiring it.

There was no further discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**8. Items for Future Council Meetings**


- LOC 2024 Legislative Agenda Priority Votes – August 2024
- ODOT ADA IGA – August/September 2024
- Lexipol Policies Ord 259-23 – TBD
- Ordinance 260-23 "Camping and Homelessness" – TBD
- Boards and Commissions (Irrigon Code) – TBD
- Development Code – On going
- Public Contracting & Purchasing Policy – TBD

City Councilor Melvin Lambert adjourned the meeting at 6:54 PM.

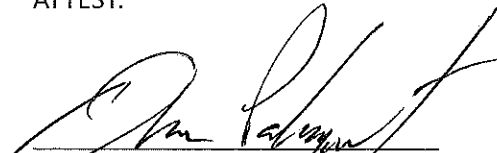
Next Regular Meeting Date – August 20, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

Minutes prepared by Trista Seastone, City Clerk

SIGNED:

  
Michelle Patton, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Aaron Palmquist, City Manager