

CITY OF WAPATO
Regular Council Meeting – Council Chambers
Minutes of November 6, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Dora Alvarez-Roa called the regular Council meeting of Tuesday November 6, 2018 to order at 9:00 am.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Welcome

ROLL CALL:

- a. Present: Those in attendance included Mayor Dora Alvarez-Roa, Council members, Chuck Stephens, Ralph Sanchez, Barbara Perez, Irasema Gonzalez Cantu, Joel Perez, Brinda Quintanilla Bautista, and Keith Workman.
- b. Absent: None
- c. City Staff Present: City Administrator (CA) Juan Orozco, Sgt. Deccio, Public Works Director (PWD) Jeff Schumacker, Water Dept. Johnny Macias, and Clerk Treasurer (CT) Robin Cordova.
- d. City Staff Absent: None

HONORS/RECOGNITION:

Recognition given to Rosemary Llamas for her hard work at the Dia De Los Muertos celebration.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Quintanilla Bautista to approve the meeting agenda and seconded by Councilwoman Perez. The motion passed.

MEETING CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gonzalez Cantu to approve the meeting consent agenda and seconded by Councilman Stephens. The motion passed.

Regular meeting adjourned at 9:04

PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Ad Valor Tax Proposal

A motion was made by Councilwoman Perez to consider the 2019 Ad Valor tax increase. Councilman Torres seconded the motion. The motion passed. Clerk Treasurer Cordova discussed 2019 projected revenue for the City of Wapato. It was her recommendation that Council pass Ordinance 2018-12. Councilman Torres made a motion to pass Ordinance 2018-12. Councilwoman Quintanilla Bautista seconded the motion. The motion passed with one descending vote by Councilman Workman.

The regular meeting resumed at 9:08.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Reaffirmation of Mayor Pro Tempore
Councilwoman Perez made a motion to reaffirm Councilman Sanchez’s position as Mayor Pro Tempore. Councilwoman Gonzalez Cantu seconded the motion. The motion passed with one descending vote by Councilman Workman.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. None

NEW BUSINESS: .

Yakima County Sheriff Office Communication Services:

Councilwoman Gonzalez Cantu made a motion to approve the annual contract with the Yakima County Sheriff Office for communication services. Councilman Torres seconded the motion. The motion passed with one descending vote by Councilman Workman.

City Hall Office Remodel:

A motion was made by Councilman Torres to consider the remodel of City Hall. Councilwoman Quintanilla Bautista seconded the motion, and discussion ensued. The motion passed with one descending vote by Councilman Workman.

Move Council Meeting to the Community Center:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gonzalez Cantu to move council meetings to the Wapato Community Center. Councilman Torres seconded the motion. Discussion ensued and the motion passed with one descending vote by Councilman Workman.

Mayor’s Salary:

Councilwoman Gonzalez Cantu made the motion to change the salary for the elected position of Mayor to \$1 per year. Councilwoman Perez seconded the motion. Mayor Alvarez Roa asked Council to approve an Ordinance be made to change her salary to \$1 per year. She is currently refusing a stipend for her position as Mayor, and considers it an honor and civic duty. The motion was passed with one descending vote by Councilman Workman.

Public Works Lead Position:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Perez to consider a new lead position in Public Works. Councilwoman Gonzalez Cantu seconded the motion. Discussion followed and the motion passed to create an Ordinance for the position.

REPORTS

a. Correspondence-
1) None

b. Committee Reports
Cemetery: None

c. Department Reports

1. City Administrator: Juan Orozco

It is getting close to end of the year. Public Works is preparing for winter. In the past, the City has gone down-hill. The City had taxed citizens beyond their ability to pay. The purpose of utility tax was to beautify our city, but it had the opposite effect. Senior citizens come in and pay with change to cover their utility bill. They are left with making decisions to either pay for medication or pay their utility bill. The plan is to lower water tax over next few years to about 4%. The City must do more with less.

On Main Street the wrong type of trees had been planted. Planters have been ordered to replace the trees that have been removed

Property value will continue to go down unless we take action. City was going down-hill because the city was spending too much money. We need to spend less and do more.

We are preparing our city for the next 20 years to have a nice, safe municipal pool. We are currently looking at purchasing a slide. This will increase income for the pool and business revenue because it will attract more people coming into our community.

PW said this is the first time the alleys have been cleaned in 10 years.

Officers are working on parking issues.

We want to have an ambulance service in Wapato.

There are a lot of blight properties that need to be addressed.

We become desensitized to people laying on streets.

The Community Center is now open. There is after school tutoring and free Karate and yoga for children. Substance abuse and violence/gang prevention will soon begin. The City has to run like a business with a social conscience.

In less than a year, we have finished the North Wapato Lift Station, remodeled the swimming pool, made the cemetery beautiful, opened the Community Center to serve our children, and saved over \$900,000 in salaries by restructuring city government. We still want to start some ESL classes and ethnic studies classes.

There is a new Wapato emerging. The events that are taking place in Wapato helps rebrand the vision of our city. No one will invest in our city unless we change it.

2. Mayor's Report: Dora Alvarez Roa
Mayor Alvarez Roa is glad that everyone has heard how good things are going. We want everything and everyone to be united. The Mayor would also like to remind everyone that all council members are required to live inside city limits.

3. Public Safety Sgt. Deccio
The Police Dept. currently has full time coverage. One new officer has been sent to academy. The Police Dept. is currently seeking new officers, but it takes time. There is a hiring process you have to go thru for officers. We want have 8 full time officers.
The public has to call 911 for officer assistance, no matter what.
Sgt. Campos said they continue to move forward on the hiring process. They are currently doing background checks. There is a national difficulty in lateral hiring, which results in having to hire entry level officers. A new applicant will start on Monday. Everything is going very well. He is reaching out to other agencies to sit on the hiring board. The 911 Dispatcher is the first person to gather clues about an emergency that can help first responders. The non-emergency number for the Sheriff's Dept. is 574-2500. The City is contracted with the Sherriff's office to answer calls. Response time is dependent on what the need is and will be prioritized accordingly.

4. Public Works Jeff Schumacker
Thanks to Rosemary Llamas for her hard work on the Dia De Los Muertos Festival. It was a successful event.
Gray & Osborne Engineering, Nancy Wetch spoke regarding repaving W 1st St. An underground tank was found near Les Schwab. Fulcrum's invoices didn't get paid for the removal of the tank on that project. She asked council to approve payment to the environmental firm on that project. Mayor said that it will get put on next month's agenda.
The Water department is working on the 2019 comprehensive water plan. It will be in December packet. Shows state what we do. Required by the state of Washington.

5. Admin/Finance: Robin Cordova
Clerk Treasurer Cordova spoke about revenues that the city currently rely on. She explained how property values reflect back on tax payments to the city. She also addressed the problem with sales tax revenue in the city.

6. Planning Commission:
None

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Francis Ayres 901 S Wasco Ave, Wapato. Read letter to council regarding 911 call. Barbie asked how to get officer there as well as an ambulance. The dispatcher determines who should respond to a call. City Administrator Orozco asked how the call is communicated to officers. Should be asked at the county level as to why response times take so long for ambulance calls. He also explained that the ambulance comes from Union Gap. Info to 911 will dictate how fast they get to scene. Fire Dept. is not capable of transporting patients.

Diane Diaz 14 E 6th Street. She said that years back there was rescue people. Where are people now? The City explained that there are the same amount of volunteers this year as last year. Mr. Gilliland of West Valley Said that people don't feel safe because they are feeling bullied and intimidated. He is just a concerned citizen for Wapato that lives in West Valley. He reminded Council that they should care about their community.

Due to Mr. Gilliland's aggressive nature and rudeness Mayor Alvarez Roa called him out of order and stopped the meeting at 10:25. The meeting was reopened for more public comments at 10:28.

Mr. Gilliland appreciates when good things happen in a community. The problem is that ends don't justify means. Everyone is subject to laws. Council should talk to the community.

Doug Milne 402 S Wapato – Said that Public Works represented the city well and his issues was resolved in court.

It was made clear that Mr. Gilliland was an attorney that is suing the City, not just some concerned citizen.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Councilmember Stephens to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Councilmember Quintanilla-Bautista. The motion passed.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned 10:33 a.m.

Dora Alvarez-Roa, Mayor

Robin Cordova, Clerk-Treasurer