

CITY OF WAPATO

Regular Council Meeting
Minutes of April 18, 2022

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, Frances Ayres, Elizabeth Villa, Caroline Solis.
- b. City Staff in attendance: Police Chief Nolan Wentz, Fire Chief Bob Clark, Clerk Kathy Davis.
- c. Others that were present: Recorder Judy Devall, City of Wapato Attorney Julie Norton via Zoom.

COUNCIL POSITION #4:

Council Position #4 was voted on. The new Council Member is Ken Workman. Mr. Workman was sworn in by Clerk Kathy Davis and took his seat on the council.

MEETING AGENDA:

No Additions & Deletions. Council member Frank Jaime made motion for no additions/deletions. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes from March 21, 2022 were presented for approval. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of March 21st Meeting Minutes. Council member Rita Alvarado made motion to approve meeting minutes from March 21st. 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 motion for the approval of the claims and payroll vouchers. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Approval of French Lane Final Progress. Nancy Wetch from Gray & Osborne stated that the French Lane lighting had been completed and all projects had been completed. This is the closeout of the French Lane Project. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the Closeout for the French Lane Project. Council member Frank Jaime made motion for the closeout of the French Lane project. Council member Rita Alvarado seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Approval for the Department of Ecology for funding of the Sewer Plant Metal Removal. Nancy Wetch from Gray & Osborne stated that they are working on the zinc at the wastewater treatment plant. They must find the right chemical to put in the water. Not sure which one will work. The cost will be around \$113,000.00, which will be part grant and part loan. Looking for a sustainable solution which will be ongoing. Mayor Margaret Estrada call for the approval of the Sewer Plant Metal Removal. Council member Rita Alvarado made motion to approve the Sewer Plant Metal Removal. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Approval of Chief Wentz Contract. Chief Wentz' contract was up for renewal. It was brought to the council for approval. Chief Wentz mentioned some of his goals. He would like to get an investigator, one that can communicate with the citizens. They will be from in-house. Trying to get a camera system. Working on getting the new Police building funded. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of Chief Wentz contract. Council member Caroline Solis made motion to approve Chief Wentz contract. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. One member voted nay. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Chief: Bob Clark stated that fire calls are up seven percent. They have two new fire fighters. One is a certified firefighter and the other one will be going to recruit academy. The fire department will be doing Edith House, home exit drills with second grade students at Simco and Camas elementary schools.

Animal Control: Megan Goss is doing a great job. She gave out seven warnings for animals at large. Contract goes through May.

Code Enforcement: Chief Clark stated that he has issued 16 building permits. O'Reilly Auto Parts should open in May. They had some HVAC issues.

Clerk: Kathy Davis stated that with shut-offs the office was busy with phone calls, payments and setting up of payment plans. But the office personnel did a great job. Mayor Estrada mentioned Kathy attended training and asked Kathy to give an overview. Kathy stated that she learned a lot. Her class on Wednesday was her favorite. It was the A to Z of a clerk/treasurer. Celina was able to attend the conference as well.

Public Works Director: Jeff Schumacker was out sick.

Police Chief: Nolan Wentz stated that in 2020 there was 7,000 calls. Since he has started, the police department has responded to 14,163 calls. Some statistics, 82 auto thefts, 21 assaults with weapons, 79 shots fired, 26 weapon offenses. This is the kind of activity that the larger cities are experiencing. Chief Wentz has been filling out applications for the new police building and has been looking at ARPA funds with the county. Two officers have finished FTO school, so now there are two new officers that can train. Still waiting on parts for the newest police car. Looking at cameras for the city. The ones that he is looking at store's information for 30 days, and able to read license plates.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Kiona Dick, President of the Lions Club. The Lions Club had an Easter egg hunt for the kids in the park. Even though it was raining approximately 80 to 100 kids came out. Ms. Dick thanked the council for the egg hunt and thanked the public works department for their help. The Lions Club will be working on the Harvest Festival.

Liz wanted to thank Jeff and Public works for putting up a mural for a tribal funeral. It was important to them. One of the first witnesses that showed up when catholic charities was broken into wanted to thank the police department for a job well done and their professionalism.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor 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 7:30pm.

Margaret Estrada, Mayor Pro-Tempore

Kathy Davis, Clerk