

CITY OF WAPATO

Regular Council Meeting
Minutes of March 18, 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, and Caroline Solis.
- b. City Staff in attendance: Interim Clerk Alisia Sanches- Absent, Fire Chief Bob Clark, Public Works Director Jeff Schumacker. Interim Police Chief Mike Deccio.
- c. Others that were present: Attorney Julie Norton, Mid Valley TV Sean Davido.

Public Hearing:

None

MEETING AGENDA:

Additions & Deletions. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the meeting agenda. Council member Caroline Solis motion to approve the meeting agenda. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes from February 20,2024, 2024, were presented for approval. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the February 20th meeting minutes. Council member Frank Jaime made a motion to approve meeting minutes from February 20th. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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 Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Kiona Dick – Wapato Lions Club – Asked for permission to set up for the Annual Harvest Festival on Labor Day Monday, September 2, 2024. She also mentioned that there will be an easter egg hunt on Sunday March 30th.

Lisa Gordon- Board of directors at the Filipino Hall- They are Looking for volunteers for their Thursday's food take-out.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Chief: Bob Clark

- * Animal control – 5 dogs have been taken to the Humane Society for the month of March. The month of February was a very busy month with 10 dogs being taken to the Humane Society.
- * Code Enforcement - Received an application for rezone at the property 225 W Elizabeth. Juan Lopez has submitted a plan and application for the construction of a tri-plex. Bob Clark also requested the council to schedule a public hearing on Monday April 1st. He has also submitted building plans for approval to NorthWest Code Professionals on the first 10 houses to be constructed on French Lane. The 10 plans will be approximately valued at \$2.8 million.
- * Fire Department – February was a very slow month with a total of 27 calls over the 29 days of the month. Last year in the month of February they were at 59. That's 54% down from last year, in the 5 years of being chief he has never seen a change like that. He also mentioned that he is currently working with the specialist/planner from Yakima Valley Emergency Management on getting approval for the grant. Submission closes in 3 weeks and should be awarded sometime in September or December of this year.

Interim Clerk: Alisia Sanches

- * None

Public Works Director: Jeff Schumacker

- * Public Works is currently working on the Cemetery spring cleanup.
- * Mayor Margaret Estrada has signed off on the Otto Seal documents and will be going off for bids. It should be in effect by this summer. It will be a lengthy project since door tag notices will be needed for residents to move their vehicles away from the street, as they move through the city. The project has a grand total of \$1 Million which is set to take care of every street in the city.
- * The city hall server was hacked on the morning of March 18th, IT services were able to track it back to Nigeria. There will be more security taken from now on.

Interim Police Chief: Mike Deccio

- * So far, for the month of March officers have responded to 177 calls for services. 14 of those calls have resulted in arrests.
- * Officer Ramirez, the department's most recent hire, started the academy in Pasco on the 11th. He is scheduled to graduate on July 17th.
- * Chuck Lawther was selected for the investigator position and is set to start on May 1st.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Margaret Estrada, Mayor

Alisia Sanches, Interim Clerk