

CITY OF WAPATO

Regular Council Meeting
Minutes of August 05th, 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-Excused, Rita Alvarado, Frank Jaime, Ken Workman, Oscar Gonzalez-Excused, Elizabeth Villa, and Caroline Solis.
- b. City Staff in attendance: Interim Clerk Alondra Juarez, Fire Chief Bob Clark, Public Works Director Jeff Schumacker-Absent. 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 Rita Alvarado motioned to approve the meeting agenda. Council member Frank Jaime seconded.

MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes from July 15, 2024, were presented for approval. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the July 15, 2024 meeting minutes. Council member Rita Alvarado made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Council member Caroline Solis seconded; the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

OPEN GOVERNMENT PRESENTATION: Julie Norton

I was asked by the Mayor and Public Works Director to provide some information for the council in responses in potential inaccurate information that has been circulating regarding permitting for a carnival of the upcoming harvest festival that has been hosted by the lions club. As I understand there is information circulating that the City has failed

to timely approve permits for the carnival. However this is not accurate the City does not have a permitting process or otherwise handle permitting for carnivals. It has never been responsible for approving permits for the carnival in years in the past. In conjunction with that festival or any other festival. The City has agreed to provide all its usual services including trash collection and set up for the event as normal. I and Jeff just wanted that you were all aware of this so that you have information to respond to constituent as appropriate and you can make this publish statement if the City needs us to but I understand there was some concerns about weather the City was responsible for permitting it and its not.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Kiona Dick: President of lions club.

- Clarified that there was an understanding regarding bringing back the carnival and how it got to Facebook.
- Wanted to address the lady who posted the post on Facebook.

Marla Hernandez:

- Mentioned that she had put a comment online to have approval for the carnival and permission to use the City Park.

Colfax Jax:

- Spread the word that him and his crew has started to collect garbage.
- Has given 500 water bottles to the homeless.
- Thanked his crew publicly by helping out.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Officer Ramirez Swearing in Ceremony: Chief Janis: recently graduated from the academy.

South Naches Avenue Progress Estimate: Council Frank Jaime motion to approve Council member Ken Workman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Flock Camera Agreement: Chief Janis: Julie and I spoke on this she's reviewed it. What it is that we are adding 8 additional cameras to the existing system cost is for us to pay upfront, spending \$29,200.00. That gets us on the installed agenda with them, and then we get reimbursed. We are putting some money out, but we are getting reimbursed. Council Rita Alvarado motion to approve Council member Frank Jaime seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Interim Clerk: Alondra Juarez

Working with auditors all month, trying to get reports they have requested budgets just completed the audits for the bank statements. We will be having a meeting with Margaret, Chad, and Jeff to go over reports or budgets that have been approved through the council.

Fire Chief: Bob Clark

Animal control: 9 animals taken to the human society.

Code enforcement: Has been working on a case on the North side of town, with excess garbage and trash that neighbors have complained about. Last Friday, I met with commissioners and the Mayor to try to serve our homeless population as a whole.

Fire department: 77 calls for service up 17%. 2 calls of note and 1 call for overdose.

Officer Alcazar noticed 3 cars on fire at Martinez. They were able to put it out. Thanking Alcazar and Fair Brook for assisting.

Police Chief: Craig Janis

345 calls for service. Some of the calls were 10 business alarms, 7 domestic, and 5 overdoses. It's a concern that needs to be addressed. Also been working with the parking issues. 91 traffic stops in the last two weeks, 2 sex crimes 24 suspicious circumstances. Officers out in the public taking action. We are out there being proactive and not just sitting in one spot. Has ordered two new radar units for the cars in the front and rear. Hand-held blazer with the traffic safety grant. Noah's Ark's has shut their doors since last week. Security issues and several issues were brought up to me, the Chief, and the Mayor. Camp hope came down and took out like 30 garbage and came across and issue did not feel comfortable and left. They offered security and case workers, and they are willing to help and will continue to build that relationship. They can mentor Noah's Ark. Kiona has been on board, brought food, and has been there most of the week. I met with the Department of Agriculture, looking to get another grant for the police department to get vehicles since they are running out of miles, which I was late to a grant; they have low-interest loans. Potentially looking into using one of those for our vehicles. The New Police Department building has internet installed by Yakima Networking; they have addressed a leak threat happening in the building. The K-9 will be coming soon; currently, it does not have an officer assigned to the K-9.

Council Rita Alvarado commented that she had seen multiple traffic stops happen by the street she lives in. She appreciates their presence and hopes it keeps people from driving safely.

Council Ken Workman questioned about the miles in the police vehicles. Asked how many miles a car gets in a year. Chief responded that he hadn't been here long enough to give him that information. He mentioned that he needs to get new vehicles because they have a lot of hard miles, 50k hard miles.

Mayor Message/Council Discussion: National Night Out.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the adjournment of the meeting. Council member Frank Jaime made a motion to adjourn. Council member Caroline Solis seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

Margaret Estrada, Mayor

Alondra Juarez Interim Clerk