

The City Council for the City of Junction City, met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, in the Council Chambers, 680 Greenwood Street, Junction City, Oregon and in a virtual meeting format via internet and phone.

**PRESENT:** Mayor, Kenneth Wells; Council President, Karen Leach; Councilors Sandie Thomas, Sidney Washburn, Andrea Ceniga, Ken Jamieson, and Ken Hancock; Interim City Administrator, Spencer Nebel; City Attorney, Carrie Connelly; Police Chief, Mark Waddell; Public Works Director, Gary Kaping; Finance Director, Christina Green; and City Recorder, Kitty Vodrup.

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Wells opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and took roll call. He introduced and welcomed Interim City Administrator Spencer Nebel.

**2. Changes to the Agenda.** Remove Item 14 – Future RV Park Discussion. Director Kaping noted that Attorney Connelly had advised that the bids for this project needed to include prevailing wages, so staff requested that the contractors resubmit bids.

**3. Approval of Minutes – February 10 and 24, 2026**

**MOTION:** Councilor Leach made a motion to approve the February 10 and 24, 2026 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas and passed by unanimous vote of the Council: Thomas, Washburne, Ceniga, Leach, Jamieson, and Hancock.

**4. Public Comment on Items not Listed on the Agenda**

- A. Follow-up from Staff on Previous Comments. None.
- B. New Comments from Public.

Kat Bose, High Pass Road, Junction City, stated that she wanted to address the response to her comments regarding the proposed RV Park at 6<sup>th</sup> and Deal. She continued that a Council member had stated at the end of the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting that he did not know where she got the price of \$20 a night for a space at the future RV Park. She noted that had been brought up by a Council member during the January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Councilor also repeatedly tried to impress that the cost of almost \$90,000 for a fence was not going to be taxpayer money. She asked what kind of money did any government have but taxpayer money. She asked where the almost \$90,000 would be coming from and should not the people of Junction City know. She continued that every time she came to Junction City, she passed a tree where one or more bald eagles were perched. A couple of months ago she was dismayed to see that the tree had been chopped down, and she saw two eagles in distress, trying to find a place to perch. After doing some research, she found out that this property was over 60 acres and was purchased by Junction City in 2023 for almost \$1.4 million. She asked if this property would be perfect for an RV park, if Council deemed that they needed one, instead of that property being used for a couple of City offices and vehicle storage. She continued that the property was zoned for farms, ranches, acreage, and natural resources and what was more natural than bald eagles. She added that the property was also being used to house piles of compost, soil, and the remains of the eagle tree. She asked why Junction City needed this property and said it was not being properly utilized. She asked how that benefited the citizens of Junction City and were they not entitled to answers to these questions.

**5. Annual Municipal Judge Report**

Municipal Judge Phillip Williams presented the annual Municipal Judge report. Documents were distributed to Council: 2024 vs. 2025 Violations Highlights, Total Violations to JCMC Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2024, Total Violations to JCMC Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2025, and Department Worksheet Muni Court 1st 6 Months of FY.

- There were 464 traffic citations in 2024 and 1153 in 2025. If there were more violations, more fines were collected during the year.
- In the year Judge Williams had served as municipal judge, the Police Department had understood that he was about public safety first and foremost and trying to get people to change their behaviors and be responsible for what they did. In that vein, they had changed a few things. The biggest change was changing the way diversions were done. Instead of giving someone a complete break and saying they could pay \$100 and take a class, they changed that to they could pay the fine, take the class, and if they did not get any more tickets within six months, that meant that the ticket would be dismissed and would not need to be reported to the insurance company. That was good for young drivers and would give folks a chance to take traffic school again when they really needed it. Judge Williams found

that traffic school was a good way to get drivers to reexamine their behaviors and make everything safer for everybody.

- The Court also had a change in emphasis over what was being done before by having a lot more uninsured motorists cited, as driving uninsured caused huge financial problems when there was an accident and someone was injured.
- The Court was also seeing a lot of driving while suspended and were trying to get those folks to cooperate and stop driving.
- There were less parking citations, and he realized there were issues with parking RVs. In reviewing the law in Junction City, the only way that the City was going to get the folks to move their RVs from parking on the streets was to make a change in the vehicle code. The current code allowed the RV to move a little bit indefinitely to avoid a citation.
- There were 7 less criminal citations in 2025 compared to 2024, but the actual crimes of DUII, reckless driving, and criminal trespass had increased. Failure to Appear decreased in 2025 with 61, compared to 103 in 2024. The Failure to Appear were reduced as the court enlisted Lane County Parole and Probation to help contact people and remind them to show up to court, at no expense to the folks in Junction City.

Court Clerk Tiffany McGarvey provided information on financial impacts:

- In 2024, total fines collected was \$80,842.35 and in 2025 that total was \$143,768.29, which was a significant increase. A majority of the fines collected stayed in Junction City, with a smaller portion going to the state or county.
- Department Worksheet for the first six months of this fiscal year (FY):
  - Line 2 Muni Court Fines collected so far at the end of January was \$75,000, well over the budgeted amount projected of \$55,000 for the entire FY.
  - Line 30 Contracted Jail Space. When the court sentenced somebody to a day in jail, they went to Springfield jail. This line item used to be in the Police Department budget, but was moved to the court budget in July 2025. To date, the court had spent close to \$9,000 in this line item and there were 50 days of jail time that had been served that had not yet been invoiced, which would total about \$15,500 to date and the entire FY budget was \$20,000.
  - Line 31 Court Appointed Attorney Fee and Line 36 Interpreter Fees expenditures to date were higher than budgeted, due to higher case loads and that more cases were getting settled than before.
  - Line 40 Travel and Training included a budget of \$1,000, which she thought was underbudgeted and would only cover one court conference (\$649); there were two conferences a year. These conferences were very important for the Court Clerk, in receiving new information, networking, and learning new laws. She added that it would be nice as the Council went into the new budget season, to see that line item increase enough to cover both conferences.
  - Line 53 Transfer to Capital Projects Fund. Last year was the first year of this transfer, which was \$1,000. This year they were expected to transfer \$9,400.
- In this last year, the Court had gone from being a liability to the budget to now being able to contribute.

Judge Williams shared that Ms. McGarvey's position was part time, yet she was handling a huge case load and twice the number of cases of a full time experienced Court Clerk in Coburg. He was impressed with Ms. McGarvey's intelligence and abilities, but the high case load was putting more pressure on this position than any comparable court in the state. He shared how essential it was for the Court Clerk to attend and receive the training at the Court Conferences. He continued that as budget season approached, he would suggest that the Council consider additional court staffing, prioritize Court staff training, and increase the amount budgeted in the Contracted Jail Space.

Councilor Thomas noted that she attended court and was truly impressed with Judge Williams and Court Clerk McGarvey. She thanked them for their work.

Councilor Leach expressed her agreement with Councilor Thomas and thanked Court Clerk McGarvey for clarifying that a majority of the court fines stayed in Junction City, as Councilor Leach had always heard before that the state got all of it. She added that the difference in the court was unbelievable and she thanked Judge Williams and Court Clerk McGarvey for their hard work.

Judge Williams thanked Councilors Thomas and Leach for attending court, as he had always said that for anyone who wanted to understand how court worked, they should come see them at court.

Councilor Ceniga thanked Judge Williams and Court Clerk McGarvey for doing a great job and being an amazing team. She continued that the community wanted to see more accountability for traffic violations, and Judge Williams was doing that through the new processes and actions and sentencing people to jail when needed. She shared that the Police Department was doing an amazing job and were writing solid tickets, which was good. She agreed that putting money in the budget for the Court conferences was important.

**6. Local Government Personnel Services Presentation**

Emily Farrell, Chief of Operations/Managing Attorney and Danica Barrick Operations Manager/Client Liaison, provided information on the services that Local Government Personnel Services (LGPS) could provide: Workplace Investigations, Labor Relations Support, Employment and Workplace Legal Guidance, Municipal Law Advisory; Strategic HR Advisory, Executive Recruitments, Classification and Compensation, HR Assessments and Audits, and Interim Executive Services. For services to be provided to the City, an Intergovernmental Agreement would be put in place, and services would be billed at an hourly rate. An annual membership was available for a fee, which would provide a discount on hourly fees.

Mayor Wells noted that as the City went forward in their search for a City Administrator, LGPS was one resource that could provide that service and that was why they were asked to make the presentation tonight. He knew that Administrator Nebel had some ideas on recruitment, and Mayor Wells wanted to make sure that Council was aware of all the options.

**7. School Resource Officer Contract**

Chief Waddell presented the School Resource Officer contract renewal with the Junction City School District.

**MOTION:** Councilor Ceniga made a motion to approve the School Resource Officer Contract Renewal and authorize Interim City Administrator Nebel to sign the necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Councilor Washburne and passed by unanimous vote of the Council: Thomas, Washburne, Ceniga, Leach, Jamieson, and Hancock.

**8. Function 4 Junction Street Closure Request**

Director Kaping presented the annual street closure request for the Function 4 Junction event. Recorder Vodrup added that the Conditions of Approval language for vendors who provided food or drink (non-alcoholic) had been updated to match what the Council had recently approved for Scandinavian Festival food/drink (non-alcoholic) vendors. Those vendors would be required to provide proof of liability insurance of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence with a \$2,000,000 aggregate.

**MOTION:** Councilor Leach made a motion to approve the street closure request for the Annual Function 4 Junction on May 29 and May 30, 2026, as conditioned in Attachment B with the nonexclusive use of city streets for street closure from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on May 29 and from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on May 30. The use of city streets will apply to the route shown in Attachment A, contingent upon approval from the Oregon Department of Transportation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Ceniga and passed by unanimous vote of the Council: Thomas, Washburne, Ceniga, Leach, Jamieson, and Hancock.

**9. Function 4 Junction Request for Use 2026**

Director Kaping presented the request from the Function 4 Junction Association to use the gated area behind the Community Center for a beer and wine area during the Show and Shine on May 30, 2026. Set up would occur on May 29, 2026. No concerns from Chief Waddell.

**MOTION:** Councilor Leach made a motion to approve the request for the Function 4 Junction to use the gated area behind the Community Center on May 29 and May 30, 2026 with the nonexclusive use of the area, as conditioned in Attachment B. The motion was seconded by Councilor Jamieson and passed by unanimous vote of the Council: Thomas, Washburne, Ceniga, Leach, Jamieson, and Hancock.

**10. Scandia Run Street Closure Request**

Director Kaping presented the street closure request for the annual Scandia Run. No changes from their yearly request, except staff notified them that they would not be able to use the parking lot at 6th and Deal.

**MOTION:** Councilor Hancock made a motion to approve the street closure request for the Annual Scandia Run on August 15, 2026 as conditioned in Attachment B with the nonexclusive use of city streets for street closure from 7:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor Ceniga and passed by unanimous vote of the Council: Thomas, Washburne, Ceniga, Leach, Jamieson, and Hancock.

**11. Birch and Rose Street Slurry Sealing**

Director Kaping presented the request to slurry seal Birch Street from 1st to 6th and Rose Street from the intersection at Quince to 18th.

**MOTION:** Councilor Washburne made a motion to award the Birch Street and Rose Street slurry sealing project to Pave Northwest in the amount not to exceed \$95,852.88 and authorize the Public Works Director to sign the necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Councilor Leach and passed by unanimous vote of the Council: Thomas, Washburne, Ceniga, Leach, Jamieson, and Hancock.

**12. Max Strauss Pool Rates Resolution**

Director Kaping presented the resolution to increase the fees at the pool.

A. Public Comment on Fees. No comments

B. Resolution No. 1 – A Resolution Regarding Pool Fees for the City of Junction City and Repealing Resolution No. 1331.

**MOTION:** Councilor Leach made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas and passed by unanimous vote of the Council: Thomas, Washburne, Ceniga, Leach, Jamieson, and Hancock.

**13. Safe Drinking Water RLF Loan Authorization**

Director Kaping presented the resolution for Council to approve the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund loan. Per Council direction, staff applied with the State of Oregon for funding of the Asbestos, Steel, Iron, and Lead-jointed Waterlines Replacement Project. The state awarded the City \$6 million in funding, which would provide half the funding needed. The intent would be to replace as much of the pipe outlined in the project as possible. The funding package contained a \$3 million loan with an interest of 3.83% and a \$3 million principal forgiveness component; as long as the City completed the project on time, the City would not be required to repay the \$3 million principal forgiveness portion of the project. Based on the anticipated project completion date of October 2027, the first payment of \$93,700 would be due on December 1, 2028. Regular payments would begin on December 1, 2029 and be in the amount of \$169,900. Staff was requesting that Council approve this loan, so Public Works could move forward with some waterline projects.

A. Resolution No. 2 – A Resolution of the City of Junction City Authorizing a Loan from the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund by Entering into a Financing Contract with the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority.

**MOTION:** Councilor Jamieson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2. The motion was seconded by Councilor Leach and passed by unanimous vote of the Council: Thomas, Washburne, Ceniga, Leach, Jamieson, and Hancock.

**14. Check Signature Authority**

Director Green presented three resolutions, to update the signature authority at US Bank, Citizens Bank, and Columbia Bank, removing City Administrator Jason Knope as a signer and adding Interim City Administrator Spencer Nebel.

A. Resolution No. 3 – A Resolution Authorizing the Signing of Checks by Kenneth Wells, Spencer R. Nebel, and Kitty Vodrup and the Use of a Facsimile Signature of City Recorder Kitty Vodrup, with the United States National Bank of Oregon, Junction City Branch; and Repealing Resolution No. 1280.

B. Resolution No. 4 – A Resolution Authorizing Signature Authority by Kenneth Wells, Spencer R. Nebel, and Kitty Vodrup and the Use of a Facsimile Signature of City Recorder Kitty Vodrup with Citizens Bank, Junction City Branch; and Repealing Resolution No. 1281.

C. Resolution No. 5 – A Resolution Authorizing Signature Authority by Kenneth Wells, Spencer R. Nebel, and Kitty Vodrup and the Use of a Facsimile Signature of City Recorder Kitty Vodrup with Columbia Bank, Junction City Branch; and Repealing Resolution No. 1282.

**MOTION:** Councilor Washburne made a motion to approve Resolutions No. 3, 4, and 5. The motion was seconded by Councilor Ceniga and passed by unanimous vote of the Council: Thomas, Washburne, Ceniga, Leach, Jamieson, and Hancock.

#### 15. Tri-County Chamber of Commerce Funding Request

Director Green presented the request from the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce for \$4,000 for tourism activities. Funding for this had historically been included each year in the budget in General Fund Non-Departmental under Tourism Promotions.

Councilor Washburne stated that he did not see how they could do this when they had said no to the request from JC Local Aid to waive or reduce their utility fees.

Mayor Wells noted that this was something the City had done for years and had been included in the budget. Councilor Leach added that it had always been in the budget.

**MOTION:** Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce's request and direct staff to issue a payment to the Chamber in the amount of \$4,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Leach.

Tiffany McGarvey, Junction City, said that she agreed with Councilor Washburne. Someone came in at the last meeting with a valid request from members of the community who were struggling. She did not know what the rules were, and she was not sure that giving \$4,000 to tourism because that was something that had always been done was the best way forward or the right answer.

Kat Bose, High Pass Road, Junction City, expressed her agreement with Councilor Washburne. When JC Local Aid came to Council, they asked for either whole or partial of the \$180 per month. She thought this was important, as Local Aid did more than give food. They also provided clothing, bus passes, electrical and propane help, as well as had a sign up for food stamps and health care at the building. She thought it was a very important thing for the community when they were supporting everybody.

Councilor Thomas responded that she was not recommending this because it had always been done, but because the Chamber did a lot that helped the City.

Councilor Hancock said that these were difficult conversations. He thought the City should support the Chamber and that was a separate issue from the other non-profits. He agreed that one of the worst reasons to do anything was because you always had, but he did not think it was right to withhold funding that had been included specifically in the budget, unless the City had told the Chamber in advance that this would not be given. He thought they needed to study this entire issue for all the non-profits in town, as there were many non-profits in the community that were providing valuable and critical services to the community.

Councilor Leach expressed her agreement with Councilor Hancock.

Mayor Wells noted that at the last Council meeting, they did say that the budget was coming up and they would take a look at funding for non-profits, just like they did with everything else in the budget.

Councilor Hancock added that if the City had to raise rates, there would be people who were not going to be able to pay their bill, so they might as well get out ahead of everything and have these types of conversations at another meeting.

Councilor Ceniga stated that when Local Aid came, she had said something about looking at funding in the budget. She thought the Chamber did provide a good service to the community and did a good job. The non-profit organizations in town helped community members and Local Aid was a little different in that they were helping people pay their water and sewer bill to

the City. She could support giving money to the Chamber, as long as they put it on the forecaster to discuss funding the other non-profits, as she thought the City should help people who were helping community members.

Councilor Hancock said that he thought they should give the other non-profits an opportunity to speak to the Council and share what they do, so the Council could be more educated about the services in town.

**VOTE:** The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 1, with Councilors Thomas, Ceniga, Leach, Jamieson, and Hancock voting in favor and Councilor Washburne voting against.

#### **16. Budget Committee Appointment**

Director Green noted that there were two citizen member vacancies on the Budget Committee, and one application had been received.

**MOTION:** Councilor Leach made a motion to appoint Ciara Orozco to Position 6 on the Budget Committee, with a term through December 31, 2028. The motion was seconded by Councilor Jamieson and passed by unanimous vote of the Council: Thomas, Washburne, Ceniga, Leach, Jamieson, and Hancock.

#### **17. Council Agenda Forecaster**

Administrator Nebel presented the forecaster. The Council consensus was to add City Administrator Recruitment to the March 24, 2026 Work Session agenda and Grants to Social Services/Non-Profit Agencies to the April 28, 2026 Work Session.

#### **18. Staff Reports**

Chief Waddell reported: Lieutenant job posting would close March 15<sup>th</sup> and hoped to have someone hired in July or August; spoke with Administrator Nebel about opening up the vacant patrol officer position to laterals; contractors had begun work on PD building projects; some officers were in training this week; and officers continued to work on the RV parking issues in town. He agreed with Judge Williams that an ordinance change might address that.

Councilor Thomas shared that she thought they had an ordinance in place that overrode someone moving their vehicle a few inches. Councilor Leach added that she thought that too.

Councilor Hancock shared that he thought the ordinance read that the RV could not be parked on the street more than 72 hours. Chief Waddell responded the ordinance read "continuous", so as soon as someone moved their RV, the clock started again, which was the enforcement issue. Chief Waddell continued that the City of Tualatin had code language that the RV would have to be moved two blocks. 90% of the RVs were on Front Street, so having them move two blocks would move them into a neighborhood of homes. He added that the department had good officers that were trying to find people resources, places they could rent RV space cheaply, etc. Officers were out there every day marking the road with paint and talking with people.

Attorney Connelly added that there were some draft revisions of this code language in 2023 that had proposed moving the RV around the corner of a certain number of blocks, but that was ultimately removed from consideration by Council or the Police Chief. She asked if she should take this issue back up with staff and figure out if they should bring something back to Councilor or should they put a pin on it and circle back later on down the line.

Councilor Ceniga stated that if it was not already a pressing problem it would end up being one, and she thought they should do something sooner than later. If people saw nothing was being done, than more and more would come. She expressed her support of having Attorney Connelly work on this and bring something back in the near future. She added that it might be useful to see what other cities were doing and what worked and did not work and then adjust appropriately for Junction City.

Councilor Leach expressed her agreement with Councilor Ceniga.

Councilor Jamieson added that he thought it should be brought to a work session. Councilor Leach expressed her agreement.

Attorney Connelly responded that she thought there was a Council consensus to at least hear more about this. She would work with staff and have something back to Council on options.

Administrator Nebel added that there were certainly a number of models out there that had various things that worked and did not work. He would be happy to participate in discussions and take a look at what might work in Junction City. Every action had a reaction, as Chief had indicated, but he thought there were ways that it might be able to be improved without creating too many other problems. He thought that over the course of the next couple of months, he and Attorney Connelly could bring something back.

Mayor Wells asked if they could have something by the May Council Work Session. Administrator Nebel responded that should be doable.

Director Kaping reported: Public Works had started working on the sewer laterals and conduit work for the RV Park, but stopped when they received the email from Attorney Connelly that bids for the project work needed to include prevailing wages; they were working on replacing broken barricades and doing a lot of meter maintenance; and with the pause in work at the RV Park they would look at finishing the waterline project on 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

Councilor Hancock asked how the RV Park project would be funded. Director Kaping responded by Parks System Development Charge fees, which were paid by developers and could only be used for park expansion projects that were in the Parks Master Plan.

Councilor Hancock noted that Council had reviewed a draft ordinance to amend the code to allow the RV Park, and he asked about the status of that ordinance. Administrator Nebel responded that Council had reviewed and provided feedback, and Attorney Connelly was waiting to receive that feedback.

Councilor Hancock asked for confirmation that nothing could be done until the ordinance was in place. Administrator Nebel responded that the ordinance would need to be adopted, the work at the RV Park completed, and a process developed for guidance on how to operate the RV Park.

Councilor Hancock asked if there would be an opportunity for discussion, once the ordinance came before Council. Administrator Nebel responded yes.

Director Green reported: Finance had made it past the audit and was scheduling for next year's audit; staff was in the midst of budget preparation and developing preliminary numbers on general liability and health insurance rates, and she would get reports out to the departments; staff should be able to get the February Monthly Financial report out in a timely manner this month; and she was looking forward to meeting with Administrator Nebel.

Attorney Connelly reported: The legislative session closed last week and some highlights: The food and beverage issue for Oregon Government Ethics Commission was resolved and accepting food and beverage as part of an official city event was now an exception to the Ethics Laws; refinement was made to the Public Meetings Law on what constituted a serial meeting and that had been clarified that there had to be an intent to deliberate in gathering information outside of the context of a meeting, and she would provide training on these things sometime this year; updates to how Transient Lodging Taxes may be spent were made from 70% to be used for tourism related promotions and facilities and 30% to the General Fund to now being able to have 50% for tourism and 50% go to the General Fund. She noted that she had never worked with Junction City on doing a Transient Lodging Tax and the City may want to talk about this, especially when the General Fund was looked at carefully; the housing omnibus bill passed and the process for housing applications had changed significantly, and City staff would be putting her in touch with the planning/building staff, so she could share these changes; notice would be limited, there would not be public hearings with regards to housing applications, notice of a decision would go only to the applicant and not neighbors, and only the applicant would be allowed by statute to appeal to LUBA, so there would not be neighbor appeals anymore of housing development proposals coming before the Planning Commission or Council; the timeframe for Public Meetings Law Grievances had increased from 30 to 90 days, and she would be bringing discussion on the Public Meetings Law Grievance process to Council at a future meeting, to talk about what happens if a grievance is filed and who would have the authority to respond to that grievance within the required timeframe.

Recorder Vodrup reported: Reminder that the Oregon Government Ethics Commission would be sending an email on March 15<sup>th</sup> that it was time to file the annual Statement of Economic Interest (SEI); SEIs needed to be filed by April 15<sup>th</sup>; and there was still one citizen member

vacancy on the Budget Committee and applications could be found on the City's website or at City Hall.

Administrator Nebel reported: He had two very exciting days in Junction City so far. Recorder Vodrup put together a great orientation that included meeting with various City staff and touring the Police and Public Works facilities; he was focusing on understanding current and future issues for Junction City that would need to be dealt with in his tenure as Interim Administrator; he thanked the Council for giving him the opportunity to work for Junction City, as he enjoyed this work; this was an important time for the City in this transition period and some of the things he would be focusing on were the City Administrator recruitment process, preparing the City organization for a new Administrator by clarifying and preparing things, budget, and day to day operations. He planned on putting together a handbook for his successor that outlined major issues and projects, who was involved, and contact information, so the new City Administrator could get more of a running start; he had received feedback from the new manager in Creswell that the handbook had been a valuable tool; in March and April, he would be finishing up some work for Lincoln County, which would typically take place on Thursdays and Fridays, but he would be available to staff and Council on those days, if anything came up; he passed around a signup sheet to the Council, so he could meet one on one with each Council member to understand what was working in the City, what areas needed to be improved, and finding out the long term wishes for this community. He would also be gathering the same information from staff and then would compile and organize that information and share with Council. He could also contact key stakeholders in the community, to have the same discussions and develop a good base of information that would be helpful in recruiting a new City Administrator, if the Council desired; his initial observation was that the City really did have good staff in place, and it was going to be a pleasure for him to be able to work with them and hopefully find a great fit for a new Administrator in Junction City.

Councilor Leach welcomed Administrator Nebel and noted that she looked forward to working with him. She added that it sounded like he was on the right track.

**19. Previous Month's Expenditures.** None.

**20. Councilor Comments/Questions**

Councilor Thomas stated that they were moving forward in the right direction and that was a good thing. She expressed appreciation to everybody and to all the staff. She noted that staff worked hard and she was thankful for that.

Councilor Washburne thanked Director Kaping and Superintendent Tracer for getting the Safe Drinking Water Loan to help the City as much as possible. He knew that took a lot of time, and he appreciated it.

Councilor Ceniga stated that she was glad Administrator Nebel was here, and she looked forward to working with him. She continued that City staff did a great job, and she did not think they always received the recognition that they deserved. The Police Department would soon have a recognition event for their staff, and she hoped that if that worked out well that they could make that a citywide event. She expressed appreciation to Judge Williams and Court Clerk McGarvey for their impressive presentation. She noted that what they did was very important and there was a lot of work that went into that. She added that she would support having staff from other departments come to Council meetings and make presentations on what they did.

Councilor Thomas responded that was a good suggestion but she wondered about the overtime. Councilor Ceniga stated that they could put a time limit on it, but she felt it was important to hear from them and let them share about what they did in their area of expertise. She added that the Council could talk about this.

Councilor Leach stated that she thought that was a good suggestion. She thanked Judge Williams and Court Clerk McGarvey for their presentation and noted that to really understand what those two did, you would need to sit in on court. She continued that you could not possibly appreciate what they did until you saw them in action, and the difference between the previous court to now was unbelievable and she really appreciated it. She thanked Director Kaping and Chief Waddell for hanging in there and doing a great job. Staff had welcomed Administrator Nebel, which she appreciated. She thanked Recorder Vodrup for all her hard work, especially during this transition, and for always being there and having an answer. She was glad Public Works staff had come to the meeting, and she hoped that could take care of

things and move on. She expressed appreciation to the Council and noted that even though they disagreed on some things, as Mayor Wells had said, they walked out the door as friends. She continued that she missed the Committee meetings and hearing from the staff that attended those meetings. Without the Committee meetings, she felt as though she was out of the loop and she was not sure how to remedy that. She appreciated the City Administrator and Police Chief updates but missed being in touch with staff like what occurred at Committee meetings. She knew that the committees were outdated and had been in place forever and that they were trying the sector meetings for the public, but she thought they had forgotten about the Council.

Councilor Jamieson thanked Court Clerk McGarvey and Judge Williams for their presentation. He thanked Recorder Vodrup for all of her help and noted that he would be in touch with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission in a few days. He continued that he looked forward to meeting with Administrator Nebel. He appreciated everyone on the Council and especially Mayor Wells. He thanked Chief Waddell, Director Kaping, and Superintendent Tracer for working hard and diligently.

Councilor Hancock thanked Judge Williams and Court Clerk McGarvey for presenting the annual report. He noted that Judge Williams had brought up needing more than a part-time clerk, and Councilor Hancock agreed this should be looked at. Councilor Hancock noted that as they moved into the budget sessions, he wanted to plant that seed with their new veteran City Administrator with over 43 years' experience. Councilor Hancock thanked everyone in attendance at the meeting, and thanked Administrator Nebel for taking the position to help them out, which meant so much to the community. He looked forward to meeting with Administrator Nebel and finding out areas that the City could improve in. One thing that he would like to discuss was doing more of a 360-degree City Administrator evaluation. He added that while he missed seeing Superintendent Tracer and learning about various topics at the Community Development Committee meetings, he did not miss the Committee meetings.

## 21. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Wells shared that in all the years he had been on Council, the Municipal Judge had not presented an update like the one they had received this evening. He commended Judge Willimans and Court Clerk McGarvey on doing a great job. He continued that in the last couple of years, Court was one of the departmental budgets that they were having trouble balancing and some things were cut back. The Court information presented tonight gave valid reasons for making some changes to Court and they could look at that during budget time.

Mayor Wells continued that he and Recorder Vodrup had spoken more in the last 30 days in this time of transition than they had over a two year period, and he had also gotten to know City Hall staff better. He thanked staff and the Council for their good work in keeping the ship headed in the right direction without a City Administrator. They now had Administrator Nebel on board and had a great base and a great group of people. Mayor Wells noted that Committee meetings had been brought up tonight, and the Council would be talking about the Community Meetings at the March Work Session and be able to get input from Administrator Nebel. He noted that Councilor Leach had mentioned that when the Council walked out of meetings, they were still friends. The Council had great discussions tonight. They did not all agree but they were not supposed to all agree. The Council was here to discuss and share their thoughts on what they thought was right, and he thanked them for that. He thanked people in the audience and online for attending the meeting and noted that the Council needed people's input.

## 22. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

---

Kitty Vodrup, City Recorder

---

Kenneth Wells, Mayor