



**Location:** City Hall – Council Chambers  
**Date:** January 15, 2021  
**Time:** 12:00 PM

## City Council Meeting Agenda

Mayor Jason Beebe, Council Members Steve Uffelman, Janet Hutchison,

Patricia Jungmann, Gail Merritt, Jeff Papke, Raymond Law and City Manager Steve Forrester

**This meeting will be open to the public by telephonic communications due to commitment to eliminate the exposure and spread of COVID-19. This meeting can be attended by calling 346-248-7799 Meeting ID 947 5839 2608. Please visit our website for additional meeting information.**

### Call to Order

### Flag Salute

### Additions to Agenda

### Consent Agenda

### Visitors, Appearances and Requests

### Council Business

1. Council President Election - Mayor Beebe
2. Consideration of Letter to Governor Brown - Steve Forrester / Jered Reid

### Staff Reports and Requests

### Committee Reports

### Ordinances

### Resolutions

### Visitors, Appearances and Requests

### Adjourn

***Agenda items maybe added or removed as necessary after publication deadline***



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January 15, 2021

Dear Governor Brown,

The City of Prineville Council, on behalf of our locally owned foundational businesses, are asking you to consider allowing our businesses to re-open using the same logic and adaptive thinking you deployed that has allowed our school districts to operate. To that end, we ask that you consider taking the following steps:

1. Move to allow our small businesses to reopen using the OSHA COVID guidelines in place prior to the most recent lockdown.
2. Trust our small business owners and employees to manage the COVID safety measures with the same tenacity and hard work that earned them the success they achieved pre-pandemic.

Prineville (established in 1882) is the oldest incorporated city in Central Oregon, and the only incorporated city within Crook County. Prineville and Crook County stand united on this position, and equally feel the desperation of the local economic atmosphere. Prineville has survived world wars, pandemics, a depression, and several recessions. We have reinvented ourselves through adaptability, perseverance, resiliency, and hard work. Our independent spirit and work ethic have resulted in the largest most successful companies in the world investing billions of dollars into our community benefiting our citizens and all of Oregon. Through it all our local small businesses have been the foundation that has supported our success. Today, in our 11<sup>th</sup> month of the COVID pandemic many of our local businesses are facing financial ruin. Hundreds of our citizens are without work and are unable to provide for themselves and their families.

Your past and ongoing support that has provided funding relief is appreciated, but unfortunately, the funding cannot overcome the impact of ongoing shutdowns for the survival of many of our local businesses. By allowing our local businesses a pathway to open following COVID mitigation guidelines set by the State for the safety of our citizens, we can begin to re-build our local business foundation before it is too late.

We place a high priority and value on the health safety of our community, and support our partners at the Crook County Health Department, OHA, and CDC encouraging our citizens to follow health and safety guidelines. The severity of the COVID pandemic is very real, and a tragic health crisis that have claimed the lives of too many of our friends, family, and citizens. We have worked hand in hand with the Crook County Health Department, and all of our local health care providers and first responders, to keep our folks safe. Therefore, the City Council

does not support any businesses or organizations who do not operate within Oregon health guidelines.

It is difficult to accept the big corporate box stores remaining open and thriving with obvious COVID mitigation infractions while many of our local business are denied the opportunity to survive. The unintended health consequences of locking down our small businesses are all too real just like the COVID reality. We are concerned the “lockdown” cure can be as harmful to some as the pandemic. Equity is the key to both increasing the opportunity for local businesses survival, and a demonstrated trust that our government believes in our citizens, business owners, and employees’ ability to do all we can to operate safely. We are concerned that not acting soon will lead our community to lose the ability to recover. Not recovering is not an option. We need your help now, before we reach the point of no return.

We are truly at a crossroads in Prineville. Many of our citizens are confused, frustrated, damn mad, and just plain scared. We cannot afford to continue on the current path, as the price is too high.

Our leadership is critical at this crucial point in time. We have listened to our constituents, and we stand side by side with them. We are respectfully asking for you to develop and deploy a process whereby our local businesses can survive economically, and at the same time operate safely.

Respectfully,

Prineville City Council