

HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

November 26, 2018

Mayor Drotzmann called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Councilors Primmer, Myers, Smith, Gutierrez, Hardin, Davis, Kirwan, and Barron. Staff members in attendance were City Manager Byron Smith, City Attorney Gary Luisi, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, Chief Edmiston, Clint Spencer, Mark Krawczyk, Nate Rivera, Larry Fetter, Thomas Creasing, and Lilly Alarcon-Strong. News media present was Jade McDowell from East Oregonian and Michael Kane from NE Oregon Now. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Consent Agenda Items

Councilor Primmer asked to remove item A, Councilor Davis moved and Councilor Primmer seconded to approve Consent Agenda items B-K, to include:

- B. Minutes of the Oct 10, 2018 regular planning commission meeting.
- C. Minutes of the October 2nd, Faith-Based Advisory Committee
- D. Minutes of the October 15, Hispanic Advisory Committee meeting
- E. Minutes of the November 13th, City Council work session and regular meeting
- F. Recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Committee for the remaining portion of a 3-year term beginning December 11, 2018 and ending October 31st, 2019: position #7- Ryan Severs
- G. Recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Committee for the remaining portion of a 3-year term beginning December 11, 2018 and ending October 31st, 2021: position #1- Jeffrey Kelso, #2- Larry Usher, #3- Gary Thompson
- H. Recommendation to the Hispanic Advisory Committee for the remaining portion of a 3-year term beginning December 11, 2018 and ending June 30th, 2019: position #5- Nazario Rivera
- I. Recommendation to the Hispanic Advisory Committee for the remaining portion of a 3-year term beginning December 11, 2018 and ending June 30th, 2020: position #2- Jonathan Lopez
- J. Recommendation to the Community Accountability Board beginning December 11th, 2018- Jackie Linton
- K. Recommendation to the Recreation Projects Fund Advisory Committee for the 3-year term beginning January 1st, 2019 and ending December 31, 2021: position #5- Lori Davis

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Drotzmann congratulated all the newly appointed Board and Committee members and thanked all those who applied, were interviewed, and are interested in serving.

Items Removed from Consent Agenda

- A. Cook Partition

Councilor Primmer stated he would like more information regarding Consent Agenda Item A.

City Manager Smith stated this property is moving forward with a sale and would like to divide the property into three separate lots to accommodate potential development. This item has been approved by the Planning Department and Planning Commission.

Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor Smith seconded to approve item A from the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2116 Senior/Disabled Taxi Program Changes

Assistant City Manager Morgan presented the Council with information regarding Resolution No. 2116 (PowerPoint Presentation attached) stating the resolution increases the price for Senior & Disabled Taxi Tickets from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per ticket. The last increase was in 2009 from \$1.75 to \$2.00. This increase is to

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account for increased operating costs of the taxi system, the availability of the free fixed-route bus service called HART, and the Hospitals Care Van Service. Regardless, additional funds will be needed to supplement this service.

Public Comment

Kimberly Macias, 80448 Sage Brush Road- Asked how riders obtain tickets and recommended using more social media to increase ridership of the HART.

Mr. Morgan stated riders must come to City Hall to purchase tickets.

Mayor Drotzmann encouraged Ms. Macias to attend the Transportation Committee meetings to voice her ideas and thoughts about HART.

Jackie Linton, 111 E Beech Ave – Asked what the age requirements are for seniors and those with disabilities to use the Taxi Ticket system.

Mr. Morgan stated seniors must be 60 years old, those with disabilities can be any age but must have a Social Security Disability Statement.

After some discussion regarding the 2019-20 Budget and State Transportation Funding, Councilor Kirwan moved and Councilor Davis seconded to approve Resolution No. 2116 and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2117 Hermiston Energy Services Rates and Policy Update

The resolution would adopt the Hermiston Energy Services Customer Service Policies, Rates, & Associated Fees Manual as presented earlier during the work session.

Councilor Kirwan stated he would like additional clarification regarding those items he indicated, during the work session, prior to voting on this item.

The Council agreed and Councilor Davis moved and Councilor Primmer seconded to table Resolution No. 2117 to the following meeting to allow HES General Manager, Nate Rivera, more time to collect this information. Councilor Myers, Smith, Primmer, Hardin, Davis, Kirwan, and Barron voted yes; Councilor Gutierrez voted no. Motion carried 7-1.

(Michael Kane exited the meeting 7:33pm)

October 2018 Financial Report

Councilor Hardin moved and Councilor Primmer seconded to accept the October financial report as presented by Finance Director Mark Krawczyk. Motion carried unanimously.

City Council Meeting on December 24, 2018

Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor Davis seconded to cancel the 2nd meeting in December, Monday, December 24, 2018, as recommended by City Manager Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

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Committee Reports

Hispanic Advisory Committee: Councilor Gutierrez stated the Committee heard a presentation by the Hermiston School District regarding all the holiday events scheduled and Jesse Roa regarding grants received to purchase necessities and gifts for those in need. Other scheduled presenters did not attend the meeting.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Drotzmann reminded the Council to sign-up with City Recorder, Lilly Alarcon-Strong, if they would like to attend the League of Oregon Cities Elected Essentials Training, National League of Cities Congressional City Conference, and League of Oregon Cities City Day at the Capital. He and City Manager Smith will be attending the Business Summit next month.

Parks and Recreation Director Larry Fetter gave information regarding:

- Community Tree Lighting Event on Thursday, December 6th at 6:00pm and stated this year's tree was donated by Jason Barron, the Parks Supervisor.
- Pancakes with Santa
- Holiday Bazaar
- Kiwanis selling Christmas Trees at the Community Center

Council Report

Councilor Hardin commented regarding the Christmas Express work party and potluck on Tuesday, December 11th at 6:30pm at the Community Center and he believes there will not be a Journey to Bethlehem play put on this year.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Smith stated the County has invited both he and Mayor Drotzmann to speak with their Charter Review Committee regarding the City's form of government.

Recess For Executive Session

Mayor Drotzmann recessed the regular meeting at 8:02pm and stated the City Council of the City of Hermiston will now meet in Executive Session in the City Hall Conference Room for the purpose of discussing matters pertaining to labor negotiations. The Executive Session is held pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2) (d) which allows the Council to meet in Executive Session to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the Council to carry labor negotiations. The executive session will last approximately 30 mins.

Reconvene and Adjournment

Mayor Drotzmann reconvened and adjourned the regular meeting at 8:33pm as there was no other business.

SIGNED:

/s/Dr. Dave Drotzmann

MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC

CITY RECORDER



SENIOR & DISABLED TAXI

Feeling the Minimum-Wage Squeeze



PTAC Recommendation

- Increase Price: \$2.00 → \$2.50
- Increase Redemption: \$6.60 → \$6.75



Summary

- Increase Price: \$2.00 → \$2.50
- Increase Redemption: \$6.60 → \$6.75

	2017	2018 (Projected)
Rides	17,500	~23,000
Revenue	\$35,000	\$46,000
Subsidy	\$80,500	\$105,800
Total Cost:	\$115,500	\$151,800



Summary

- Increase Price: \$2.00 → \$2.50
- Increase Redemption: \$6.60 → \$6.75

	2017	2018 (Projected)	
Rides	17,500	~23,000	
Revenue	\$35,000	\$46,000	→ \$11K Increase
Subsidy	\$80,500	\$105,800	→ \$25K Increase
Total Cost:	\$115,500	\$151,800	



Taxi Ticket Cost-Share

	2009	2018
Rider Cost per ticket	\$2.00	\$2.00
Taxi Receives/ticket	\$6.15	\$6.60
Subsidy/ticket	\$4.15	\$4.60



Taxi Ticket Cost-Share

	2009	2018	Proposal
Rider	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.50
Taxi Receives	\$6.15	\$6.60	\$6.75
Subsidy/ticket	\$4.15	\$4.60	\$4.25



Labor Squeeze

- We want a safe, effective, high quality service
- Taxi Driver Requirements
 - 21 years old
 - Never convicted of a crime
 - License never revoked within last 5 years



The Challenge

- We want:
 - High quality service with quality drivers
 - Low cost of service
- Reality
 - Min. Wage Up
 - Unemployment Low



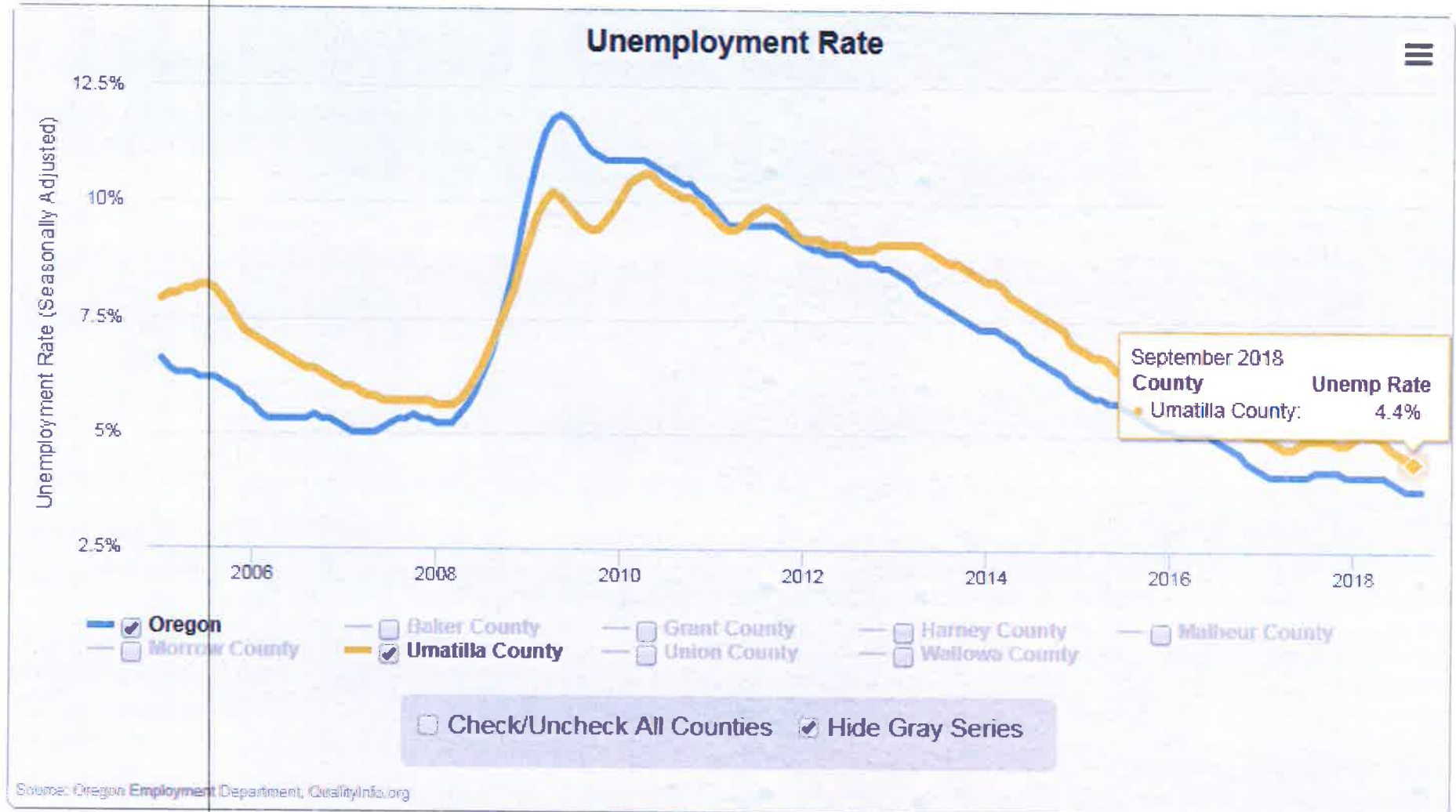
Labor Squeeze

- 2018 Taxi Drivers Earn: \$11/hr to \$11.50/hr

Oregon/Local Minimum Wage		
2009	\$8.40	9.2% Increase (7 years)
2013	\$8.95	
2015	\$9.25	
SB 1532 Passed		26.0% Increase (7 years)
2016	\$9.50	
2018	\$10.50	
2020	\$11.50	
2022	\$12.50	



Labor Squeeze





Hospital's CareVan

- Began Operations 2007
- Operating two vans since 2008
- Serves much of the old need for medical appointments





HART Bus Service

- Free service 9am – 5pm
- Hours expanding* in Jan.: 7am – 5pm
- Began Operating early 2017: 2,700 rides
- 2018: 8,000 rides through October





HART Use by Taxi Riders

- Very Low
 - Lower level of service
- Taxi Ridership up since HART Started
- Encouraged to combine Taxi and HART Rides





HART Bus Service

- Taxi Rate Increase Originally Assumed
- PTAC Recommended Delay
- Little Incentive to transition from Taxi





PTAC Recommendation

- Staff Recommended \$3 Ticket
- PTAC Recommends \$2.50 Ticket
 - Can be raised in future
 - Taxi rides can be combined with HART





Recommendation

- Approve Resolution as presented
 - Assume supplemental budget in Spring
 - Prepare for future ticket increases
 - Prepare for future reimbursement increases





Other Alternatives

- Approve & Cap Tickets
 - Avoid supplemental budget in Spring
- Deny & Cap Tickets
 - Avoid Supplemental budget in Spring
- Deny & No Cap
 - Assume supplemental budget in Spring





Questions?

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