

CITY OF WAPATO

Regular Council Meeting
Minutes of October 17, 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, Rita Alvarado, 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 and Sean Davido, Wapato City Attorney Julie Norton via zoom.

MEETING AGENDA:

Additions & Deletions. Council member Chuck Stephens made motion for approval of additions/deletions. Council member Ken Workman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes from October 3, 2022 were presented for approval.

Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of October 3rd Meeting Minutes.

Council member Rita Alvarado made motion to approve meeting minutes from October 3rd. Council member Frank Jaime seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Council member Ken Workman pointed out the patrol car had been totaled but on October 3rd the insurance had just been called.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval for BDI Fuel Surcharge. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the BDI Fuel Surcharge. Council member Rita Alvarado made motion to approve the BDI Fuel Surcharge. Council member Frank Jaime seconded. Motion carried with a vote of 6-1.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Mr. Byron Gumz from YVCOG presented the Housing Action Plan. Mr. Gumz went over the data that has been collected so far for the housing action plan.
- b. Approval of new rates for the Community Center/Park rentals. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of the rate increase for the Community center/park rentals. Council member Chuck Stephens made motion to approve the rate increases for the Community Center/park Rentals. Council member Ken Workman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Approval of ARPA funds for police vehicles. One police car was totaled, it will be going in to have the equipment removed. The police vehicles have a lot of milage on them. Mayor Margaret Estrada called for the approval of ARPA funds for police vehicles. Council member Rita Alvarado made motion to approve the use of ARPA funds for the police vehicles. Council member Ken Workman seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Ken Workman wanted to commend the chief for shopping around and getting the best rates.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Chief: Bob Clark stated that there has been an increase in strays. The humane society is overflowing with animals. Code enforcement, with the weather still being nice there are still homeowners that are making home repairs. The fire department has 520 year-to-date calls. Up 15%. Jaws of life have been ordered. Our homeless problem is still high. Some homeless say they like our city because drugs are easier to get. The fire department is getting more calls because of the homeless. Meeting with Yakima County to go over concerns and help with the homeless.

Clerk: Kathy Davis stated that she is working on property taxes. Should have them ready for the next council and working on the budget. Should have a preliminary budget at the next meeting.

Public Works Director: Jeff Schumacker stated that he wanted to thank all the volunteers for the tamale festival. They did a great job resurrecting the tamale festival. Him and Kathy are working on the budget. The city should be proud of the year end. Police and Fire Department have long term goals. We will get there. The homeless are causing a burden on some departments in the city. When City Hall comes in it is dark and when they leave it is dark. Lights and cameras are going in at city hall and the library. Looking to promote the city.

Police Chief: Nolan Wentz stated there may be a solution soon. They will find out Wednesday with their meeting with Yakima. Maybe come up with an alternative. If the homeless is from out of town, they may not understand how cold it gets here. Chief Wentz had an opportunity to work a graveyard shift. It is still just as busy as the daytime. The officer that was in the academy failed so Chief is looking for another officer. The building is coming along. Some things still need to change.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Gina Ramos: With the passage of the fuel surcharge, she would like to know the new rate and what kind of increase the customers are looking at. Ms. Ramos would like to have the police come by her home at night. Pit bull is still loose, but no one is coming to pick it up.

Kiona Dick: Ms. Dick is on the board of directors at Noah's Ark. She has seen Memorial Hospital release an three amputee patients and bring them to Noah's Ark. Had drug dealer living next door. Took pictures of drug deals going down. They are coming into her shop.

Marla Hernandez: Stated that the Tamale Festival went well. It was warm. Had some people come and volunteer for next year. Will have a lot more vendors next year. Thank you to the city workers. Jerry won the main drawing. He was given the ticket. A lot of the businesses donated to the drawing.

Judy Duvall: Judy is retiring. Her last day is October 31, 2022. If we need anything Sean Davido is taking her position. Ms. Duvall wanted to thank the council for their time and hospitality.

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.

Margaret Estrada, Mayor

Kathy Davis, Clerk