

**RIO DELL CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2025**

Mayor Garnes called the Special Meeting of the Rio Dell City Council to order at 12:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Garnes, Councilmembers Wilson and Woodall

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Carter and Councilmember Orr (excused)

Others Present: City Manager Knopp, and City Clerk Dunham

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Garnes called for public comment on matters not on the agenda.

Michael Panus, 1173 Riverside Dr. addressed the Council and asked how long access would be restricted on the river bar noting that he understood the trail project would be completed by the end of December.

City Manager Knopp commented that he had a meeting scheduled for later this afternoon and would have more information then. He said that the contractor was getting ready to do the hot mix asphalt and paving, weather permitting. The goal is to get the project completed as soon as possible and restore all the access. He invited Mr. Panus to contact him later in the day for an update.

SPECIAL MEETING MATTERS

Approve Employment Agreement with Chief of Police Joshua Phinney

City Manager Knopp thanked the Council for meeting and said that the reason for scheduling the special meeting was to expedite the hiring process for the Chief of Police. Under the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC), the appointment requires a confirmation process by the City Council which is the formal approval of the employment agreement. He noted there would be more ceremonial matters at the next regular meeting on February 4, 2025.

Staff's recommendation was to confirm the appointment of Joshua Phinney as Chief of Police and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.

A motion was made by Woodall/Wilson to confirm the appointment of Joshua Phinney as Chief of Police and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement as presented. The motion carried 3-0.

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Swearing-In of Chief of Police Joshua Phinney

Mayor Garnes administered the Oath of Allegiance to Chief Phinney followed by a round of applause by staff and public members present.

Chief Phinney thanked the City Council for the opportunity and said that it was a great honor and looked forward to strengthening the partnership and moving the city forward.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Wilson/Woodall to adjourn the meeting at 12:08 p.m. to the February 4, 2025 regular meeting.

Debra Garnes, Mayor

Karen Dunham, City Clerk