
**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 7, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gagné called the Zoom meeting for the Omak City Council to order at 7:00 PM and established a quorum.

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL:

Michael Foth	Tyler Wells, Building Official
Nattalie Cariker	Kevin Bowling, Fire Chief
Barry Freel	Jeff Koplín, Police Chief
Steve Clark	Ken Mears, Public Works Director
Walt Womack	Connie Thomas, City Clerk
Michelle Gaines	Todd McDaniel, City Administrator
Dave Womack	

CORRESPONDENCE AND MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Gagné introduced Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Executive Director of the Economic Alliance. She is here as a guest to share how her agency has helped the City of Omak. Mrs. Holder-Diefenbach shared her screen which displayed CARES Act information. She explained with the original contract amount of \$75,000, they had awarded thirty-six businesses and funded \$2,000 per business. She said that Mr. McDaniel came back and let her know that additional funding was available. Economic Alliance was able to fund another \$777.77 per business for a total award of \$99,999.72. The grants were issued using an application process. The businesses also had to provide a UBI number, not have any issues with the Department of Labor and submit a W9 form. Upon receipt of funds, they were required to provide a receipt for the expenditure. Mrs. Holder-Diefenbach shared a demographic and industry breakdown of those businesses. She received a lot of emails and were very thankful to have received the dollars as they helped pay expenses. She told Council that Economic Alliance, through their office ended up funding \$1,088,749 to businesses in Okanogan County. She explained that businesses the City funded were also funded with other program grant dollars with an average of \$8,000 to each business. Member Freel asked Mrs. Holder-Diefenbach about the CARES Act funding specifically ZOOM Grants, CARES Act Funding and wondering about the status of funding. She explained that there are a couple of programs one of which is a Resiliency grants through the Department of Commerce. They notified businesses by email and she encourage those applicants to check their email. She shared information about another grant that is available, Working Washington. This grant is targeting the businesses that are impacted by the recent restrictions set by the Governor a couple weeks ago. Member Dave Womack asked about the fraternal organizations and if they are eligible for funding. Mrs. Holder-Diefenbach said they can apply for these funds. She has been reaching out to those organizations that have restaurants and bars as they are eligible to apply because they fit into that category. Administrator McDaniel wanted to thank Mrs. Holder-Diefenbach for being willing to help and he wanted her to know that she is amazing. She conveyed how appreciative the recipients were. Mayor Gagné said that she is also grateful for all the groundwork that was done by Economic Alliance.

Mayor Gagné told Council that this morning she spoke with Police Chief Koplín this morning and is in support of his decision to resign from his position. She asked if Chief Koplín would like to address Council. He explained to Council that this is not a decision that has come lightly and has taken a lot of thought and prayer. He told Council that he has been honored to work with each and every one of them. This decision was made together with his wife and daughters and what is best for his family right now. At this time, January 1, 2021 will be the end of his tenure at the City of Omak.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve the consent agenda consisting of minutes from the November 16, 2020; claims checks numbered 103885-103962 with checks 103811-103884 being voided, in the amount of \$971,707.88; November payroll checks numbered 103718-103720 and 103782-103810 and various ACH's in the amount of \$296,220.26. As there was no discussion and no comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

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OLD BUSINESS:

Ordinance 1897 – 2nd Read – Amending the 2021 Budget – Garbage Fund

Member Dave Womack moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Ordinance 1897.

Administrator McDaniel explained to Council that this Ordinance will increase the garbage fund an additional \$30,000 for a total expenditure of \$1,030,000. Because of the contract amount with Sunrise Disposal, the City will go over the approved 2020 approved expenditures. This expenditure will be offset by like revenues. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Ordinance 1898 – 2nd Read – Adopting the 2021 Budget

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Ordinance 1898. Administrator McDaniel explained to Council that the City held the last Budget Workshop on November 9, 2020 and the Public Hearing was held on November 16, 2020 along with the first read of the Ordinance and there was no public comment. He told Council that the 2021 Budget fairly estimates the City revenues and the expenditures needed to provide services in 2021. He also explained that the only thing that has not been finalized is a contract with the Teamsters. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance 1899 – Approving the 2021 Non-Union Salary Schedule

Member Gaines moved, seconded by Member Clark, to approve Ordinance 1899. Administrator McDaniel explained that the salary schedule is for a three percent increase for all non-union employees. The exceptions to the three percent increase are the positions for the seasonal employees and the pool employees. These wages will stay the same except for the lifeguards who, will receive an increase based on the state minimum wage. These salaries are included in the 2021 Budget. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Ordinance 1900 – 1st Read – Amending the 2020 Budget – Library Fund

Administrator McDaniel explained to Council that as we get close to end of year, the library fund has the potential to go over the approved 2020 expenditure. He chose to bring an Ordinance to Council to appropriate and additional \$5,000. The library had significant failures with the HVAC system which resulted in additional estimated expenses of \$4,800.

Resolution 75-2020 – Approving the 2021 Fuel Bid

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 75-2020. Administrator McDaniel told Council that this is the annual request for fuel for 2021. The City only received one bid and it was from Whitley Fuel, LLC. Administrator McDaniel said the prices are in line with 2020 and Whitley is doing a good job for us and he recommends its approval. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 76-2020 – Adopting the 2021 Fee Schedule

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 76-2020. Administrator McDaniel explained that there are not a lot of changes in the schedule. There are no increases to the utility rates. Building Official Wells added fees in the land use. He found that some land use actions were not called out specifically in the fee schedule and has identified them. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 77-2020 – Amending the CARES Act Agreement with Economic Alliance

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Freel, to approve Resolution 77-2020. Administrator McDaniel explained that this was an additional agreement with Economic Alliance. The original agreement with Economic Alliance provided them \$75,000 of CARES Act Fund to distribute to local businesses. As the City approached the November 30 deadline, we had additional funding leftover. He contacted Mrs. Holder-Diefenbach a week prior to our deadline and asked if she could distribute another \$25,000 out to the businesses. She was willing and thought she could get it done. Administrator McDaniel reached out to Committee and advised them of the situation and the amendment was affective November 18, 2020. Economic Alliance was able to distribute just under \$100,000 to our local businesses. He told Council that the City spent all but \$3,000 of the available CARES Act Funds and couldn't have done that without their cooperation. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 78-2020 – Approving Change Order No. 1 – POW Contracting – Water Sewer Improvement Project

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Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Foth, to approve Resolution 78-2020. Public Works Director Mears explained to Council that this change order is for excavation of rock on Granite Street near Thumb Rock. He said that this area was anticipated to be a problem and City Engineers, Gray & Osborne while in the field, raised the elevation of the lines in order to avoid rock excavation. Member Gaines asked if they knew there was going to be an issue, why did they not engineer for it. Public Works Director Mears explained that they knew as they started working toward the area. There was some minor exploration prior to the project but the rock was not where they anticipated it would be but, it was further up the road. As there were no further questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 79-2020 – Approve Insurance Brokerage Agreement with Martin-Morris Agency

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 79-2020. Administrator McDaniel explained that this is an annual agreement with our current Brokerage Firm, Martin-Morris who act as our agent between the City and Cities Insurance Association of Washington (CIAW). We have been working with Martin-Morris since 2014. The Resolution approved in 2014 did not reference an agreement. This Resolution clarifies our relationship with Martin-Morris to provide annual insurance brokerage service for the City of Omak. Member Gaines asked if staff has looked at other insurance companies like AWC that don't require a brokerage fee. Administrator McDaniel said the he spent time in 2019 working with AWC and the information was never received by the City and AWC was unresponsive. AWC reached out in 2020 and with the pandemic, he has not got back to them because he would like to see what they have to offer. Member Dave Womack had a question about Canfield and Risk Management. Administrator McDaniel explained that the City was with a local agent in Clerk Lobdell's tenure. Martin-Morris was then brought on as our broker and CIAW does the bulk of our insurance except for the Airport which is handled by another carrier. As there were no further questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Committee/Staff Reports:

Public Works Director Mears told Chief Koplín that it's been an honor to work with him and that if he needed anything to call anytime.

Administrator McDaniel asked Fire Chief Bowling about the fireworks permit for the downtown Christmas event. Chief Bowling state the ordinance requires the permit be obtained 30 days prior to Council. The application was received late so Chief Bowling issued the permit for them to proceed. The fireworks display will be on December 19th.

Member Cariker thanked Chief Koplín for his service to the City of Omak. She asked that the Tree Board meet to discuss planting an evergreen tree in Civic League Park where a tree was recently removed. The tree could be used to decorate for the holidays. She also shared that they have organized a Santa drive through from 1:00pm - 3:00pm on December 19th in the Eastside Park. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on the porch of the Stampede Company Store to talk to children. The children will stay in their vehicle. They will also be handing out goody bags. They have been working closely with Lori Jones at the Health Department to organize the event. The fireworks will be at 5:45pm that same evening.


Member Freel, Member Clark and Member Dave Womack wished the best to Chief Koplín and thanked him for his service.

Member Gaines said she was caught off guard and wish Chief Koplín and his family the best, she knows it was a hard decision to make. She also thanked Member Cariker for organizing Santa for the community. She asked Building Official Wells about his staff report. She inquired about the location of the Meadowlark development. Mr. Wells explained that Meadowlark is at the corner of Pine Street and Jonathan just behind Harbor Freight. The Meadow Point development is off Oak Street.

As there was no further business before Council, Mayor Gagné adjourned the Zoom meeting at 7:47 PM.



Connie Thomas, City Clerk



Cindy Gagné, Mayor