

CITY OF WAPATO
Regular Council Meeting – Council Chambers
Minutes of January 16, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Juan Orozco called the regular Council meeting of Tuesday, January 16, 2018 to order at 7:00 pm.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Welcome

ROLL CALL:

- a. Present: Those in attendance included Mayor Juan Orozco, Council members, Tony Gaytan, Dora Alvarez-Roa, Ralph Sanchez, Tony Guzman, and Frank Jaime
- b. Absent: Keith Workman
- c. City Staff Present: City Attorney (CA) Robert Noe, Interim Public Works Director (IPWD) Jeff Schumacker, Police Sgt. Deccio, and Clerk-Treasurer (CT) Robin Cordova
- d. City Staff Absent: Santos Valdez

HONORS/RECOGNITION: None

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL:

- a. Councilwoman Alvarez Roa made a motion to approve the meeting agenda and Councilman Reyna seconded. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Councilmember Reyna requested meeting minutes be amended to include his name in the rollcall. Mayor Orozco agreed that his name should be added. Motion by Councilmember Reyna seconded by Councilmember Gaytan, to approve the consent agenda with the amendment made. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND PAYROLL

- a. Councilmember Reyna motioned to approve Claims and Payroll. Councilmember Alvarez Roa seconded. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Irolena Gonzalez complimented the PW for cemetery work. She stated that everyone needs to work together to get off the map as the poorest city in the state. She has noticed that the city is looking nice with trimmed trees, the nice Christmas decorations. The cemetery is looking better.

The city has come up with some good ideas and together everyone will do a good job. The Mayor agreed that the Public Works Dept. is doing good and that previous Mayor Farias did a great job handicap accessible areas throughout the city.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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.

Rattlesnake Ridge: Mayor Orozco would like to make a motion to declare a state of emergency. Councilwoman Alvarez Roa made a motion to declare a state of emergency and Councilman Reyna seconded. Motion carried. The Mayor explained that if the ridge gave way, the city could get reimbursed.

Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YCOG): Mayor asked the council to renew the YCOG contract. Councilmember Alvarez Roa made a motion to renew the contract and Councilmember Gaytan seconded. Motion carried.

Cancellation of Feb 5th Council Meeting: Latino Legislative Day is Feb 5th. The Mayor has been invited to speak with the Governor. The Mayor would like to cancel the Feb 5th meeting so that all those that wish to go can attend. Councilmember Alvarez Roa made a motion to cancel the Feb 5th meeting. Councilmember Reyna seconded. Motion carried.

Council Meeting Time and Date

Mayor requested the approval of the change to council meetings once a month at 6pm on the first Wednesday of every month and have quarterly meetings at the Community Center so there can be more community involvement. Councilmember Alvarez Roa made a motion to adjust council meetings to the first Wednesday of every month at 6pm and have quarterly community meetings at the Wapato Community Center at 6pm at a date later chosen. Councilmember Gaytan seconded. Motion carried. Attorney Noe said that he will prepare the Ordinance and that the next meeting will be as previously scheduled.

REPORTS

- a. Correspondence- None.
- b. Committee Reports
 1. Cemetery Board: John Rocha,
 - Cemetery Committee is still on board with previously scheduled events.
 - There have been 12 benches sold.
- c. Department Reports
 1. Police Department: Sgt. Decio.
 - Abandoned houses are being secured as needed.
 - Action Plan for Rattlesnake Ridge. Sgt. Decio has been trying to preplan for flooding and worst case scenarios if the Ridge collapses.

2. Public Works: Jeff Schumacker
 - Pruning trees throughout city. Good weather will allow city to start grading alleys and repair roads. They are also going to start assessing street lights.
 - Still assessing swimming pool needs.
 - Working with city hall to make sure that there is no unnecessary spending.
 - Labor and Industries is going to be conducting a city wide inspection. All state and federal safety standards are going to be reviewed with all public works employees and safety vests will be worn at all times.

3. Mayor's Report:
 - The Mayor has been working on changing the ordinance for the Cemetery to change the occupancy for one plot. Also would like to change ordinance so that we can have upright headstones. The Cemetery fees are also being reviewed.
 - Working with the Unions to promote within. This is that we can utilize the experience that we currently have. This also sends a positive message to our employees.
 - The first week of February the Public Works Department will be trimming trees at the cemetery.
 - The city has still been dealing with the audit. It is very time consuming.
 - We are having an inspection by Labor & Industries.
 - The house at 104 E 4th Street, Hotel 97 and other abandoned structures around the city are hazardous and eye sores. The city is looking at ways that we can take legal action to change these lots.
 - The city will be looking at all non-profits that work with the city to make sure that everyone is following proper rules.

4. Community Center:
None

5. Fire Department
None

6. Admin/Finance:
None

7. Planning Commission:
None

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilmember Jaime, seconded by Councilmember Reyna, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Juan Orozco, Mayor

Robin Cordova, Clerk-Treasurer