

CITY OF WAPATO

Regular Council Meeting
Minutes of July 15th, 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-Excused, 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.

MEETING AGENDA:

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

MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes from July 1, 2024, were presented for approval. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the July 1, 2024 meeting minutes. Council member Caroline Solis made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Council member Chuck Stephen seconded; the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the consent agenda. Council member Oscar discussed on what submitting power equipment, what was purchased. Jeff Schumacker answered with weed eaters were purchased. Frank Jaime made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council member Chuck Stephen's seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Kiona Dick: I appreciated that the notice from the Mayor was posted about the fireworks. Also that, she reported to the police, there were young kids at the Catholic Church popping fireworks along with stating that they left it a mess and saw bottles of vodka in the parking lot. The police officers did stop and had them move on. Kiona would like a notice to be started for next year's Fourth of July.

Judith Owes: Appreciated the map handed to her and would like to have council members split the map and drive through the community to see if there are safety issues, see something that can improve living standards, alleys maybe giving 100% to let's go Wapato. We can all use a little bit of that; the business area does not look well. Back in 1975, when this town was thriving, we had done nothing but go down. I'm asking you to please open your eyes.

Gina Ramos: Spoke about the cars and the car dealerships run by homeowners. Parking cars on the sidewalk. Some homes have garages that are spray painting and leaving oils on roads. There is a gentleman running a body shop while spray painting and all that is going into our system, so when we get the new system, how will that affect? Back in the day, city workers would go through the alleys, clean up, and pick up all the garbage. But at the same time, they never let residents pile up garbage. There is a house in Elizabeth Street that burnt down that people just throw garbage there, I don't know if it's been cleaned out or not. We do need to take care of that and get after the homeowners. If someone can address the guy that spray paints cars.

Sal Randal: Intersection of 3rd street and Simcoe Ave in front of the liberty theater I'm just question the parking and ability or that. I can't see cars from either direction because of the way the parking is. I have little ones now and start to pay attention to things like that now. If someone can take a look at that and see the angle can be changed, to parallel parking or some type of parking, even a yield sign so we can see. Can get a call back or some type of communication. I don't know if it's a safety issue it just looks like it because I can't see when I look left and right so just wanted to bring it to your attention and hope it's not too much to ask for.
509-969-0864.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Byron Yakima Valley Conference of Governments: YVCOG is creating this climate element grant this updaters for 9 of our communities, a letter of commitment that has been submitted to them. Wapato is the last city in the list. Formalizing the contract that we are going to be using the funding that commerce is proving to create that climate element. Background of the climate element the growth management act law was updated a year to two years ago that created the requirement for this climate element and what it does is look at ways to make

Wapato more resilient. What climate element is going to do is those sorts of things are going to impact the community of Wapato and provides us a path to address that. Will be doing direct contact surveys for the community. Creating some type of incentive and the purpose of the survey is what is important to the community. Waiting for the contract to be finalized. It is a brand-new body of law, \$100 thousand dollar grant from the state. Any sort of money that is left will be used towards the city, for example, adding trees or adding solar panels. This is at no cost to the City of Wapato. Frank Jaime made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council member Caroline Solis seconded, motion carried.

B. Byron Yakima Valley Conference of Governments: Wapato Periodic update grant resolution, looks at the wealth management act and ordinance. Requires city to review and update codes. Make changes where it needs to be done. Looks at zoning ordinance. Comparing codes and changes if needed. If grant is not used up that can be used towards the city. Climate element and periodic projects are due June 30, 2026. Update has been talking to Bob about that the population is growing. Council member Ken Workmen motion to Approve. Council member Frank Jaime seconded. Motion carried.

C. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for approval for Express Liquor License. Council member Chuck Stephen's council member Jaime Frank second it motion carried.

D. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for approval for Las Palmas Liquor License. Council member Jaime Frank council member Oscar Gonzalez second it motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police Chief: Craig Janis

21 calls of service most are traffic stops in parking lot, one overdose.

Interim Clerk: Alondra Juarez

Meeting with auditors and will be going in at 7:30am and going over bank statements and LIG accounts. Will be meeting with the Mayor Margaret at 1:00pm. Setting up for a meeting with the auditors.

Public Works Director: Jeff Schumacker

North side town is getting sealed. Everyone please be patient it will be dusty and messy. The city has been awarded a grant for this project. It will give it 10-20 years of life by doing this. Use the map to give you an idea to know when they are in your area. Naches Ave will also have fire hydrants, water lines, sewer lines, sidewalks, road and the last couple of months. Give it eight weeks. City clean up, 10 loads ended at the dump. I'm getting suggestions from people for next year. Ken would like to thank for the fixing of the pot holes that were fixed by his car.

Fire Chief: Bob Clark

Been very busy animal control has taken in 6 animals.

Code enforcement one case working with the court.

Fire department 38 calls for service where last month June with 78 calls. Take a moment to acknowledge police officers for the help during the fourth of July. Witnessed one firework being lit up by a car and very fortunate to not have burned the car.

Police Chief: Craig Janis

211 calls about 15 a day, 9 agency assist, 9 domestics, 4 firework calls, 2 overdoses, 71 traffic stops. Update on new building, Wi-Fi, cameras, computer, waiting on furniture to arrive, waiting to have their own domain. Dealing with the interpreter service, they have expired contract. Thank you BJ for the water donations. Purchase coolers to have fresh waters for homeless. All business on and also have permits up to date. Educating businesses to have them understand they can't be serving underage. Will have showers for the homeless, nurses, the community center will be used for that. Canopy was donated from the Yakima Nation. Has updated the band list. Officers stated that doing compliance checks on bars temptations waste close until they can update and address that. A k9 donated and is working on having a k9 by November and December. Officer Ramirez will be graduating and Deccio and I will be there. Also would like to acknowledge officer Alcazar and Fairbrook with lifesaving awards and two community members saved a life from a bad accident.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the adjournment of the meeting. Softball fields are almost all finished to dedicate them to Jessie Farias will be bring it up into the agendas soon. Council member Frank Jaime made a motion to adjourn. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

Margaret Estrada, Mayor

Alondra Juarez Interim Clerk