

**CITY OF WAPATO**  
**Regular Council Meeting – Council Chambers**  
**Minutes of August 10, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Juan Orozco called the regular Council meeting of Tuesday, August 10, 2018 to order at 9:00 am.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Welcome

**ROLL CALL:**

- a. Present: Those in attendance included Mayor Juan Orozco, Council members, Dora Alvarez-Roa, Ralph Sanchez, Roberto Reyna, and Barbara Perez.
- b. Absent: Council Members Tony Guzman and Antonio Gaytan.
- c. City Staff Present: City Attorney (CA) Robert Noe, Public Safety Director Michael Campos, and (CT) Robin Cordova.
- d. City Staff Absent: Public Works Director Jeff Schumacker

**HONORS/RECOGNITION:** None

**MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL:**

- a. Councilmember Alvarez-Roa made a motion to approve the meeting agenda and Councilmember Reyna seconded, motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Motion by Councilmember Alvarez Roa to approve the Consent Agenda seconded by Councilmember Reyna, motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

- a. None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a. None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- a. None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Council does not have to act on the following items because this is the first touch, unless they make a motion to do so.

**Guzman's False Allegations:** A restraining order was placed on Mayor Orozco by former Councilman Guzman. Due to this false allegation, there have been legal expenses incurred. Attorney explained that he can't represent Mayor Orozco because Mr. Guzman was a previous councilman. Motion was made by Councilmember Alvarez Roa to reimburse and cover future legal expense by all city employees. Councilman Sanchez seconded and motion passed.

**Council Composition:** Councilman Gaytan has missed three regular scheduled meetings and therefore has vacated his position. Due to his absence, he is no longer a council member. Irasema Cantu was recommended by Mayor Orozco to replace Councilman Gaytan in Council Position 5. The motion was made by Councilmember Alvarez Roa and seconded by Councilman Reyna. Motion carried unanimously. Irasema Gonzalez was appointed by Mayor Orozco and sworn in by Clerk Treasurer Cordova.

Councilman Reyna was excused from the meeting at 9:09am

**City Hall Repairs:** Mayor Orozco explained to council that the City of Wapato is doing a great job renovating the streets, community center and swimming pool. Councilwoman Alvarez Roa made the motion to repair and repaint City Hall. Councilman Sanchez seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Gray & Osborne #16069 and #15037:** Nancy Wetch from Gray & Osbourne explained that after review of the W 1<sup>st</sup> St & Camas Water Main Project and the Trader Street Reconstruction Project, both projects have been completed and it is her recommendation that retainage be released. Councilmember Alvarez Roa made the motion that retainage be released on projects 16069 and 15037, Councilmember Perez seconded. Motion passed.

**Utility Tax Decrease:** Mayor Orozco said that taxes were raised by previous administration in previous years. Mayor Orozco gave examples of how difficult it is for many of our community members to pay for their water. Council used the money for administrative salary increases. This didn't work, and the city came to rely on that tax increase to pay city debt. Mayor Orozco is proposing a 30% decrease over 3 years. 10% this year, 10% next year and another 10% the following year. Councilwoman Alvarez Roa made a motion to lower utility taxes 30% over the next 3 years in increments of 10% each year. Councilwoman Cantu seconded. Councilmembers Alvarez Roa, Sanchez, and Perez agreed that this is one of the biggest complaints in the city. Motion carried unanimously.

## **REPORTS**

- a. Correspondence- None.
- b. Committee Reports

c. Department Reports

1. Police Department:

None

2. Public Works: Jeff Schumacker

- Public Works Director Schumacker reminded everyone that there is a city wide cleanup day on August 22. There will be city staff located at the Train Depot Park to accept garbage. This is free to community residents.

3. Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Orozco thanked Nancy Wetch for the good work that Gray and Osbourne is doing for the city.

4. Community Center:

None

5. Admin/Finance: Robin Cordova

None

6. Planning Commission:

None

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion was made by Councilmember Alvarez Roa to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember Perez. Motion passed.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned 9:22 a.m.

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Juan Orozco, Mayor

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Robin Cordova, Clerk-Treasurer