

CITY OF WAPATO

Regular Council Meeting
Minutes of November 1, 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Pro-Tem Margaret Estrada called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

- a. Welcome by Mayor Pro-tem Margaret Estrada
- b. Flag Salute led by Frank Jaime

ROLL CALL:

- a. Council Members in attendance: Mayor Pro-Tem Margaret Estrada, Chuck Stephens, Frances Ayres, Elizabeth Villa, Caroline Solis, Frank Jaime.
- b. By phone: Jessie Farias
- c. City Staff in attendance: Police Chief Nolan Wentz, Fire Chief Bob Clark, Clerk/Treasurer Kimberly Grimm, Public works Director Jeff Schumacker.
- d. Others that were present: City of Wapato Attorney Julie Norton by phone, Minutes taker Kathy Davis, Recorder Judy Duvall

MEETING AGENDA:

Mayor Pro-Tem called for the approval of the meeting agenda. Council member Frank Jaime made motion for the approval of the meeting agenda. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES:

Mayor Pro-Tem called for the approval of the meeting minutes from October 18, 2021. Council member Frank Jaime made motion for the approval of the meeting minutes. Council member Frances Ayers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro-Tem Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the consent agenda. Council member Caroline Solis made motion for the approval of the claims and payroll vouchers. Council member Jessie Farias seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Tim DeVries from Gray & Osborne, Inc. presented the public hearing for the French Lane Improvements. Mr. DeVries stated that there was approximately 1,300 Linear Feet of new roadway that included curb, gutter, sidewalk, storm drainage, and illumination permanent signing and striping. There was 1,650 Linear Feet of new 8-inch water main added. It will provide looping between S. Camas Ave and Kateri Lane, and connects to the City's reservoir. There was 1,520 Linear Feet of new 8-inch and 10-inch sewer main and provides service along French Lane to Kateri Lane. Mr. DeVries explained the project cost and funding. The projected cost was \$1,130,000. Some funding that came in was \$750,000 from Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), \$300,000 from Catholic Charities Housing Services, \$48,000 Washington State Transportation Improvement Board and City of Wapato paid \$32,000. Jeff Schumacker mentioned that they had a slight delay when they ran into some old concrete and brick when digging for the sewer. It took roughly 26 truckloads to haul it all out.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Jedean Corpron from Payne West Insurance Company presented where the City is at with insurance. When she was contacted by Kimberly Grimm the City was without any insurance. CIAW Clear Risk gave the city coverage, but it is very expensive. Our policy renews in December and Ms. Corpron is working with the city administrators making sure of the safety aspects to keep costs down. On a good note, Ms. Corpron stated that the cities insurance deductible will decrease by 50%. Policies are going up but our will not because we are already on the high end of insurance. We need to continue to work towards getting our rate down.
- b. Chris Wickenhagen and Viki Baker were present from Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG). Ms. Wickenhagen stated that the Commerce was a recipient of a Housing Action Plan grant. Some of the smaller communities around will receiving part of the grant for housing. There is an interlocal agreement. The agreement is between YVCOG, Wapato and Union Gap. Union Gap is the lead city. YVCOG will do all the steps. Wapato is in charge of where they want their housing plan to be at. Ms. Baker stated they will be looking at the needs of the existing inventory and household sizes. Once all that is finished, we will move into the housing developing stage. YVCOG will be looking at ordinances for development and will put together a draft action plan. They will come back to Council and the city with different options. This should be finalized in 2023. Then there is the implementation stage where developers can come in and see what is needed.

Mayor Pro-tem Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the Housing Action Plan. Council member Jessie Farias made motion for the approval of the Housing Action Plan. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Ordinance 2021-5 The Ad Volorem Property Tax Levy for collection in 2022. Clerk Treasure Kimberly Grimm stated that the city is requesting an increase of 1.7947%. It would be a \$9,418.56 increase from 2021 levy amount. The 1.7947% increase would mean just a \$1.00 per household per year. Mayor Pro-tem called for the approval of Ordinance 2021-5 Tax Levy. Council member Chuck Stephens made motion for the approval of Ordinance 2021-5 Tax Levy. Council member Elizabeth Villa seconded. Council members Frank Jaime and Jessie Farias voted no. It was a 4 – 2 votes. Motion carried.
- d. Liquor License:
 - 1. Xpress Mart 631 W 1st ST. Mayor Pro-tem called for the approval of the liquor license for Xpress Mart. Council member Frank Jaime made motion for the approval of the liquor license for Xpress Mart. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
 - 2. Tienda De Abarrotes Los Amigos 209 S Wapato Ave. Mayor Pro-tem called for the approval of the liquor license for Tienda De Abarrotes Los Amigos. Council member Frank Jaime made motion for the approval of the liquor license for Tienda De Abarrotes Los Amigos. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
 - 3. Cross Road Market 4641 N Track Rd. Mayor Pro-tem called for the approval of the liquor license for Cross Road Market. Council member Frank Jaime made motion for the approval of the liquor license for Cross Road Market. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- e. Resolution 2021-6 to assume debt on Police vehicles. Clerk Treasurer Kimberly Grimm stated that to do a lease for the police vehicles would save the city money. The lease reduced the price by about \$8,600.00. The payments would be \$1,619.00 a month for five years. At the end of the five years the city would own the vehicles. It would be beneficial to go this route rather than to outright purchase the vehicles. Mayor Pro-tem Margaret called for the approval of Resolution 2021-6 Police Vehicles. Council member Frank Jaime made motion to approve Resolution 2021-6. Council member Elizabeth Villa seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Chief: Bob Clark stated that for the month of October the fire department had 44 calls. There are two fire fighters in EMT training and one fire fighter in recruit school. With the mandate the fire department had one fire fighter return and possibly will have two more come back. Mr. Clark has an interview with another candidate. The chest compressors have been ordered and should arrive soon.

Animal Control – Mr. Clark is still busy with several animal calls.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Clark stated code enforcement is busy and things are moving along. The final permits should be in soon for the new Auto Parts Store that is going in.

Mr. Clark was asked about the graffiti. Mr. Clark stated that he will be out reminding the community to remove or paint over the graffiti.

Clerk/Treasurer: Kimberly Grimm stated that she is busy working with Jeff Schumacker and Chad Greif getting budget set for Public Works. Kimberly has worked with Bob Clark and Nolan Wentz on their budgets and have it just about ready. The auditors will be having an exit audit on November 9th at 4:00pm. The girls at City Hall have been collecting a lot of the past due bills. They are making a lot of calls and working hard.

Public Works Director: Jeff Schumacker stated that he was glad to see the French Lane Project done. Said to just think about it, it was \$1.1 million being handed over to the city to use. The City could not have afforded that kind of funds. Mr. Schumacker is looking into more grants. He has just finished two more Complete Streets grants. He is hoping to receive some but so are a lot of other cities. Mr. Schumacker stated that his goal is to have the city looking nice and to have the city grow in revenue. Mr. Schumacker stated that he has been working on his budget with Kimberly. He stated that it would be nice to be able to do budget without having to worry.

Police Chief: Nolan Wentz stated that he was sent some cameras to test. These cameras can read license plates, even in very dim light. He would like to see them in the park and set where there is a lot of graffiti activity. Mr. Wentz stated that there are seven officers, and he would like to hire two more. He is waiting to get done with budget to see where he is at. Mr. Wentz is busy working on Lexipol. Getting this updated is important for insurance. Mr. Wentz has about 15 more policies left to put out. The Lexipol is used for policy and procedures for officers. It must be kept up. The new car that was received is on the road. Officer Deccio was driving it, and he was present at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro-Tem Margaret Estrada called for the adjournment of the meeting. Council member Frank Jaime made motion to adjourn. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Margaret Estrada, Mayor Pro-Tempore

Kimberly Grimm, Clerk/Treasurer

