

# **CITY OF WAPATO**

Regular Council Meeting  
Minutes of October 4, 2021

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Keith Workman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

- a. Welcome by Mayor Keith Workman
- b. No Flag Salute due to being a call-in meeting.

## **ROLL CALL:**

- a. Council Members in attendance: Mayor Pro-Tem Margaret Estrada, Chuck Stephens, Jessie Farias, Frances Ayres, Elizabeth Villa, Caroline Solis, Frank Jaime.
- b. City Staff in attendance: Police Chief Nolan Wentz, Fire Chief Bob Clark, Clerk/Treasurer Kimberly Grimm, Public works Director Jeff Schumacker.
- c. Others that were present: City of Wapato Attorney Julie Norton, Minutes taker Kathy Davis

## **MEETING AGENDA:**

Mayor Keith Workman called for the approval of the meeting agenda. Council member Chuck Stephens made motion for approval of the meeting agenda. Council member Margaret Estrada seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **MEETING MINUTES:**

Mayor Keith Workman called for the tabling of the meeting minutes from September 20, 2021. It was called to table the Minutes due to the wrong date on the agenda. Council member Frank Jaime made motion to table the meeting minutes. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried with two (2) council members voting opposed.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Mayor Keith Workman called for the approval of the consent agenda. Council member Margaret Estrada made motion for the approval of the claims and payroll vouchers. Council member Caroline Solis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Alleyway Fence: The fence that is in the alleyway by Noah's Ark is in question as, should it be taken down. That decision is at the discretion of the city. Sergio De La Torre spoke that if the fence is taken down it would make it unsafe for the tenets in the apartment building. Mr. De La Torre stated he could put up another gate. But it was determined that if the police or fire department had to get in, it would not be beneficial. Mayor Keith Workman called for the removal of the fence in the alleyway. Council member Frank Jaime made motion to remove the fence. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried. Council members Jessie Farias and Margaret Estrada opposed.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Lifeline ARM Automated Chest Compression device: Fire Chief Bob Clark has asked for three (3) of the compression devices. It would make doing chest compressions easier, possibly saving a life. The cost would be \$7,900.00 per unit. There are other fire districts that are going to purchase some. With everyone going in together the fire departments are given a reduced rate. Council member Chuck Stephens asked why not four (4)? One could be used by the police department. Chief Wentz stated that he doesn't believe the police would use one. Chief Clark stated that they could put a fourth one in another vehicle. Mayor Keith Workman called for the approval of four (4) chest compression devices. Council member Chuck Stephens made motion of the approval for four (4) compression devices. Council member Frances Ayers seconded. Motion carried. Council member Elizabeth Villa opposed.
  
- b. Mayor Pro-Tempore: It was determined that this position is for one year. It should be done at the beginning of the year. Unless Council Member Margaret Estrada is stepping down there was no need to vote for the position of Mayor Pro-Tempore. She is not stepping down. Council Member Margaret Estrada will continue to be the Mayor Pro-Tempore.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Fire Chief:** Bob Clark stated that the fire department has two (2) fire fighters in the EMT program. There is one firefighter that is in recruit school. The fire department has been busy. They had a 70% increase over last year in September. The fire department is two (2) weeks away from the mandatory vaccination deadline, which is October 18<sup>th</sup>. Half of the volunteers have not received their vaccination, nor have they gotten a waiver. Fire district #5 is down about 30 volunteers. The fire department can put them in a leave of absence status. There are accommodations in place such as medical waiver and religious waiver. That would give them the option of testing every week.

**Animal Control:** Mr. Clark stated that they are drawing up a contract with Yakima Humane Society for animals control services.

**Code Enforcement:** Things are busy with code enforcement with residents putting on new roofs and new construction going on.

**Clerk/Treasurer:** Kimberly Grimm stated that she is busy working on the budget. She is putting together a five-year plan. Kimberly is also busy with USDA and getting ready to put in a report on the relief funds.

Kimberly is looking into getting a software program for the cemetery. It is desperately needed. The new software would make it easier to know what plots are available and to locate family members for customers.

Utilities is setting up payment plans for those that need help. They must pay the current bill and the late portion can be made in three (3) payments. Shut offs are starting October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Kimberly is going to be working on unclaimed funds. It hasn't been done since 2015. It is supposed to be done every two (2) years.

**Public Works Director:** Jeff Schumacker stated that they have applied for two (2) grants for sidewalk improvements. They will start with the residential area. In the 1306 Ordinance there are guidelines for curbs and light crossings. Next week Mr. Schumacker will be applying for at least four (4) more grants. The grants range from \$10,000 - \$100,000. Potholes are a big issue. Public works will be starting to fill those, starting with the worse street first.

Mr. Schumacker agrees that a cemetery program would be very beneficial. Normally headstones are not set after October. Then in the spring, usually April, they start setting them, but this creates a backlog of getting headstones set. Public works has come up with getting the base ready and keeping it in their building and depending on the ground temperature they would be able to set them.

After seeing the preliminary budget numbers the Public Works department is on a three-month spending freeze. Mr. Schumacker wants to keep everything in the black.

A question was asked if there was going to be a water rate study? Mr. Schumacker would like for council to see the budget first, then look at rates.

**Police Chief:** Nolan Wentz stated that police department is experiencing growing pains. They are holding at seven (7) officers. Chief Wentz is waiting for another pool of officers to come through.

Officers are going to a new schedule. This will allow for two (2) training teams. It would also help eliminate some of the overtime.

The large blue jail van that the police have has motor issues. It is too costly to repair. There was a van sitting in Sunnyside that they don't use, so Chief Wentz was able to acquire it. Between the two (2) vans the police department will have a van that they will be able to transport more prisoners with one officer.

Noah's Ark: Chief Wentz stated he is learning more and more about it. Noah's Ark is considered a low barrier, which is not rare. Camp Hope services approximately 150 homeless and they don't have half the issues that Noah's Ark has.

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Doug Milne presented his concern about a home across the street from him. There have been several shootings. He stated that the police were only a block away and didn't pursue a car going down the alley with its lights off, nor did they do a well check on the people in the house that was shot at. Mr. Milne went to and did a well check to make sure everyone was ok. Mr. Milne called the owner of the home and was referred to their son. The son claimed that they don't have anything to do with the tenants. There are some ecology blocks already in the alley and Mr. Milne wants to move in more, stack them three high. He will leave room for the gas company because they have a meter there that they service. Chief Clark stated that they would need to make sure that a fire engine could fit through there also. Mr. Milne stated that he will be taking legal action.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Keith Workman called for the adjournment of the meeting. Council member Chuck Stephens made motion to adjourn. Council member Elizabeth Villa seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

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Margaret Estrada, Mayor Pro-Tempore

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Kimberly Grimm, Clerk/Treasurer