

# CITY OF WAPATO

Regular Council Meeting  
Minutes of October 21st, 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-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. Police Chief: Craig Janis
- c. Others that were present: Mid Valley TV Sean Davido, City Attorney Julie Norton.

## **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 Caroline Solis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **MEETING MINUTES:**

Minutes from October 07nd, 2024, were presented for approval. Acting Mayor Ken Workman called to approve the October 07nd, 2024 meeting minutes. Council member Jaime Frank made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Council member Caroline Solis seconded; motion carried.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

None.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Acting Mayor Ken Workman called for approval for the Liquor License Temptation Restaurant & bar approval. Council member Frank Jaime made motion to approve, council member Rita Alvarado second. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Acting Mayor Ken Workman called for approval for the Liquor License Los Amigos approval. Council member Caroline Solis made motion to approve, council member Rita Alvarado second. Motion carried.
- B. Acting Mayor Ken Workman called for approval for the Liquor License Cross Road Market approval. Council member Frank Jaime made motion to approve, council member Caroline Solis second. Motion carried.
- C. Acting Mayor Ken Workman called for approval for the Probation Service Interlocal Agreement approval. Council member Frank Jaime made motion to approve, council member Caroline Solis second. Motion carried.
- D. Acting Mayor Ken Workman called for approval for the Personal Service Agreement approval. Council member Rita Alvarado made motion to approve, council member Frank Jaime second. Motion carried.
- E. Acting Mayor Ken Workman called for approval for the Christmas with Santa Bazar approval. Council member Frank Jaime made motion to approve, council member Rita Alvarado second. Motion carried.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

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

Animal control: we continue to tackle the problem of stray and abandoned animals in our city. Also in the near future I'll be bringing to you some options on how to proceed with animal control in 2025.

Code enforcement: Despite the fall weather arriving our citizens are still doing construction projects and the issuance of building permits remains brisk.

Fire Department: October calls for service 75, last year we had 40. Increased calls for service by 35. We are 88% increase.

We are in the middle of an epidemic right now, a fentanyl epidemic the likes of which our community hasn't ever seen. I just told you that we have had 75 calls for service just this month 20 calls of the 75 have been for fentanyl overdoses. That is 27% of all of our calls in our city are overdoses right now. That is staggering. Last Thursday we had 3

Fentanyl overdoses in less than 5 minutes, this past Saturday we had 2 more fentanyl overdoses in the span of 20 minutes. We can't sustain that. A couple of weeks I contacted Alicia Tobin from Safe Yakima Valley about this, she called a special meeting. We are all in agreement that what we are seeing now is a new and stronger patch of Fentanyl that what we've seen previously. Law enforcement and DEA are working diligently right now to find out what's making this drug so much worse. While communities continue to have their own share of fentanyl overdoses the only other city that has seen the sharp spike like we have is Yakima. At our Safe Yakima Valley meeting last week Chief Markham from the Yakima Fire reported that they had 30 overdoses in a 48 hour period earlier this month and that during this epidemic they have had 7 overdose fatalities.

I'm working with Safe Yakima Valley about trying to acquire some impact grant funding in an attempt to take some of the financial pressure off our city through this. We are tackling this problem from multiple fronts in an attempt to change the path that we are on we can't doing this.

In closing my department and I want to thank our brothers and sisters to our Police Officers. If it weren't for our brothers and sisters I do firmly believe that we would not have been so fortunate to not have a single fatality from our recent Fentanyl spike. Not every city is fortunate as we are to have police officers that respond to overdoses. Try to figure out prevention and rehabilitation.

#### **Sargent Police: Michael Deccio**

Calls for service 206 for the month of October, 22 ending in arrest. We did assist Yakima PD and Yakima Sheriff's department with a pursuit that started in Yakima made its way to Zillah came back to Yakima and made its way near Wapato. We had an officer to spike the vehicles tires and bring that to close. Driver had been on a crime spread was using some fraudulent information and made withdrawals from several banks, in Cle Elum, Ellensburg, and then in Yakima. We were happy to assist and bring that to close.

As for the department officer Ramirez is not there yet but is reaching his end of field training, I don't like to estimate but I would guess in probably within a month or so of him being solo and working on his own. We are looking forward to having him out and about working on his own.

Officer Tinajero who we hired last month is scheduled to start at the academy in Vancouver. I believe but I'm and not positive that he will be the first class to go through the new academy. New academies were opened to make it easier to get people through quicker. New flock cameras are still in the process to be installed. I don't have a projected time when that would be completed yet but when that is done you will not be able to get out Wapato without a flock camera catching it so we are pretty excited to get that going. Tasers that the city have purchased have arrived we are now in process of scheduling our officers for training to start implying these tools on the road.

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

We have officially shut down irrigation within city limits. Headstones have been completed I will be also be placing on our city website for anyone that lives out of state. We also are looking to finalizing our audit department of retirement services. We had a

meeting last week with Kristy and Jeff and will be working with Kristy to finalize this audit next week.

**Public Works Director: Jeff Schumacker-Excused**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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Margaret Estrada, Mayor

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Alondra Juarez Interim Clerk