

CITY OF WAPATO

Regular Council Meeting
Minutes of July 1st, 2024

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Margaret Estrada called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

- a. Welcome by Mayor Margaret Estrada
- b. Flag Salute Led by Council Member Frank Jaime

ROLL CALL:

- a. Council Members in attendance: Chuck Stephens, Rita Alvarado, Frank Jaime, Ken Workman, Oscar Gonzalez, Elizabeth Villa, and Caroline Solis.
- b. City Staff in attendance: Interim Clerk Alondra Juarez, Fire Chief Bob Clark, Public Works Director Jeff Schumacker. Police Chief: Craig Janis
- c. Others that were present: Mid Valley TV Sean Davido, City Attorney: Julie Norton.

Open Government Presentation: Julie Norton

Public conduct and presentations regarding council meeting matters. She spoke about the council duties and preparation for reviewing agenda to prepare for council meetings. Council meetings are to take care of City business, pay bills, approve contracts, and adopt policies. Julie also spoke about the purpose of the special meetings before the council meeting. Special meetings is when council can review and ask questions about for more in-depth detail on agenda. The Public is allowed to attend and observe all meetings except on the close executive meetings. The public is also allowed to make comments on the public comments to state their concerns. They are not allowed to speak during meeting or cause disruptions, that is state law. also spoke about public comment and public hearing, reference RCW.4230.

MEETING AGENDA:

Additions & Deletions. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the meeting agenda. Council member Caroline Solis motioned to approve the meeting agenda. Council member Chuck Stephen's seconded.

MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes from June 17 ,2024, were presented for approval. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the June 17, 2024 meeting minutes. Council member Frank Jaime made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Council member Caroline Solis seconded; motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the consent agenda. Council member Rita Alvarado made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council member Frank Jaime seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Daniel Cheney: Would like to mention she attended a family night light market in grand view. She is the owner of a small business and would like to see an event like that happen in Wapato on a Friday night. It would be a great opportunity for all the small business owners and farmers of the city. It would also be a fun event for the youth and families. Although she does not know exactly what all is required and necessary to have an event like that, she has hope that an event like this can still happen and come together for our community.

Kiona Dick: comment on fireworks, knows there is a city ordinance on fireworks. Kiona states there are no firework stands in the city this year. She mentioned that fireworks are pretty bad and is like a military zone especially down Camas Avenue. She mentioned they followed the police Chief last year and noticed people would stop popping fireworks, but the evidence was still there. She mentioned that all the tribal housing projects has security for the last 3 years. She mentioned that if the residents there get caught popping fireworks, they get \$200.00 fine added to their bill. She notices Apas has been quiet. Kiona would like to know if there is something the city can do.

Gina Ramos: Gina wanted to know who she would be able to talk to about a garbage complaint. She mentioned that the cement on the front of her uncle's property is breaking due to the garbage truck trespassing and driving through the lot. Gina also asked for the RCW on the Julie Norton presentation. RCW.4230

Chelsey Dimas: Wanted to inform council and the public she is running for state representative in new district 14 position 1. She would like to let the council know she is running and is available to answer questions.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bob Clark spoke on the changes that council requested. Noted the three changes, building permit for \$500.00 and under, the flat rate increase of 1%, number 15 for the flooded hazard determinations which was eliminate. Mayor Margaret Estrada called motion to approve old business. Council member Frank Jaime motioned. Council member Chuck Stephen's seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Water efficiency public forum- G&O Presentation.

Nancy from Gray and Osborn gave a presentation about the water efficiency public forum. She spoke about the goals they have for the city in regard to water usage and encouraging residents to use water efficiently. Also have the city change out any old meters to help be more accurate with the water efficiency reports. She spoke about the requirements that the state requires. The city is composed of 1000- 2499 connections, and therefore, is required to implement five additional measures. 1.) implementing Irrigation timers- ongoing, applies to two customer classes. (2 measures) 2) Notify customers of high meter reads- ongoing, applies to one customer classes. (1 measure) 3) Show consumption history on month bills- ongoing applies to two Customers classes (2measures). Measures that affect multiple customer classes count as multiple WUE measures. The City of Wapato currently has three customer classes (City, Commercial, and Residential). The state requires every city to have goals, and council would have to approve of those goals, public comment was open to the public. There was no public comment. City mayor Margaret Estrada called for a motion to approve of the water efficiency public forum. Council member Frank Jaime motion to approve. Council member Ken Workman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Water System Plan Update- G&O Presentation.

Nancy from Gray and Osborn spoke about the plan they have been working on with engineers. They will need the approval of the plan that will be good for 10 years, the plan will give them the mechanism to apply for future funding. The city Owen's Well 3,4, and 5. City does not own Well 1 and 2. Well 5 has high manganese levels and requires treatment, reservoir No.1 replacement of rehabilitation. Reservoir No.2 coding assessment and structural analysis. We will be looking at data evaluation in 2026 to evaluate data from 2024 and 2025. Nancy also spoke about the Capital improvement financing, the city will have to increase rates to complete the well projects over the next due years. There is funding needed for 10 years capital improvement. Potential funding source for the city, USDA rural development, community Development Block Grant, Drinking water state revolving fund, public works trust fund, specialty programs- SIED funds, ARPA, and Legislative appropriations. Open for public comment, no public comment was made. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for motion to approve water system plan update. Council member Frank Jaime motion to Approve. Council member Ken Workman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

C. TIB consultant agreement— North Ahtanum Ave Reconstruction.

Nancy from Gray and Osborn spoke about the TIB agreement. Gray and Osborn have also been working on the reconstruction and design on North Ahtanum all the way to 1st street. City Mayor Margaret Estrada called for motion to approve of the North Ahtanum Ave reconstruction. Council member Frank Jaime motion to approve. Council member Rita Alvarado seconded. Motion Carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police Chief: Craig Janis

465 calls for the month of June. 5 assaults, 7 domestics, 1 recover stolen vehicle, 3 overdose, 1 rape, 51 traffic stops, 5 warrant arrest. Has also received reimbursements on officer equipment. All officers are scheduled attend a criminal jurisdiction training, training is sponsored by the Yakima attorneys office. That gives our city officers federal permission to enforce the federal law. Yakima sheriffs department shut down a homeless Camp, they will be cleaning up the area. Chief Craig meet with commissioner, and lieutenant from the Sheriffs department. They found out that a lot of the homeless living there weren't even from this state. Chief is working on a list of permanently banned transients at Noah's ark. Will be implementing the policy and procedures from Noah's Ark. We will probably be Officer Adrian Ramires Graduates from Police Academy July 17th, 2024.

Interim Clerk: Alondra Juarez

Updated on city accounts second quarterlies reconcile to be completed by mid-July, working with DRS and keeping up to date with payments & employees, 10 burials at the cemetery for the month of June, completed payment for B&O taxes for May-June totaling \$13,000. Question from citizens: "Why is City Hall closed on Fridays and how long has it been closed; has it always been closed Fridays?" Ms. Juarez responded, "it has always been closed Fridays, I believe its been like that for a couple of administrations". Bob Clark stated "I believe when mayor Workman and covid came around, that is when he implemented it". Mr. Gonzalez states "a lot of people work during the week and a lot of people also have Fridays off and they would like to go to city hall on a Friday and take care of business, pick up a yard sale sign, stuff like that but it's closed". Oscar believes that opening Fridays should be something to keep in mind to help everyone here in town. Julie mentions it's something that has to be worked with the union. Mr. Gonzalez mentions "we'll have to do what we have to do, we're actually here for the citizens of Wapato. Ken workman asked, "Do unions get involved when they work from 4-5?" Lawyer mentions it's a change in working conditions to change schedules so it would have to be brought up. Rita Alvarado asks, "how often do we update contracts?". Mr. Workman mentions that the contract should be specific to 40 hours worked and not give employees ownership of the shot, the city should remain the boss. He believes the union is on a lot of these contracts, Julie mentions that the union protects the rights of the employees. Mr. Workman would like to talk about this before the next negotiation. Gonzalez asks about his concern about yard sale permits and who is checking to make sure everyone is getting a permit. Mayor Estrada mentioned that police does not have time to check. Mr. Gonzalez believes it's not fair for people to rush to get a permit and another citizen not to have one.

Fire Chief: Bob Clark

Incident with a lady trying to break up a dog fight where she ended up injured. Dogs are in quarantine at humane society waiting on woman's results from injury.

Fire Dept: Mr. Clark acknowledges former fire chief Santos for his years of service and providing him with a lot of training. Call volume: 70 calls for services, slightly down from 78 last June. Continuing to see a lot of overdoses. Fire work season with 4th of July asks citizens to be safe & smart if lighting fireworks, especially with the fires around the community that have destroyed thousands of acres of land. Council Oscar Gonzalez asked for follow up on graffiti; Mr. Clark mentioned it's a work in progress, having business owners cover up within 24 hours

Public Works Director: Jeff Schumacker

Gave description on the otta seal project and letters that were mailed out. Project starts on north side & work up. There will be a 2nd notice given once they are working on each certain road. 100% paid for from grants and will seal up all roads for years; goal is to wrap this project up in 2-3 weeks. Project cost ads up to 800k paid for by transportation of improvement Board Followed up on the city dump day; informed that person must be a city resident followed by showing proof with ID or utility bill. Everything is ready to go for July 13th.

Council member Oscar Gonzalez

Asked what "gifting" to the citizen is considered. Confused on why we can provide a free dump day to the citizens but why the city cannot help the elderly/disabled that need the services and can't go out to the dump day. Jeff explained that the citizens come out & bring their stuff out rather than city employees going out from alley to alley to collect it from citizens. Mr. Gonzalez doesn't agree on this and believes the city should help the elderly/disabled and do something for the community. He doesn't care about the "city paying employees time and a half as long as we're doing something for the community". Mr. Schumacker reiterates "this is a free dump day, no charge to the citizens, they're not paying when they get there".

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the adjournment of the meeting. Council member Rita Alvarado made a motion to adjourn. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

Margaret Estrada, Mayor

Alondra Juarez Interim Clerk