

# CITY OF WAPATO

Regular Council Meeting  
Minutes of February 7, 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, Frank Jaime, Frances Ayres, Elizabeth Villa, Caroline Solis.
- b. City Staff in attendance: Police Chief Nolan Wentz, Fire Chief Bob Clark, Public Works Director Jeff Schumacker, Clerk Kathy Davis
- c. Others that were present: City of Wapato Attorney Julie Norton (via Zoom), Recorder Judy Devall.

## **MEETING AGENDA:**

No additions or deletions

## **MEETING MINUTES:**

Minutes from January 18, 2022 were presented for approval.

Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of January 18th Meeting Minutes.

Council member Elizabeth Villa made motion to approve meeting minutes from January 18th. Council member Frank Jaime seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Election of a new Mayor Pro-Tempore. Attorney Julie Norton mentioned that it is important to have a Mayor Pro-Tem. It is better to have pro-tem due to the policies that we have in place. If something were to happen to the mayor the pro-tem would be able to step in. There were two that were two that were nominated. Frank Jaime and Elizabeth Villa. Vote was taken. Elizabeth Villa was voted in by a count of 3 – 2.
- b. Approval of moving forward with the Inspire Building and get the zoning changed. The building is zoned as R2 (residential). It would need to change to commercial. Chief Wentz mentioned that he would send out letters to the surrounding neighbors for the rezoning. They will have two to three weeks to respond. The residents will be able to respond by written comments. Mayor Margaret Estrada call for the approval to move forward with the Inspire building. Council member Caroline Solis made motion to approve going forward with the Inspire building. Council member Elizabeth Villa seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Fire Chief:** Bob Clark stated that the fire department had 63 calls for January 2022 and 45 calls for January 2021. They are already busy in February.

Animal Control is busy with strays. Chief Clark has been talking with Yakima Humane to help with stray issue and they are ready to step in and help.

Code Enforcement: Chief Clark has sent out 14 graffiti letters. Most have gone to business and a couple to residential. It is a reminder of the ordinance that they are responsible for the graffiti on their buildings. If the city has to come in a clean they will be charged for it.

Chief Clark mentioned that Fire District #5 has a storage unit, it was broken into. The thieves took roughly \$35,000.00 to \$40,000.00 worth of supplies and did roughly \$50,000.00 in damages.

**Clerk:** Kathy Davis stated that she received a letter from YVCOG and we will not have any balance due for the Housing Action Plan. The clerks in the office have been doing a good job.

**Police Chief:** Nolan Wentz stated that a camera system is high priority on his list to do. The one he was looking at is too expensive. He would like to have one that will be able to catch license plates. Chief Wentz stated that he should have two new officers. They have a medical test to go through then the hiring process. Once hired they can go through the academy. There is still a slot for one more officer. Chief Wentz is working on some funding for the Inspire building. A question was asked when it would be open? Hopefully by mid spring.

**Public Works Director:** Jeff Schumacker stated that the public works crew has been busy fixing broken fire hydrants. They will start to do minor street cleaning, clearing some of the winter debris. Mr. Schumacker will be out with Tim Devries surveying some blocks. They will start with the worse streets first. Mr. Schumacker will be in touch with the transportation department about getting some light up crosswalks.

The LED lights will be installed in the cemetery.

As for the Inspire building there will be a scope of repairs that needs to be done. It will be advertised and sent for bids.

There is a company out of Texas that does electronic reader boards. They will be here to survey Wapato to possibly put one up. They are looking for high visibility and high traffic areas. If they choose Wapato they will choose where it goes but Wapato will have input on the design. If they approve Wapato they will be at a council meeting to present it to the council.

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

No audience participation

### **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.

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Margaret Estrada, Mayor Pro-Tempore

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Kathy Davis, Clerk