

CITY OF WAPATO

Regular Council Meeting
Minutes of February 6, 2023

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, Ken Workman, Frances Ayres, Elizabeth Villa via zoom, Caroline Solis.
- b. City Staff in attendance: Police Chief Nolan Wentz, Public Works Director Jeff Schumacker, Fire Chief Bob Clark.
- c. Others that were present: Mid Valley TV Sean Davido, Wapato City Attorney Julie Norton via zoom.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:

Mayor Margaret Estrada announced that the city council and herself started a program called the "Award of Excellence". They will be recognizing businesses and community members that have excelled. For today they wanted to recognize Matthew McConnell a senior at Wapato High School for his sports playing and being an inspiration to the community. Mayor Margaret Estrada presented Matthew McConnell with an Award of Excellence plaque. Matthew McConnell thanked everyone for their support.

MEETING AGENDA:

Additions & Deletions. Mayor Margaret called for the approval of the meeting agenda. Council member Frank Jaime made a motion to cancel the award of excellence. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes from January 17, 2022 were presented for approval. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of January 17th Meeting Minutes. Council member Rita Alvarado made a motion to approve meeting minutes from January 17th. Council member Frank Jaime seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the consent agenda. Council member Frank Jaime made a motion for the approval of the claims and payroll vouchers. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Fire Department ARPA Funds Request
 1. Drone Accessories Purchase. Chief Clark mentioned that currently they have Sgt. Lawther that has finished the classes to operate the Drone. He is now licensed. There is one that is getting ready to take his test. The drone came with six (6) batteries. Chief Clark would like to get two more. It would give them more flight time. Also, he would like to get a storage container for the drone that has a combination lock that only licensed users can access. The cost is about \$6,025.00 for everything. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the ARPA funds for the drone. Council member Frank Jaime made a motion to approve the use of the ARPA funds for the drone. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
 2. Air Storage Cylinder Upgrade. Chief Clark asked to table this item as he was unable to get a quote in time.
- b. Approval of Firefighter Holiday Standby Pay. Chief Clark stated that trying to get someone to do standby on a holiday has been difficult. He wants to offer them \$6.00 hr. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the Holiday Standby Pay. Council member Rita Alvarado made a motion to approve the holiday standby pay. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Approval of Ordinance to Amend Ordinance Chapter 6 WMC Related to Keeping Animals. Chief Wentz stated that City of Wapato's ordinance was outdated. This

is an update on what the city has. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the Ordinance to amend ordinance chapter 6. Council member Ken Workman made a motion to approve the amended ordinance of chapter 6. Council member Frank Jaime seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Approval of Resolution to Adopt Animal License Fees. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the resolution to adopt animal license fees. Council member Ken Workman made motion to approve the resolution to adopt animal license fees. Council member Frank Jaime seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Chief: Bob Clark stated fire calls are up from last year.

Animal Control: Chief Clark wanted to thank Chief Wentz for taking on the animal control ordinance. He did a great job.

Code Enforcement: The alleyway behind Crossroads Market has a fence and gate. There are also personal vehicles parked there and also Crossroads has work vehicles parked there. It is blocking the alleyway. The owner, Mr. Contreras has been asked to remove the vehicles and the fence and gate, but he refuses. He has hired an attorney. Mr. Clark, at the request of Attorney Julie Norton, has asked for Mr. Contreras to address the Mayor and council requesting an appeal. The appeal was requested for the next meeting of February 21st.

Clerk: Kathy Davis was ill.

Public Works Director: Jeff Schumacker stated that he had applied for a grant through Washington State Recreation Conservation. The city of Wapato was awarded the grant for a Parks Planning. The award was \$92,850.00. This is just for the planning stages for the park. Once the park's planning is in place other grants for park equipment and such can be applied for. The question arose about the swimming pool. Mr. Schumacker stated that at this time the city cannot afford the expense.

Police Chief: Nolan Wentz stated that, with the help from Nancy Wetch from Gray & Osborne, he has submitted an application for state funding for the new police station. Federal funding has just opened up and Chief Wentz said he will be applying for those also. He will need three endorsement letters, but sure he will be able to get them. There has been an increase in crime but he has some great officers that are doing a good job of catching the criminals. They all work together very well. On February 16th Kyle Molineux will be joining the police department.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Kiona Dick – Just wanted to mention that the audience had a hard time hearing the staff on their reports. She was wondering why the prices for the dog tags were not on the website and what the age was for a senior. The rates were not on the website because they had just been set. A senior is considered at age 65. Chief Wentz also told her there is a limit of three (3) dogs. You can have puppies up to 3 months old.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the adjournment of the meeting. Council member Frank Jaime made a motion to adjourn. Council member Elizabeth Villa seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Margaret Estrada, Mayor

Kathy Davis, Clerk