

Minutes, Johnson City Council Meeting

July 15, 2025

Opening: Mayor Vince Whitehead called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Council and attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Mayor Whitehead called roll. In attendance were Council Members Luan Evans, Jacqueline Moritz, Margaret McCrea, and Mayor Whitehead. Also in attendance was City Recorder Judy Davis.

Approval of Minutes: The Council took time to review the minutes of the June City Council Meeting. Luan Evans discovered an error, in the segment referring to the administration of the Oath of Office, where City Recorder Judy Davis had been listed as City Recorder Judy Evans. Luan Evans moved to adopt the minutes, amended to correcting Ms. Davis' name in the appropriate segment; Jacqueline Moritz seconded the motion. Mayor Whitehead called for a vote. Mayor Whitehead voted aye; Jacqueline Moritz voted aye; Margaret McCrea voted aye; Luan Evans voted aye. There were no Nay votes.

Candidates for City Council Position: Mayor Whitehead announced that we have interviewed two people for the Council position vacated by Randy Anderson at the previous meeting. He asked the Council to review the applications and asked if anyone on the Council wanted to ask either of the applicants, Mike Tranquilla and Tara Schoffstall, any questions. There being none, Mayor Whitehead asked for a nomination for the position. Jacqueline Moritz made a motion to appoint Mike Tranquilla to the position; Luan Evans seconded the motion. Margaret McCrea made a motion to appoint Tara Schoffstall to the position; Vince Whitehead seconded the motion. Mayor Whitehead called for a vote to

appoint Mike Tranquilla to the position. Mayor Whitehead voted aye; Jacqueline Moritz voted aye; Margaret McCrea voted aye; Luan Evans voted aye. There were no Nay votes. Mayor Whitehead then called for a vote to appoint Tara Schoffstall to the position. No one voted Aye.

Oath of Office: Mayor Whitehead administered the Oath of Office to Mike Tranquilla for the City Council position and Mr. Tranquilla and City Recorder Judy Davis signed the required documents.

Replacement of flags: Mayor Whitehead thanked Jacqueline Moritz and Margaret McCrea for their advocacy for new flags for the city. He raised them for the first time on the Fourth of July. There was some discussion about how to properly dispose of the old flags. City Recorder Davis said that in the past we have asked Boy Scout groups to do that for us. Mike Tranquilla volunteered to investigate how we can dispose of the old flags, both American and state, properly. He said he would take it to the Sheriff's office and they could handle the matter.

Contract for Website Development and Webhosting: Mayor Whitehead then called attention to the website creation timeline which he had made and which had been referenced in the Progress Report which had been presented at the June Council meeting. According to our timeline, we are set to vote on which provider we want to use at today's meeting.

He also announced that we have the domain name that we applied for, johnsoncityoregon.gov, which we obtained from GetGov.org. It's free and can't be duplicated or ghosted; it's administered by the Federal government.

Mayor Whitehead also provided an outline of the design qualities that we wanted in our website, which had also been referenced in the Progress Report presented in June.

Margaret McCrea explained that the committee was created when there were only three people on the City Council, which was enough for a quorum. Ms. McCrea said that those three people, which included Jacqueline Moritz, were appointed to be the website committee, and because we knew that that was enough for a quorum for city business, we never met in full at one time, to avoid the appearance of doing city business away from public oversight. She further explained that individual members of the committee have met with each other one on one, but never all three at once. Mayor Whitehead also clarified that during those discussions, no decisions were ever made.

Mayor Whitehead called our attention to the Comparison Chart that Ms. McCrea created, showing all the providers we interviewed with for creating and hosting our website. The chart compared the services that each provider offered as well as their costs and whether we thought they would be suitable for our needs.

Mayor Whitehead then turned the discussion to Ms. McCrea to explain the Comparison Chart, which she did. She gave a copy to each of the Council members and to the two residents who were observing the meeting.

There followed a wide-ranging discussion about several topics, which are summarized below, based on questions from the Council members.

- a. Mayor Whitehead asked if Appaloosa would maintain the johnsoncity.us domain name. Ms. McCrea read from an email from Mr. Tichy explaining that the old domain name would point to our website.

b. The risks of relying on a “one man business.” Mr. Tichy has arranged for someone to take over his business should become unable to perform his obligations. In addition, when he travels he takes his laptop with him and he checks his clients’ businesses twice a day, so he provides service 24/7. But he also charges for technical support, about \$65 a month for four hours, or whatever we choose to pay him for. In addition, the hosting service that he provides is not done in his home on his personal computer. Instead, he sets up his clients’ hosting with Ionos, a large web-hosting business in the Midwest.

c. Is he willing to give up his ownership of the .us website? He has told us that he is going to give us that domain name, and Ms. McCrea read from his Proposal Letter of July 1: *Upon payment in full for this project, Appaloosa will gift the City of Johnson City the domain name johnsoncity.us to the City of Johnson City. The domain name will remain in Appaloosa's custody account on behalf of the City of Johnson City, and Appaloosa will be responsible for keeping the domain registered.* Ms. Schoffstall called out an objection again.

d. Can we use the bandwidth we pay for with Comcast that provides our computer services? Ms. McCrea explained that Comcast does not provide webhosting services, that what the City pays for is data storage.

e. What kind of contract does Mr. Tichy require? Ms. McCrea explained that his Letter of Proposal is pretty much the contract that he is offering us. The Proposal includes language that allows the parties to amend or change the contract by written agreement signed by both parties, and that either party may terminate the contract with thirty days written notice.

f. What is the process going forward? If we decide to use Mr. Tichy's services, then the Mayor and the City Recorder will sign the contract, and Mr. Tichy plans to have the first draft of the website available to us for review before the next City Council meeting.

g. How will we manage emails? This is still a topic to be worked out with Appaloosa, but it was noted that we want to protect the private email addresses of the city officials and city councilors. We can have an auto-responder that assures our correspondent that the email has been received and which gives us time to respond.

h. Will we get to see a mock-up of our website in advance? Yes, probably at the next city council meeting.

Input by Ms. Schoffstall. During this discussion there were several interruptions by Ms. Shoffstall, but at this point, Mayor Whitehead asked Ms. Schoffstall to come to the table to give us her input. Ms. Schoffstall said "My only real true issue is that I don't like the fact that you're using johnsoncity.us because it was priorily used as a personal website and it should be an official website from the get-go, so any, it should mask straight to johnsoncityoregon.gov."

[Person unknown:] "That's what it's going to do."

[Tara] "Yeah, but no, that's not what you were saying, you were saying that you're going to build a site to mask over."

Ms. McCrea read the portion of Mr. Tichy's clarification correspondence stating: *My opinion on the project is that it would be a fresh start/design, perhaps with a few images repurposed from the current site. As far as the process would go, my plan is to create a new website under the existing domain for you to review. Once we're ready to go,*

then the new site could be moved to the new domain, and the old domain would be set up to automatically forward to the official site.)

[Tara] “That’s what I don’t like, that’s the part that I don’t like. [garbled]

[Luan] “What about that don’t you like?”

[Tara] “I don’t like that because if somebody types in johnsoncity.us, which is the old website which was put in the newsletter which was sent to people so that people know that it [garbled].”

[Luan] “Get to the point of what the issue is.”

[Tara] “The issue is that, I already said that, it was a personal website with a personal domain that was not ever representative of the city, whereas .gov is.”

[Luan] “So that’s what we’re doing . . .”

[Tara] “I know what you’re doing . . .”

[Luan] “Tara, I listened to you, now listen to me. We’re creating a brand new website but johnsoncity.us still exists. It exists in the ether, it’s been put out there. What it’s going to do is if you type in johnsoncity.us, it will redirect . . .”

[Tara] “No, the site should be shut down or just be [garbled] as a tenant one.”

[Luan] “Why? Why?”

[Tara] [garbled, but the word tenant was heard.]

[Several voices at once.]

[Tara] “I’m not here to argue. You asked me for my opinion . . .”

[Luan] “You are here to argue.”

[Several voices at once.]

Vote on the Proposal:

Mayor Whitehead called for a vote to accept the Proposal provided by Appaloosa Business Services. Ms. McCrea asked for a motion to approach Paul Tichy to clarify our issues and to go forward with making a contract with him for web design services, but to keep the door open to modifying the Proposal if there’s something we don’t like.

Ms. McCrea: “You tell me what would be a dealbreaker here.”

Vince Whitehead: “If we do that, then we cannot accept his proposal until next month.”

[Margaret] “So what you’re saying is that we should sign a contract with him. . . .”

[Mayor Whitehead] “I’m saying we should accept the proposal that he has done and that we will create a contract off of it and then have him sign it and get things going.”

Mike Tranquilla commented that we have a thirty-day offramp, so if we sign something we don’t like, we can end it quickly.

Luan praised the amount of work that has gone into this.

Mayor Whitehead pointed out that we can have a committee work session that will be public; we would give notice, meet with Paul Tichy, and go through these questions again. Neither Luan Evans or Mike Tranquilla thought that would be necessary.

Mayor Whitehead called for a motion again. Jacqueline Mortiz made the motion, Luan seconded it. Mayor Whitehead called for a vote. Mayor Whitehead voted aye; Jacqueline Moritz voted aye; Margaret McCrea voted aye; Luan Evans voted aye; Mike Tranquilla voted aye. There were no Nay votes.

City Recorder Davis pointed out to us that we can have a work session regarding the website, if we make it public and give enough notice, so we can avoid the appearance of having a private decision-making meeting.

Ms. Schoffstall pointed out that the process of meeting one-on-one was subverting the public meetings law.

The meeting fell into general argument. Mayor Whitehead asked for a motion to end the meeting. Mike Tranquilla so moved, Jacqueline Moritz seconded, Mayor Whitehead called for a vote. Mayor Whitehead voted aye; Jacqueline Moritz voted aye; Margaret McCrea voted aye; Luan Evans voted aye. There were no Nay votes.

The meeting ended at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret McCrea