

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Michael Preedin      Mayor  
Andrea Blum          Council President  
Jennifer Letz        Councilor  
Gary Ross            Councilor  
Susan Cobb          Councilor

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jordan Wheeler      City Manager  
Kerry Prosser        Assistant City Manager  
Joe O'Neill          Finance Director  
Scott Woodford      CDD Director  
Paul Bertagna        PW Director  
Rebecca Green       Deputy Recorder

The meeting recording is available here:

<https://www.ci.sisters.or.us/bc-citycouncil/page/city-council-meeting-332>

**1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Preedin at 6:43 pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Council President Blum made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Cobb seconded the motion. Preedin, Blum, Letz, Ross, and Cobb voted aye; the motion carried 5-0.*

**4. VISITOR COMMUNICATION**

Shereé Vance of Sisters Business Association (SBA) spoke to their work on behalf of businesses in Sisters. SBA exists to support all businesses grow and succeed. Upcoming activities include “A Taste of Sisters” in the fall, monthly “Sip and Mingle” gatherings and monthly “Morning Perk” events with speakers.

**5. PROCLAMATION**

**A. Arbor Day Proclamation**

Mayor Preedin read the proclamation. Councilors Ross and Cobb indicated they would attend the Arbor Day celebration on April 26, 10am at Creekside Park. Urban Forestry Board member Therese Kollerer said that over 100 trees will be planted at the celebration and that adults can also participate.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Minutes**

1. September 05, 2023 – Special Meeting
2. March 13, 2024 – Workshop
3. March 13, 2024 – Regular Meeting

- B. Authorize the City Manager to execute a grant agreement with the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) for a \$100,000 Housing Planning Assistance Grant to support the City's Urban Growth Boundary Amendment process.
- C. Authorize the City Manager to sign an In-Stream Lease Renewal Application.

*Councilor Ross made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilor Cobb seconded the motion. Preedin, Blum, Letz, Ross, and Cobb voted aye; the motion carried 5-0.*

## **7. COUNCIL BUSINESS**

- A. Approve a Commercial Lease with Shannon Thorson dba Sisters Makers for 291 E Main Avenue and Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Agreement.

Assistant City Manager Prosser spoke to the process of awarding the lease; Preedin and Ross contributed their thoughts on the selection process as well. Sisters Makers founder Shannon Thorson provided an overview of Sisters Makers. The mission is to support artists, makers, growers, and innovators with facilities, education, and advocacy. Thorson spoke to the value of the 291 E. Main Ave. building to their mission and to the activities the organization will offer to the community and visitors. Council queried Thorson on the structure of the organization.

*Council President Blum made a motion to approve the Commercial Lease with Shannon Thorson dba Sisters Makers for 291 E Main Avenue and authorized the City Manager to execute the agreement. Councilor Ross seconded the motion. Preedin, Blum, Letz, Ross, and Cobb voted aye; the motion carried 5-0.*

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. Budget Committee Appointment

Mayor Preedin approved the appointment of Robin Smith to the Budget Committee for the term 4/10/2024- 12/31/2026.

- B. Staff Comments

City Manager Wheeler presented updates for all departments:

- Development services: The Planning Commission discussed the Short-Term Rental Program at their April 4, 2024, meeting, providing feedback on the 500-foot concentration limit in the mixed-use zoning areas in the Downtown Commercial District; the program will be considered again at an upcoming Planning

Commission meeting before returning to Council. Wheeler noted there will be an update on the Sun Ranch Text Amendment in the city's April edition of the Roundup Newsletter. This item is also being considered by the Planning Commission before it returns to Council. The Urban Growth Boundary kickoff meeting with MIG consultants is April 11. The Community Garden group continues to look at options for a new space, including the Sun Ranch property and Cliff Clemons Park. New home permits are being issued for Sunset Meadows.

- Public Works: the [Locust Roundabout](#) is on schedule, with an opening date of May 24. The design of the [East Portal Mobility Hub](#) is 90% complete. A One-Stop meeting occurred today that outlined opportunities for different loan programs to pay for city projects such as upcoming water projects. Creekside Campground opened April 1, everything is going well. The Finance Department is developing the budget; Budget Committee meetings will occur May 15 & 16, 2024.
- Administration: Civic Leadership Academy starts on Monday, April 16. Administration is working on next steps with the Vision Implementation Team. Management is meeting with Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC), focusing on community conversations about houselessness. The Urban Renewal Agency will meet April 24 at 4pm, followed by the Council meeting at 5pm.

## **8. MAYOR/COUNCILOR BUSINESS**

Councilor Letz recently attended a Deschutes County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting. She stated that the Oregon Department of Transportation has a number of grants available this year, including the Community Paths Grant Program, Innovative Mobility microgrants, carbon reduction grants, and EV chargers grants. Letz spoke to the McKenzie Hwy pavement improvements project, saying that it will impact bicyclists' ability to utilize the road in early summer, but that the improvements will create long-term safer riding. There will be a permeable pavement workshop in June 2024.

Councilor Cobb stated she attended the U.S. Forest Service - Sisters Ranger District event on April 9. She spoke to the 144 trees being removed along the Tie Trail and Pine Street for powerline maintenance and suggested the city provide information to the public ahead of the project. The trail will be closed during the time of tree removal. Cobb stated that this winter's snow level is at 108% of need. Fire season starts July 4.

Councilor Ross also attended the Ranger District event. He stated there was a lot of information about the restoration work being done. Ross also went to the Economic Development Central Oregon (EDCO) meeting, also about powerlines issues. Ross attended the April Urban Forestry Board meeting, where they are focusing on a heritage tree nomination form. Heritage trees can be nominated for both city and private property trees. The Board has vetted the first iteration of the form and spoke to issues of cost. The

Community Garden group has been exploring options for space. The City Parks Advisory Board rejected the idea of putting the garden at Cliff Clemons park. There is more work to be done, involving the neighborhoods, community, staff, and council. Mayor Preedin suggested a long-term solution may be to utilize Urban Growth Boundary acreage.

Blum attended the Public Works Advisory Committee, where the pavement schedule for streets was reviewed. Blum was pleased to see the good conditions of our streets. Blum spoke to the recent McKinney-Vento, National Center for Homeless Education report of houseless youth within the school year. In Sisters during the school year of 2024, there were 26 houseless youth (K-12); in 2023, there were 22. Only two of the 26 are unaccompanied youth. Blum spoke to further statistics within the report.

Mayor Preedin spoke about the Oregon Mayors Association and will be giving a presentation about UGB expansion at the OMA conference in July. Preedin attended the recent Central Oregon Cities Organization (COCO) meeting in which Oregon Water Resources Department and the Oregon Water Resources Committee spoke about changing rules for ground water rights. Preedin represented the City of Sisters, and with other local leaders spoke to long-term local efforts that have worked, and the desire to maintain local governance. Preedin threw the first pitch at Opening Day for Sisters Little League.

**9. ADJOURN: 7:46 p.m.**



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Rebecca Green, Deputy Recorder



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Michael Preedin, Mayor