

**CITY OF WAPATO  
REGULARLY SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING  
March 1, 2021 7:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**\*\*DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND PROCLAMATION NO 20-28, THE REGULAR MEETING WAS BE CONDUCTED REMOTELY VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE\*\***

Mayor Keith Workman called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Present and accounted for were Chuck Stephen, Frank Jaime, Margaret Estrada, Frances Ayers, Elizabeth Villa and Carolina Solis.

Council Member Jesse Farias was absent.

City Attorney, Julie Norton was present.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

<b>1. February 2021 Accounts Payable</b>	<b>\$123,628.70</b>
Check Numbers	166789-166826

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by council member Chuck Stephens and Seconded by CM Margaret Estrada.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Wapato City Council is revisiting the Wapato Police Department need for two new police vehicles. Two options are being presented.**

**OPTION 1: Two (2) 2021 Ford Police Interceptor AWD Pursuit-Rated Utility from Columbia Ford with Minimal outfitting - \$86,839.24**

Outfitting of equipment on both vehicles by Day Wireless in Yakima: \$15,872.99 each, \$31,745.98 total.

Police Emblems by Monster Graphics: \$486.93 each, \$974.00 for both.

Total Price: \$119,559.22

**OPTION 2: Two (2) 2021 Ford Police Interceptor AWD Pursuit-Rated Utility/SUV's from Columbia with Ready for Road Package: \$114,500.75.**

In addition, these items need to be added: Modem 699.00; \$1398.00 total both cars

Antenna 248.75 each; \$497.50 total for both cars;

Printer \$218.00 each; \$436.00 total for both cars;

Rear Lights \$237.00 each; \$474.00 total for both cars;

Tail Light Flasher \$170.00 each; \$340 total for both cars;  
Antenna/Coax \$30 each; \$60.00 total for both cars;  
Tax on these items \$269.22  
Police Emblems by Monster Graphics: \$486.93 each; \$974.00 total.  
Total Price: \$118,948.97

Discussion was held with Police Chief Nolan explaining the differences in the two bids. His choice being the slightly more expensive option since it would be done locally if any additional help was needed.

Motion to approve the purchase of 2 Police vehicles using Option #1 for a total price of \$119,559.22 was made by council member Chuck Stephens and Seconded by CM Margaret Estrada. All council members agreed to the purchase. The Motion carried unanimously.

## 1. NEW BUSINESS

An Increase to the Wapato Fire Department Rank and Pay Scale – The 2021 WFD Rank and Pay Scale was attached for the Council's review. It shows an increase of 25¢ per hour and has been included in the Wapato Fire Department's 2021 budget planning.

Discussion was held with Fire Chief Bob Clark explaining that the minimum wage had gone up by 19¢ so he budgeted an additional 25¢ across the board and allocated for it in his 2021 budget. Fire Chief Clark also explained that he created the position of Engineer/EMT.

Motion to approve the Wapato Fire Department Rank and Pay Scale increase was made by Council Member Margaret Estrada and seconded by CM Carolina Solis. All council members were in favor and motion carried unanimously.

## 2. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Clerk/Treasurer - Kim Grimm stated that is working on financing for the new police car purchase. Additionally, she is looking for grants for the Inspire Building. As to the Audit, she believes that the exit meeting will be held sometime next month. Council members asked if they would be present and Mayor Workman explained that it would be posted and that they would have the opportunity to be present.

Police Chief – Nolan Wentz said that he had 3 people in the Academy at this time. He is still hoping to get 2 of them back soon but it seems their date keeps moving. As of today, the Wapato Police Department has a new sergeant, Chuck Lawther. Once we are out of Covid, the chief hopes to give him a proper welcome as sergeant. He is working on contract negotiations and believes he sees light at the end of the tunnel. He is busy providing information to the design team for the Inspire Building.

Fire Chief – Bob Clark stated that February was a busy month. In February of last year they had 38 calls for service, this year the number was 55 calls for service. That is a 45% increase from last year to this year. Very significant. Year to date, WFD has had 104 calls for service, at this time last year we had 84. Year to date we are up 24%. He is very proud of his crew who have been working long hours, and odd hours responding to these calls for service being very professional. WFD has 6 recruits that began their training at recruit school last month. They are diligently working through that and learning a lot. They have taken delivery of their Structured EMS Turnouts and they are top notch. A big thank you to Legends Casino for making that possible.

Animal Control and Code Enforcement has seen an uptick in activity now that the spring weather looks

like it is going to be here. With the spring weather animals are coming out in force. Citizens are wanting to do their spring projects and get an early jump on that. All three fronts that I cover are very active.

Public Services Director – Jeff Schumacker shared that they are busy working through the Water Comprehensive Plan and he would like to make you aware the previous year's before of the water usage report which is how much our city wells put out to how much is actually sold in the city were astronomically out of balance for quite some time. We are now getting into reviews and sending reports off to Yakima County Health and it shows that between City Hall billing and our water department at public works are now in real good sequence and we are just splitting hairs between a 10 and 5 percent difference. Before it was astronomical into the 50 and 60 per cent difference. Utility billing and water meter reading has really shaped up since last September. It has gone leaps and bounds. We have completed the first two phases over at the French Lane project. If you have driven by there you might see some barricades over that way. The irrigation box has been removed and all the piping now runs under the road. Also, the street light estimates are there. There will be 9 different streetlights running that route from Camas Ave. down French Lane. The Civil Engineering Plans for the whole project are available. I would welcome all council members if you would like to review them, they are extensive, but there are a few available for review. If you contact the Mayor, Jeff will make sure to get a set to you. It will show the sidewalks, the route, the curbing, light placement, water, lights, etc.

3. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

It was brought to Council's attention that on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month in front of St. Jack's Video, 614 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Wapato there is a sharing of love and hope in the community; a free sack lunch is handed out and prayers are offered for anyone who needs them. This is put on by the Wapato Spanish SDA Church.

If you know of any other events such as this, please let Stormy or Margaret know and help us get the word out and acknowledge the goodness of our community.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Motion to Adjourn was made by council member Margaret Estrada and seconded by CM Chuck Stephens. All council members were in favor and Motion carried.

Submitted this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2021

*Stormy Miller*

Stormy Miller