



Hispanic Advisory Committee Minutes

November 20, 2023

Chair Jose Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. Committee members present were Mark Gomolski, Jessica De La Cruz, and Jesse Roa. Alberto Munoz was excused. Also present was Council Representatives Maria Duron and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. Councilor Barron was not present. Youth Advisors Jeannine Heredia, Sarahi Gutierrez, and Yaneisy Perez were also in attendance. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Presentation- Budget Information and Town Hall Meeting

City Manager Byron Smith presented information (PowerPoint presentation attached) regarding the City's budget, the Special Town Hall Meeting to be held on Monday, November 27th at 5:30pm, public surveys that are in English and Spanish, and asked that members of HAC consider attending the meeting to help any person(s) who attend that may need translation services. Byron mentioned that the PowerPoint information presented today would be what would be presented at the Town Hall Meeting and Lilly would translate all the information this week to allow the Committee time to review the materials.

Jessica De La Cruz and Jesse Roa volunteered to attend the meeting and translate. Members of the Committee also suggested:

- The meeting be held in another location as many people are intimidated with City Hall because they view it as "the Court". Byron stated the City had considered hosting the meeting at another location but City Hall has the best set up for these types of meetings so the City decided against moving it
- Asked that the City consider a vehicle tax and placing parking meters throughout the City for added revenue options

Maria asked the public present to please consider attending this Special Town Hall meeting and participate as the Council and City want to hear from the community.

Presentation- Hermiston Municipal Court

Court Administrator Jillian Viles stated the Court is seeing many Latino individuals who are unable to read that mostly speak Mam and K'iche'. The Court is able to communicate with them using translators, however the true issue is that most are being cited for driving without a license. Municipal Court Judge Cameron Bendixsen does not want to punish people or make things harder on them, instead, he would prefer to help people be in compliance for a better and safer community for all and have them leave Court in a positive position than when they arrived. Currently, DMV does not provide written driving tests in other languages besides English and Spanish, the Court is hoping the Committee will know of resources to help these individuals pass these tests in their language.

The Committee spoke regarding the Court contacting Eualcree who has a Mam speaker on staff and IMESD who work with this population daily. Jose mentioned it may be best to contact DMV and advocate them allowing verbal testing for non-reading individuals.

Jillian thanked the Committee for their suggestions and left her business card (attached) in case they thought of any other suggestions the Court could pursue.

Presentation- Rural Engagement and Vitality Center

Executive Director Grace Donovan gave information (business card attached) regarding the work Rural Engagement and Vitality Center does in Eastern Oregon to support community projects, as well as pushing out information to help find economic pathways to seek opportunities in other areas such as career connected learning and work projects. They would like to hear community needs and help bring in funding, partners, and other resources to help accomplish



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these needs. They mostly work with smaller communities who do not have a city planner to help with transportation issues and housing but are able to work with any community needing support.

Presentation- Energy Trust

Outreach Manager of Eastern Oregon Caryn Appler gave information (PowerPoint presentation attached) regarding all programs that are available and how they can help the public with energy efficiency. Energy Trust works with partners such as Euvalcree to provide translation and outreach services to the Hispanic population regarding their programs. Energy Trust was recently able to help Martha's House provide tankless water heaters to each of their units. Caryn encouraged the community to reach out to Energy Trust or Euvalcree for further information regarding the vast resources they offer.

Presentation- Stepping Stones Alliance

Navigation Center Director Carolina Delgado gave information (attached) regarding Stepping Stones Alliance Open House on 12/07 and the resources that will be available on site, to include: individual sleeping units, restroom and shower facilities, Navigation Center which will house people/programs to help with a variety of items, and more. Carolina stated donations, meals, and volunteers are always needed. Volunteers are needed from 5:30am to 7:30am and 7pm to 9pm. There is an average number of 16 individuals each night at the Sleep Center. This year Stepping Stones Alliance is planning to have the Sleep Center open Thanksgiving and Christmas days. More information is available online.

Meeting Minutes

Mark moved and Jesse seconded to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Motion carried unanimously. (No meeting was held in September.)

Closing Comments

Public Comments

Virginia Garcia Rome, Hermiston- Gave information regarding the MLK Walk which will be held Monday, January 15th at City Hall. The group will be awarding a Diversity Scholarship to a High School Senior. Those interested in applying for that scholarship are encouraged to reach out to Jesus Rome at jesusrome73@gmail.com .

Guadencio Felipe, La Lay 96.1- Stated he provides Spanish information to the public in an effort to help the Spanish speaking members of the community through his non-profit radio station located in Stanfield and offered to push information out from the City as well. Guadencio stated he was contacted by a popular Guatemalan music group who wanted to host an event at EOTEC within a few weeks but was unable to reach anyone at EOTEC or check pricing and asked Guadencio for assistance to do so, which he did. Guadencio stated he wanted the Committee to know that EOTEC would not work with him on the requested date and prices were set to high, at \$6,000 per event, it costs more to host an event at EOTEC than in Tri-Cities, and therefore the Guatemalan music group performed in Tri-Cities.

Lilly stated Event Centers in Hermiston are usually booked a year or more in advance with weddings, quinceaneras, and other events throughout the year, so perhaps it wasn't that EOTEC staff did not want to work with him on the requested date, it's that the date was already reserved for another event, in which case there is no other option. Lilly stated all City Fee's, including fees to use EOTEC, are located on the City's website for all to see and believes that area comparison pricing was completed before EOTEC prices were established.



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David Cortinas, La Voz (business card attached) - Stated he used to attend each HAC meeting when the Committee was first created and thanks the service HAC provides for the Community, and spoke regarding:

- Suggested the City hire a licensed translator for community meetings as no one was able to translate for Guadencio. David stated all other cities provide licensed translation services at public meetings
- Stated the proposed \$250.00 per year Business License Fee that City Manager Smith presented is too high. He has more than a dozen businesses and does not pay that much for any of his business licenses; in fact, some cities allow him to use the business license that he obtained from other cities so he does not need to obtain a business license in every city that requires them
- Stated the comments made during the Municipal Court presentation about people not being able to read is not true as within the last 18 months his newspapers went from selling 500 newspapers to 2,500 newspapers, proving that people can and are reading
- Stated the City should always use La Lay Radio Station to push out information to the public
- Stated EOTEC charging \$6,000 per event is more expensive than the HAPO Center at \$5,000 per event, so with his help, the popular Guatemalan music group performed at the HAPO Center instead. David stated the Committee should be ashamed of itself for allowing the City to take advantage of the Hispanic population by overcharging its use of EOTEC

Maria thanked David for pushing out information in Spanish by bringing his newspaper back into Hermiston as well as sharing his comments, stating there is always room for improvement; however, members of the Committee are able to translate and she was about to volunteer to translate for Guadencio when he began to repeat the information he was sharing in English himself. Maria stated Councilor Roy Barron is the Council Representative assigned to the EOTEC Committee, who is also Hispanic.

Lilly displayed the Master Fee Schedule (found at: https://www.hermiston.or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/parks_and_recreation/page/16704/rental_price_sheetprofit_-_02-05-23.pdf) focusing on the EOTEC pricing showing Great Room events are priced at \$4,000 not the \$6,000 Guadencio and David mentioned. Lilly stated for years EOTEC General Manager Al Davis has come to many HAC meetings to ask for input to plan Hispanic community events like Cinco de Mayo, has asked Committee members and the Hispanic Community as a whole to be more involved in EOTEC by volunteering to be on the EOTEC Advisory Committee, attend meetings to give input like the community does at HAC meetings, and help organize community events as the Hispanic population uses EOTEC the most, yet still, no one from the Hispanic community has participated in these discussions.

Committee Comments

The Committee thanked all those who presented and participated in the meeting.

Youth Representatives

Youth Representatives gave information regarding the canned food drive and December 9th Posada event hosted by Juntos.

City Representatives

Maria and Lilly spoke on the following:

- Encouraged the community to attend and participate in the continued City Budget discussion at the Special Town Hall Meeting
- Tree Lighting and Parade event on 11/30 at 5:30pm



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- 1st Annual Año Viego Celebration at EOTEC on 12/31. The Committee and interested community members are encouraged to contact Al Davis at EOTEC to get involved

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 16 at 7:00pm at City Hall Council Chambers as Monday is the MLK Holiday. The Committee will not meet in December due to the Holidays.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10pm.

TOWN HALL MEETING

TOPIC: Updating the City Budget for 2024

- Monday, Nov. 27
- 5:30 p.m.
- Hermiston City Hall
180 NE 2nd St, Downtown Hermiston

JUNTA EN EL AYUNTAMIENTO

TEMA: Actualizando el Presupuesto de la Ciudad para 2024

- Lunes, 27 de Nov
- 5:30 p.m.
- Ayuntamiento de Hermiston
180 NE 2nd St, El Centro de Hermiston



Why are we here?

- FY 2023-24 General Fund Budget Gap
- Gap has been building due to property tax limitations (Measures 5 (early 90's) and 50 (late 90's))
- Utilized One-Time Federal \$\$ (ARPA) to Delay This Discussion



Why are we here?

- General Fund Departments
 - Administration
 - Finance
 - Police
 - Library
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Planning
 - Court
- Enterprise Funds
 - Water
 - Sewer
 - Streets
 - Electric
 - Information Technology
 - EOTEC



Process

- Budget Adopted – June 2023
- Department/Revenue Review Started – June 2023
- Completed Review – November 2023
- Town Hall Discussion – November 27, 2023
 - Including an online survey
- Report to Council/Get Direction (January)



Desired Service Levels

- Various Public Outreach Efforts
 - **2040 Vision Report**
 - **2019 Phone Survey**
 - **2023 Online Survey**
- All showed varied levels of satisfaction for current services
- One showed some willingness to pay for increased police services (ie. more officers)



FY2023-24 Budget

REVENUES

	Adopted FY24-B	Status Quo Budget*
Property Taxes	\$ 7,425,990	\$ 7,425,990
From Other Agencies	1,122,501	1,122,501
Service Charges	2,181,400	2,181,400
Trasf From	2,498,035	2,498,035
Lic & Franchises	1,468,300	1,468,300
Cash Fwd	951,685	951,685
Fines/Penalties	400,000	400,000
Misc Revenue	65,000	65,000
Interest	70,000	70,000
Non-Rev Receipts	723,000	50,000
	\$ 16,905,911	\$ 16,232,911

*Changes from Adopted Budget

- Removes the Loan Proceeds (\$673,000)
- Restores Funding for PT Library Positions (\$100,000)
- Restores Funding for Recreation Coord. Position (\$96,000)
- Restores Council Budget (\$55,000)

EXPENSES

Personnel Costs	\$ 11,299,862	\$ 11,550,352
Mat'ls/Svcs	3,520,428	3,520,428
Transfers	1,479,520	1,479,520
Debt Svc	460,825	460,825
Capital Outlay	92,000	71,500
Contingency	53,276	53,276
	\$ 16,905,911	\$ 17,135,901
	0	-902,990

Possible Addition

- \$370,000 for Three New Officers



Additional Cuts

- Cut Street Funding
- Various Materials and Services Cuts



Possible Revenues

- Increase Transient Room Tax (TRT) Rate
- Utility Fees (Police, Parks and Recreation, etc.)
- Increase Planning and Zoning Fees
- Franchise Fee on Water/Sewer
- Business License Fee
- Local Sales Tax (exempting all food/prescription drug sales)



Possible Revenues

- Local Fuel Tax
- Marijuana Tax
- Local Option Property Tax Levies
- Payroll Tax



Recommendation

- Cuts
 - **Street Maintenance (+\$340,000)**
 - **Materials/Services (+\$150,000)**



Recommendation

• Revenues

- **Planning Department Fees (+\$80,000)**
- **Transient Room Tax 1% Increase (+\$100,000)**
- **Business License Fee (+\$100,000)**
- **Public Safety Fee (\$5/month) (+\$360,000)**
- **COPS Grant (+125,000)**



Recommendation Impact

REVENUES	Adopted	Recommended
	FY24-B	Budget*
Property Taxes	\$ 7,425,990	\$ 7,425,990
From Other Agencies	1,122,501	1,247,501
Service Charges	2,181,400	2,821,400
Trasf From	2,498,035	2,498,035
Lic & Franchises	1,468,300	1,468,300
Cash Fwd	951,685	951,685
Fines/Penalties	400,000	400,000
Misc Revenue	65,000	65,000
Interest	70,000	70,000
Non-Rev Receipts	723,000	50,000
	\$ 16,905,911	\$ 16,997,911
EXPENSES		
Personnel Costs	\$ 11,299,862	\$ 11,729,862
Mat'ls/Svcs	3,520,428	3,372,154
Transfers	1,479,520	1,139,520
Debt Svc	460,825	460,825
Capital Outlay	92,000	71,500
Contingency	53,276	53,276
	\$ 16,905,911	\$ 16,827,137
	0	170,774

*Changes from Adopted Budget

- Removes the Loan Proceeds (\$673,000)
- Restores Funding for PT Library Positions (\$100,000)
- Restores Funding for Recreation Coord. Position (\$96,000)
- Restores Council Budget (\$55,000)

*Additional Recommended Changes

- Staff Recommended Cuts in Non-Staff Areas (\$150,000)
- Leave 90% of Franchise Fees in General Fund (\$340,000)
- Planning Dept. Fee Update (\$80,000)
- Transient Room Tax (TRT) 1% Increase (\$100,000)
- Business License Fee (\$250) -- (\$100,000)
- Public Safety Fee (\$5/month) -- (\$360,000)
- COPS Grant Funding (\$125,000)



Forecast Assumptions

*Changes from Adopted Budget

- Removes the Loan Proceeds (\$673,000)
- Restores Funding for PT Library Positions (\$100,000)
- Restores Funding for Recreation Coord, Position (\$96,000)
- Restores Council Budget (\$55,000)
- Adds Funding for Three New Patrol Officer Positions (\$370,000)

*Additional Recommended Changes

- Staff Recommended Cuts in Non-Staff Areas (\$150,000)
- Leave 90% of Franchise Fees in General Fund (\$340,000)
- Planning Dept. Fee Update (\$80,000)
- Transient Room Tax (TRT) 1% Increase (\$100,000)
- Business License Fee (\$250) - (\$100,000)
- Public Safety Fee (\$5/month) - (\$360,000)
- COPS Grant Funding (\$125,000)

†Projection Assumptions

Revenues

- Property Taxes - 5.5% annual growth based on past five years
- From Other Agencies - 1% annual growth
- Service Charges - 4.5% annual growth based on past five years
- Transfers From - 3% annual growth
- Licenses and Franchises - 3% plus projected Amazon Growth
- Cash Forward - Decreasing as needed
- Fines and Penalties - Best estimate on returning of A Misd. and full PD staffing with 1% growth
- Misc. Revenue - Conservative estimate, Historically no pattern
- Interest - Conservative estimate with unknown interest rate climate
- Non-Revenue Receipts - Conservative, Historically no pattern

Expenses

- Personnel Costs - 5% annual growth
- Materials and Services - 5% annual growth
- Transfers - 3% annual growth
- Debt Service - Steady
- Capital Outlay - Small growth
- Contingency - Steady



Recommendation + Forecast

REVENUES	Adopted	Recommended	Projected†				
	FY24-B	Budget*	FY25-P	FY26-P	FY27-P	FY28-P	FY29-P
Property Taxes	\$ 7,425,990	\$ 7,425,990	\$ 7,834,419	\$ 8,265,313	\$ 8,719,905	\$ 9,199,499	\$ 9,705,472
From Other Agencies	1,122,501	1,247,501	1,259,976	1,272,576	1,160,302	1,171,925	1,193,624
Service Charges	2,181,400	2,721,400	2,843,863	2,971,837	3,105,569	3,245,320	3,391,360
Transf From	2,498,035	2,598,035	2,675,976	2,756,255	2,838,943	2,924,111	3,011,835
Lic & Franchises	1,468,300	1,808,300	1,962,549	2,241,051	2,830,693	3,593,921	4,487,678
Cash Fwd	951,085	951,085	600,000	415,000	200,000	-	-
Fines/Penalties	400,000	275,000	350,000	353,500	357,035	360,605	364,211
Misc Revenue	65,000	65,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Interest	70,000	70,000	70,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Non-Rev Receipts	723,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
	\$ 16,905,911	\$ 17,212,911	\$ 17,746,784	\$ 18,475,531	\$ 19,412,447	\$ 20,695,361	\$ 22,344,179
EXPENSES							
Personnel Costs	\$ 11,299,862	\$ 11,729,862	\$ 12,316,355	\$ 12,932,173	\$ 13,578,781	\$ 14,257,721	\$ 14,970,607
Mat/In/Svcs	3,520,428	3,372,154	3,540,762	3,717,800	3,903,690	4,098,874	4,303,818
Transfers	1,479,520	1,139,520	1,173,706	1,208,917	1,245,184	1,282,540	1,321,016
Debt Svc	460,825	460,825	460,825	460,825	460,825	460,825	460,825
Capital Outlay	92,000	71,500	100,000	100,000	125,000	125,000	125,000
Contingency	53,276	288,276	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000
	\$ 16,905,911	\$ 17,042,137	\$ 17,646,647	\$ 18,474,714	\$ 19,368,481	\$ 20,279,960	\$ 21,236,266
	0	170,774	100,136	817	43,966	415,402	1,107,913



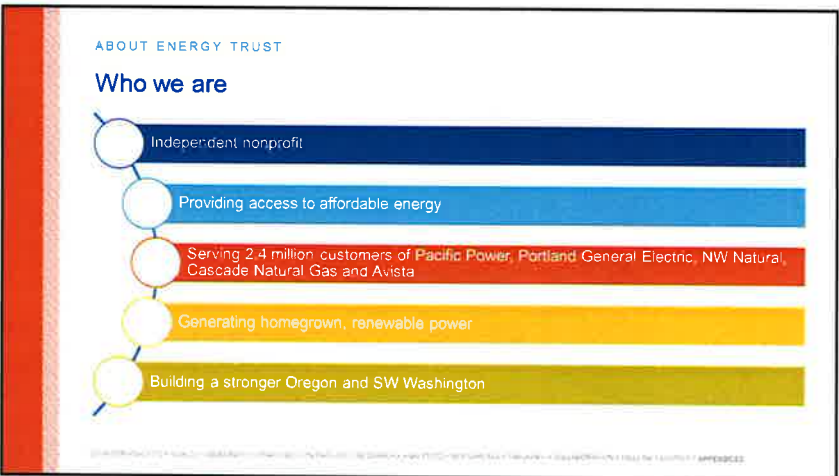
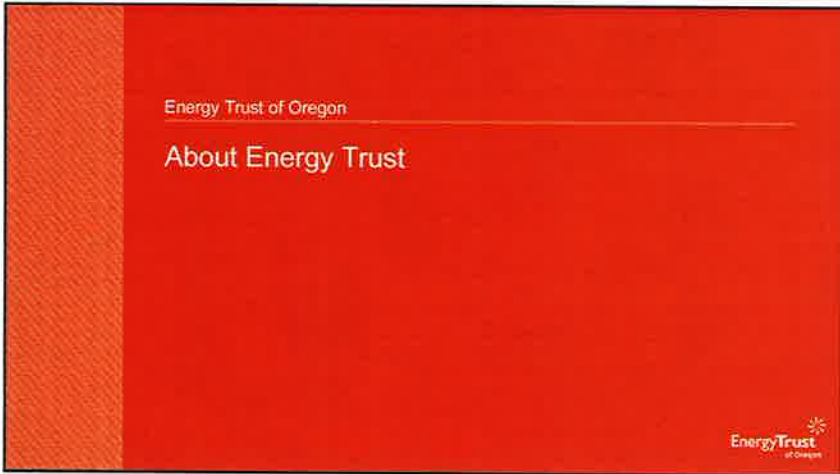


Comments/ Questions?

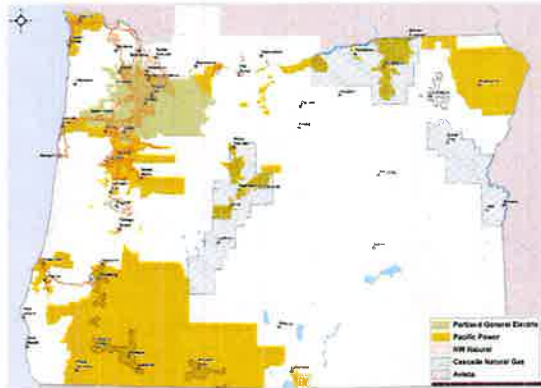
Where Life is Sweet™



- ### Agenda
- About Energy Trust
 - Efficiency programs
 - Community resources
 - Thank you and questions



ABOUT ENERGY TRUST



ODOE find your utility
www.tinyurl.com/FindYourUtility

ABOUT ENERGY TRUST

Why Clean Energy?

- Lowers your utility bills
- Reduces overall costs for all utility customers
- Brings local jobs to your community
- Reduces our reliance on fossil fuel resources

Did you know?

For every \$1 invested in energy efficiency, customers save more than \$3?



ABOUT ENERGY TRUST

Ways We Can Help

Serving Customers

- Energy-efficient upgrades
- Retail level incentives

Information and technical services

- No- and low-cost strategies
- Expert guidance
- Contractor connections
- Walk-through services

Cash Incentives and Discounts

- Renters and homeowners
- Commercial and multifamily property owners
- Industrial and agricultural businesses



Energy Trust of Oregon

Efficiency programs



EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

How we work in the field

Residential
Commercial
Agricultural
Industrial
Renewable



EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

Programs available

- Residential
 - All housing types
 - Cash incentives and financing
- Commercial businesses
- Manufacturing sites
- Farming operations
- Strategic Energy Management



EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

Residential program highlights

- Home energy assessment
- DIY "self-install" attic insulation
- **Smart thermostats** \$80 off qualifying thermostats
- \$1,600 gas furnace incentive for income qualified households
- Manufactured home replacement
- Solar within reach



Energy Trust of Oregon

Community programs



EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

Programs to support community

- No-cost lighting
- Small Business Direct Install (SBDI)
- Community Partner Funding
- Working Together Grants
- Grant writing assistance
- Workforce development
- Contractor development pathway
- “Other” need driven collaboration



EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

Community program highlight

- Community Partner Funding
 - Working with EUVALCREE since 2021
 - Work focuses on
 - LMI
 - Communities of Color
 - Rural
 - Indigenous
 - People experiencing disabilities
 - In home energy assessment
 - Increased financial incentives and no cost offers
 - Work installed by local Trade Ally contractors
 - Will soon be offered for multifamily



THANK YOU

Questions?

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