
**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 1, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gagné called the Zoom meeting for the Omak City Council to order at 7:00 PM. Rather than the flag salute, she asked that everyone in attendance take a moment of silence for the death and destruction that is going on in the world today.

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 shared with Council that the Association of Washington Cities is going to be online this year due to COVID-19. She is looking for three voting representatives. If any councilmembers plan to attend, she would like to know so she can get you signed up as a voting delegate for the City of Omak.

Mayor Gagné said that she has become aware of a demonstration that will take place on Thursday, June 4, 2020. It's her understanding that there will be a group of people that will march from Riverside Drive to Civic League Park. The demonstration will begin at 5pm. She said that protests around the nation have started out peaceful but have ended with criminal undertones. The City will be watching for that.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Foth, to approve the consent agenda consisting of minutes from the May 18, 2020; claims checks numbered 102780-102829, in the amount of \$879,351.57; May manual checks numbered 102683, 102687 and 102749 in the amount of \$1,513.61; May 2020 payroll checks numbered 102684-102686, 102750-102779 and various ACH's in the amount of \$289,740.52; Check number 102763 was voided. As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 37-2020 – Approve FAA Cares Act Grant Agreement

Member Dave Womack moved, seconded by Member Clark, to approve Resolution 37-2020. City Administrator McDaniel explained to Council that Cares Act funds are available through the Federal Aviation Commission. The grant funds are to help offset declining revenues as a result of COVID-19. The grant will reimburse up to \$20,000 for the Omak Municipal Airport operating costs. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Ordinance 1890 – Approve Affordable Housing Tax Credit

Member Gaines moved, seconded by Member Clark, to approve Ordinance 1890. City Administrator McDaniel explained to Council that the Ordinance allows the City to received .0073% of the taxable retail sales for our jurisdiction. This tax credit comes from the existing sales and use tax already in place. This revenue is restricted and can only be used for affordable housing according to SHB 1046. He reminded Council that they approved the declaration of intent for Affordable Housing Revenue at the January 21, 2020 Council Meeting. He explained that City Attorney Howe drafted the entire Ordinance and even though it's not a new tax, an ordinance was needed. Administrator McDaniel anticipates the City will received \$16,000 a year in revenue and he expects that we may enter into an Interagency Agreement to get the funds disbursed. City staff will be creating a new fund for the Affordable Housing Sales Tax. The tax revenue will continue for twenty years. As there were no questions or further comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

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OTHER BUSINESS:

Committee/Staff Reports:

Councilmember Cariker told Council that the Community Support & Public Safety Committee met and discussed the opening of the swimming pool. She said that her and Member Gaines would like to open the pool and Member Walt Womack was against. The committee is asking for a majority vote from council regarding this decision. Administrator McDaniel said that if the pool were to remain closed, the budget savings would be approximately \$70,000. He did want Council to be aware that if the pool were to open, a portion of the \$140,000 from the Cares Act Grant can be used to pay for additional guards that would be needed to meet COVID-19 requirements. Public Works Director Mears said that he is just looking for a go or no go. He did express concerns about the staffing needed to meet COVID-19 regulations. With the current guidance, we can't open the pool until Phase 3. Keeping the pool closed is not what anyone wants to do but, a lot of other cities have already made the decision to do so. Member Clark said that after reading the COVID guidelines from the Department of Health, he is not in favor of opening the pool. Members Walt Womack, Freel and Foth agree with Member Clark. Member Gaines wanted to express reasons for opening the pool. She explained that the citizen's want the pool and improvements to the pool. We represent the citizen's and this a service we provide to them. This is the only source of summertime recreation for children and families in Omak. Member Foth knows the public wants the pool open but he is thinking about the public safety. Member Freel said at tis point, Okanogan County is still in Phase 1 and the County may not get to Phase 3. Member Dave Womack said the sales tax is down and keeping the pool closed may, offset that loss of revenue. He is also concerned about how the lifeguards will ensure social distancing in the pool. The lifeguards would be required to wear masks in the hot weather. For this year, it's a safety issue. Member Clark said this is a hard decision. Even if the County does reach Phase 3, who will monitor the children outside the pool waiting to swim. Pool employees will have to monitor and count those coming in and out of the pool and he doesn't want to put them in that position. Member Dave Womack appreciates the views of Member Gaines and Cariker. Public Works Director Mears said that he has been with the City for 29 years and the pool has always been open. It saddens him to have to keep it closed this summer. The 5-2 consensus of Council is to keep the pool closed for the 2020 summer season.

Building Official Wells told Council that today was the last day for the review period for a parcel consolidation at 601 Briar Lane and 602 Briar Lane. He received an application for a two-lot short plat at 125 E Grape Avenue. The notice of application will be in the Omak Chronicle on Wednesday. The review period for this application ends 6/24/2020.

Fire Chief Bowling said that after hearing safety concerns about the pool and park, he asked if Council was going to allow fireworks on the 4th of July. He said the Colville Tribal Council will be meeting on Wednesday to discuss fireworks. His concern is that if fireworks are not allowed in the Eastside Park, citizens will use outlying areas and it will increase the fire load. Member Dave Womack asked if it was more families that used the park for fireworks and if Social Distancing would be a factor. Chief Bowling said the park use is a mixture of individuals and families. There are over 2,000 people using the park on that day but, it's a big area. He said it would be unfortunate if the park is closed to fireworks. Member Cariker said the Public Safety Committee could discuss this further during their Friday meeting. They may also have information as to what the Colville Tribe is proposing to do.

Police Chief Koplin said the Mayor covered information on the proposed gathering for Thursday evening. He has spoke with Sheriff Hawley about the situation and they are working together. Past demonstrations in Omak have been peaceful and respectful and as far as he can tell, this is the intent behind this event. He is still unclear who the organizers are.

City Administrator McDaniel told Council that the annual report has been filed and a hard copy has been placed in Councilmember's mailboxes. Member Dave Womack asked about the Cares Act Grant. Administrator McDaniel said the City qualifies for \$148,000. Member Dave Womack asked if funds could be used to upgrade the audio/video system in the Council Chambers to accommodate Zoom Meetings. Administrator McDaniel said that he is looking into that. Member Clark asked if the County Commissioners are still pursuing an early opening. Administrator McDaniel deferred to Member Gaines. Member Gaines said that she did not listen to the Board of Health Meeting this morning but, the report was that Okanogan County was on the top of the list for review for Phase 2. She said that the initial application the County submitted for a partial Phase 2 opening did not go through because they knew Governor Inslee was going to make a statement about reopening. Based on a report she heard, the Phase 2 application has been submitted and under review.

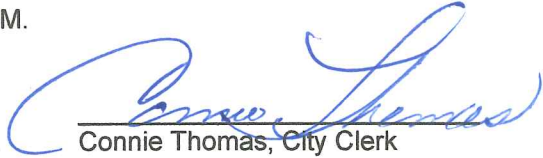
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Public Works Director Mears told Council that with the help of Contract Planner, Kurt Danison the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Grants have been submitted. The City has a tentative technical presentation for scheduled. Mr. Mears said that he sent the Six Year Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) out to everyone for review last week. The City of Omak is working with WSDOT and the Colville Tribe to submit a grant application for rapid flashing beacon installation on Omak Avenue in front of East Omak School. He told Council that the projects are going smoothly. The contractors are roofing the airport well pumphouse, Jasmine Street sidewalk and the storm drain project are proceeding on schedule. He said that there is a delay with the Eastside Park Lift Station. The Washington State Labor and Industries electrical inspector is interpreting the code differently. City engineers, Gray & Osborne is working to help resolve the issue to get the project completed. Mr. Mears gave kudos to Gary for working with Public Works on monitoring the one-night stay in the RV Park.

Member Clark asked about flooding and seepage. Public Works Director Mears said that things are looking well. They are monitoring infiltrations and seeing common areas that get seepage during high water. Public Works is collecting data from manholes and they will be sealing up any cracks after the river reseeds. South Juniper has quite a bit of water and with the rain event, pumps were set out over the weekend. Public Works is monitoring the levy daily. Member Foth asked for a mosquito update. Mr. Mears said that Tracy has been fogging and treating the larvae but with the influx of river water he was unable to treat before the hatch.

Mayor Gagné said that Economic Alliance has a donation opportunity. They will be granting funds to small businesses in Okanogan County that have been affected by COVID-19. The donation is tax deductible as Economic Alliance is a 501c3 organization.

As there was no further business before Council, Mayor Gagné adjourned the Zoom meeting at 7:34 PM.



Connie Thomas, City Clerk



Cindy Gagné, Mayor