

# CITY OF WAPATO

Regular Council Meeting  
Minutes of September 6, 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, Ken Workman, Frances Ayres, Elizabeth Villa, Caroline Solis.
- b. City Staff in attendance: Police Chief Nolan Wentz, Clerk Kathy Davis, Public Works Director Jeff Schumacker, Fire Chief Bob Clark.
- c. Others that were present: Recorder Judy Devall, Wapato City Attorney Julie Norton via zoom.

## **MEETING AGENDA:**

No Additions & Deletions. Council member Frank Jaime made motion for approval of no additions/deletions. Council member Caroline Solis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **MEETING MINUTES:**

Minutes from August 15, 2022 were presented for approval.

Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of August 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes. Council member Elizabeth Villa made motion to approve meeting minutes from August 15th.

Council member Ken Workman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Approval of BDI Fuel Surcharge. Rebecca Francik from BDI was present to show why the increase in the fuel surcharge. The City of Wapato has a contract from 2005 and the fuel charge is \$2.75. Since the increase of diesel fuel it costs BDI more to run their garbage vehicles. City of Wapato has not had any increase since 2005. Ms. Francik said they use a fuel index to determine the prices. It fluctuates every two months. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the fuel surcharge. Council member Ken Workman made motion to table the approval upon request for more information. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Tabled for further information and discussion.
- b. Approval of Liquor License for Las Palmas Nightclub. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the liquor license for Las Palmas Nightclub. Council member Frank Jaime made motion to approve the liquor license for Las Palmas Nightclub. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Two firefighters were present to be sworn in as Lieutenant. KC Frazier and Wally Shearer have made Lieutenant Firefighters. Mayor Margaret Estrada swore them in, and Chief Bob Clark presented them with their pins.
- d. Approval of ARPA funds use for River Safety Equipment for the Police Department. Chief Nolan Wentz stated that they have responded to some river rescues but didn't have adequate equipment to help. This equipment would help them be better prepared to help. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the use of the ARPA funds for the River Safety Equipment. Council member Frank Jaime made motion to approve the use of ARPA funds for the river rescue equipment. Council member Chuck Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Fire Chief:** Bob Clark stated that he is happy to have Lieutenant Frazier and Lieutenant Shearer at the fire department. They bring eighteen (18) years of experience between them. They will be a big asset to the fire department. Calls are up 13%. Through August 2022 there has been 424 calls compared to 374 in 2021. Drone training starts this week. Should have first pilot certified late October to beginning of November. Chief Clark stated he was happy to be part of the Harvest Festival, it was a great success. The kids had a lot of fun in the water on a warm day. Animal Control: AOC has been doing a great job on the strays. Making a big dent on picking the strays up. Code Enforcement: Graffiti is an ongoing battle here. Special kudos to Public Works. There were a couple of roll call tags and Public Works jumped right on it and got it painted over. Code has been busy with homeowners doing various home improvements.

**Clerk:** Kathy Davis stated she received a notice from the IRS and for year ending 2019 we had overpaid the IRS \$32,000. We will be receiving a refund check. Ms. Davis met with the auditors and for the Federal audit the funds were disbursed in two different years. So, we will not have to go through a federal audit. Since we don't have the Federal audit, they have decided to wait until 2023 to do the 2020 and 2021 financial audit along with 2022 financial audit. There will be an accountability audit in 2023 for years 2021 and 2022. Ms. Davis stated that with the help of Mr. Schumacker, they are working on the budget for 2023.

**Public Works Director:** Jeff Schumacker stated he is working with Ms. Davis going through preliminary budgets and department heads are reviewing their budgets. Hopefully by the end of September there will be a rough draft for each department. As of right now the budget is looking pretty good. Mr. Schumacker is pleased that we are digging our way out from where we were. Things are looking positive.

**Police Chief:** Nolan Wentz stated that everyone is aware of the cameras that are up. So far there has been about 50 stolen cars come through Wapato. The police department has caught a few of them. It is truly a remarkable system. There has been two officers that have graduated the academy. There is one officer that has just started. Chief Wentz stated that he going to have to find some cars for them. On the Inspire building, they are waiting for the contractor. He has one last document that is needed to begin work. Chief Wentz has been exploring other options for financing.

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Marla Hernandez: Tamale Festival will be held October 8<sup>th</sup>. Applications will be out soon. Needs to see who has the remaining funds from the last tamale festival. Would like to get all the vendors and the receipts. She has already received information from Kiona but needs all the other information as to what was spent on security, and the receipts.

Gina Ramos: Wanted to thank council member Ken Workman for asking questions about the fuel surcharge. It seems the customer is always paying more. To Chief Clark, Ms. Ramos wanted to clarification as to what the AOC means about having proof of ownership on dogs. Chief Clark said he would investigate it. To Mr. Schumacker, Ms. Ramos was upset that he did not include the Lions Club in his kudos. The Lion's club worked hard and had a lot of last-minute things occur.

Kiona Dick: Ms. Dick stated that the Lion's club has always been a big supporter of swim teams, robotics, and varies other things. Everyone did a great job at harvest festival. December, there will be two members that will be stepping down. That will leave a big hole. Ms. Dick stated that she closed out the commerce funds to help out at the tamale festival.

Maryellen Robinson: Wanted to come and thank everyone for the hard work on the Harvest Festival. It was great to see families getting out together. The community came out and supported each other.

Anita from Anita's Café: Council member Caroline Solis interpreted for her. She wanted to know why Chief Clark would not issue a permit to her to put a fence up behind her restaurant. There is a problem with the homeless going behind the restaurant and relieving themselves. She is having to go back there and clean it up. According to Chief Clark and Attorney Julie Norton there is an easement back there. In the agreement the car wash and the restaurant personnel can drive through there. Chief Clark will get the document and send it to her.

**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 at 8:10pm.

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Margaret Estrada, Mayor

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Kathy Davis, Clerk