

CITY OF WAPATO

Regular Council Meeting
Minutes of November 04th, 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 Stephen, 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 Caroline Solis motioned to approve the meeting agenda. Council member Frank Jaime seconded.

MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes from October 21st, 2024, were presented for approval. Mayor Margaret Estrada called to approve the October 21st, 2024 meeting minutes. Council member Frank Jaime made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Council member Ken Workman 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 Chuck Stephen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Gina Ramos: I have an idea now that the weather is getting colder and it is getting darker is there any way that they can move the meeting from 7:00pm to 6:00pm or is that not possible or whatever. Just because it is so late, like I said the winter months are coming up. It could be something that can change for the winter months and it could back to whatever regular times.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Julie the City Attorney giving report on Council Guide Lines. I understand there has been questions about how to excuse vacancies and how council are compensated so I just wanted to make sure council is aware that you have an ordinance in your books and it is chapter 2.4 and it lays out exactly the rules that apply to council. It confirms that you need to be excused from a meeting it does need to be approved from the Mayor. If you have 3 unexcused absences for consecutive meetings in a row your position can be declared vacant, that mirrors what the state law for second class cities says. It is nothing new or made up, but I think there has been some question if do I just call city hall and let them know that I can't make the meeting, no you actually need to talk to the Mayor, because it is very clear in your code that the Mayor confirms whether your attendance it is approved. It does not give her authority to say no I don't like you I'm not going to approve it, but you need to make sure that you do that step if you can't be at the meeting so you avoid a potential vacancy situation if you miss three in a row and you haven't reported it. The other issue that may have been done inconsistently over the last couple of years is council compensation, this ordinance also clarifies how meetings are compensated. You are paid compensation for per meeting attended so if you are excused absent you do not get paid compensation even if you are excused absence. You are only compensated for meetings that you actually attend and I think there has been with the passage of time and changing of people it has become a monthly understanding you are compensated per month but really your compensation is tied to the meetings that you attended per month and if you are excused absence that's fine you just don't get compensated for being excused absence and again this is all set for chapter 2.4. It has been on the books for it looks like the last time it was changed were varies parts of it although it still needs to be updated because it has the wrong meeting time in there but you guys did pass a difference ordinance that says your meeting time. I know there was a comment to change the meeting time you do need to adopt an ordinance to change your meeting time because you do have a separate ordinance that established your meeting time for Monday at 7:00pm so you would have to change that if you want to explore a different time, but this is all here it's

pretty black and white I just wanted to make sure you were aware of it because I know those questions have come up.

Margaret: I did talk to City Hall and Jeff about if you are not able to get a hold of me that you can call City Hall and tell them I need to call you. So there is that conversation where can you please have the Mayor call me I'm going to miss an absence because I do have a job and maybe I do miss the calls sometimes but if you call City Hall they will get ahold of me and I will call you back. So we can do it that way.

Rita: I have a question you mentioned about the three meetings in order if you miss three meetings in order it will be a vacant position or there is a possibility or what is verbiage on that. The state statues that your position can be declared vacant by the rest of the council if you miss three consecutive meetings is itself excusing not necessarily, the council has to say your position has to be vacant because you have missed three unexcused consecutive meetings. Is that decided by the council on a work section? Or what is the best way?

Julie: It would be at a meeting. Declared by the council.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Interim Clerk: Alondra Juarez

We have been working on finalizing the audit with DRS. We have received our final review and still trying to complete the state audit hopefully by this week. Also we will get a final word from them which I'm sure you guys have received an email from them as well we do have a meeting with them tomorrow to go over some documents that we have uploaded for them.

Public Works Director: Jeff Schumacker

Naches Ave is near completion, there is some touch up left on some of the curb work here and there. That is last payout that will be scheduled in two weeks or so. So we have entered into another one that won't affect residential as much but will affect warehouse traffic we will be working on North Ahtanum and will reroute trucking a different direction on certain days but that won't be until the end of May next year. Surveys are all done and everything is ready to go on that one. Remember these ones Naches Ave and Ahtanum are grants for 800,000 dollars with the transportation for these roads. Entered into another grant phase 1 for French Lane to connect all the way to Kateri Lane apartments during this we found out that it is a private road. This will be probably approved in 3-4 months for it to be approved, applied for 700,000 grants for these two roads to connect. I would like the council to approve a workshop next week 11/13/24 Wednesday to discuss revenue, early budget and also discuss industrial meters and corrections to be made on all industrial meters I have been reviewing with City Hall staff and we are 99% that needs to be discussed with council we need to find a better way to make revenue of industrial side. We have big users, I mean big water

users. We will be reviewing that closely, can we do that next week on Wednesday at 5:00pm? We will be reviewing 50 large users we will be reviewing a big portion of it.

Fire Chief: Bob Clark

Animal control: Last month we took in 7 animals to the human society. 2025 human society is changing how they are doing their business model. In December's first council meeting I will have for you a proposal from human society on how they want to tweak their model so we can have that for discussion.

Code enforcement is still continues to focus on a number of things building permits, renovation projects, graffiti.

Fire Depart: October we had 95 calls that is 3 a day, our normal is 1 ½ to 2. We had 66% increase from last year. Fentanyl is still an ongoing issue, for example I had 3 calls today. We are a small community with a medium, large size problem.

Police Chief: Craig Janis

For the month of October we are dealing with overdoses 39, 10 accidents between injury and non-injury. 4 domestic for last month, 72 traffic stops. Something that I'm working on is having the officers is follow up with domestic after they have taken the call to check with the victim a few days later to make sure that everything is okay and following up. Right now we have a lot of felony cases that are not being charged through Yakima County due to shortage of public offenders. I and the chiefs in the area are coming together to how we can address these cases.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Margaret Estrada, Mayor

Alondra Juarez Interim Clerk