

CITY OF WAPATO

Regular Council Meeting
Minutes of December 6, 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, Jessie Farias, Frank Jaime.
- b. Absent: Caroline Solis
- c. City Staff in attendance: Police Chief Nolan Wentz, Clerk/Treasurer Kimberly Grimm, Public works Director Jeff Schumacker, Fire Chief Bob Clark.
- 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 Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the meeting agenda. Council member Jessie Farias made motion for the approval of the meeting agenda. Council member Frank Jaime seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES:

Mayor Pro-Tem Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the meeting minutes from November 15, 2021. Council member Jessie Farias made motion for the approval of the meeting minutes. Council member Elizabeth Villa seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Public hearing was for the Cities preliminary budget. There were no comments.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro-Tem Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the consent agenda. Council member Elizabeth Villa made motion for the approval of the claims and payroll vouchers. Council member Frances Ayres seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Anthony Menke and Quinn Plant from Menke Jackson Beyer Law Office were present to address the council regarding the application they submitted to represent the City of Wapato. Mr. Menke stated that they had served Wapato in the past and would be interested in working with the city again. Mr. Menke stated that he had worked with Chief Wentz on contracts. The law firm is very diverse with many specialty areas. Some of the areas are employment, labor laws, general municipal, land use law. Mr. Plants' practice emphasizes on land use and public records acts. They also represent other local cities such as Grandview and Goldendale.

Mayor Pro-tem Margaret Estrada thanked the gentlemen for their time. She reminded the council that they were not going to vote this evening, that the council needed to discuss it.

- b. Approval of Preliminary Budget. There was no discussion. Mayor Pro-tem Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the preliminary budget. Council member Elizabeth Villa made motion for the approval of the preliminary budget. Council member Frances Ayers seconded. Council members Frank Jaime, Chuck Stephens and Jessie Farias opposed. It resulted in a tie so the preliminary budget failed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Chief: Bob Clark stated that in November the fire department responded to 42 fire calls. They are at 522 calls for the year. They may exceed last year's (2020) calls by the end of 2021. The firefighters at EMT school should be done in four (4) – six (6) weeks. Animal Control is busy. There has been a lot of stray dogs.

Code Enforcement: Even though winter is upon us there has been a lot of interest to do home repairs. The new O'Reilly store going in has poured the foundation and the plumbing went in today, December 6, 2021.

Clerk/Treasurer: Kimberly Grimm stated that she is busy with the budget and getting end of year reports finished.

Public Works Director: Jeff Schumacker asked the council to look at the 2022 budget and page 22 and page 24. Mr. Schumacker mentioned that there was a reduction of about \$50,000. This fund could not be reduced anymore. If a well goes down it is very expensive to fix, Repairs are unavoidable.

Police Chief: Nolan Wentz stated that he had a meeting at Noah's Ark. Chief Wentz will be holding them accountable for things that go on. There was a fence around Noah's Ark and that was removed. Chief Wentz is working with Doug Milne to come up with alternatives for shootings around his apartments. The new cars arrived a couple weeks ago, and they should be street ready later this week. They are getting all their equipment installed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

No audience participation

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro-tem Margaret Estrada called for the adjournment of the meeting. Council member Jessie Farias made motion to adjourn. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Margaret Estrada, Mayor Pro-Tempore

Kimberly Grimm, Clerk/Treasurer