

# CITY OF WAPATO

Regular Council Meeting  
Minutes of September 16th, 2024

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

Acting Mayor Ken Workman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

- a. Welcome by Acting Mayor Ken Workman
- b. Flag Salute Led by Council Member Frank Jaime

## **ROLL CALL:**

- a. Council Members in attendance: Mayor Margaret Estrada-Excused, 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.

## **MEETING AGENDA:**

Additions & Deletions. Acting Mayor Ken Workman called for the approval of the meeting agenda. Council member Rita Alvarado motioned to approve the meeting agenda. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **MEETING MINUTES:**

Minutes from September 03rd, 2024, were presented for approval. Acting Mayor Ken Workman called to approve the September 03rd, 2024 meeting minutes. Council member Jaime Frank made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded; motion carried.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

None.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Contract for Gray and Osborne Rate Study:** Nancy from Gray Osborne will soon have a new plan for your sewer system for the next 20 years, and also for water plan. There are a lot of projects in those plans, and we will be looking for funding usually comes in grants and loans also needing to know where we are at with that rates and debt. We can present with funding for those projects. This will look into the future for expenses for the city whether that is an existing union agreement or existing debt. Another key part of the study is to look at the various studies of classes, whether that is industrial, commercial, or multi or single-family resident homes. This will have the ability to look at the equity of the across the city to make sure that they are being charged. It is tough for the city due to still having trouble with the meters. A projection of recommendation moving forward will look at equity for equity between the customer classes and prepare you for those two capital improvement plan for sewer and water.

**Council Rita Alvarado:** How long will this take?

**Nancy:** 2-3 months if we have the data. Depending on when we can get the data and meet with city staff.

Council member Rita Alvarado made motion to approve, and Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

### **Fire Chief: Bob Clark**

Animal control: a few strays in town and working on thinning out the population.

Code enforcement: Little Caesars keeps moving forward with plans to have it by the end of the week; construction will start soon, right after.

Catholic charities secured funding for the French Lane project.

Fire: 34 calls for service, a slight decrease of 7% from last year. Sept 4<sup>th</sup>, responded to a natural gas line call on Naches Ave. It took Cascade gas 6-7 hours to fix the damage, and the residents were out of gas and water.

### **Interim Clerk: Alondra Juarez**

Currently, I am still working with the auditors, working with budgets, and meetings with department heads regarding budgets. The third quarter is coming up, and the goal is to do it and upload it by the end of the month.

**Public Works Director: Jeff Schumacker**

Bob mentioned to you guys shortly ago that we are very happy to hear that French Lane phase one has the wheel moving and that we are hoping it will be groundbreaking soon. There is a meeting among engineers for French Lane phase two. I believe Nancy will be joining in for the fun of that one. The first tenant to move into the property directly behind the shop will be a new Inspire daycare center. That's whom we are meeting with Catholic charities and Gray Osborn for moral support. There are many line adjustments and how roads can go with a fire truck going around the corner and a school bus; we are working on that. Public works will go around this week, and small sidewalk jobs will be done next week. I will keep you posted regarding French Lane, making it clear that Naches operation is that those are contractors, and we cannot enter the place.

**Council Rita Alvarado:** Is there an estimated time for completion?

**Public Works Director: Jeff Schumacker:** Yes, the end of October is due to the concrete not drying and being too cold.

**Police Chief: Craig Janis**

Total calls for the last two weeks are down significantly by 170, of which 70 were traffic stops, and 9 were information reports. I am seeing a significant drop in our calls for service and credit to the officers, as well as being seen more and being out there. Last week, I met with ESD 105, a program to deal with the school, and have communicated with law enforcement and the school. Working so that Yakama Nation has the same communication due to us not answering those calls. Working with the state crime lab and lower crime lab, I will be out for three days if I send something that is beneficial. We have a problem with the court; we have an employee court certified and will use that, but the cost is coming from the City. I discovered that the county has extra ARPA funds, and we need help with animal control for the animals we collect. A new officer will start filling the existing position in the next couple of weeks. There was a homicide outside the City. As you all know, one of our officers found the vehicle here in the city, so it started locating it in the north side of town.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Acting Mayor Ken Workman called for the adjournment of the meeting. Council member Frank Jaime made a motion to adjourn. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

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Margaret Estrada, Mayor

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Alondra Juarez Interim Clerk