
**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 15, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gagné called the Zoom meeting for the Omak City Council to order at 7:00 PM. Mayor Gagné told members that she had just attended a community discussion about recognizing and finding a way to stop racism that exists in our community. She said it was a thoughtful discussion. In lieu of the flag salute, she asked that we take a moment of silence to reflect on what we can do to make the world a better place.

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	

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Mayor Gagné told Council that she received two emails, one from Dulane Crist and another from Baya Walls. Both asked to be placed on the agenda and the Mayor will add them to the end of the agenda and each will be given five minutes to summarize information already provided. If there are any other members of the community who would like to speak, they will be given two minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Dave Womack, to approve the consent agenda consisting of minutes from the June 1, 2020 council meeting; 2020 claims checks numbered 102837-102897 in the amount of \$583,777.39. As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program for 2021-2026

Mayor Gagné opened the public hearing for the 2021-2026 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program at 7:02pm. She asked Public Works Director Mears if he had anything to offer. He doesn't have anything to add but, he is open to answering questions. Member Gaines wanted to confirm that the Quince Street Roundabout on SR-215 is the number one project. Mr. Mears said yes, with information provided from the Pertee US Omak Area 97 Transportation Study commissioned by WSDOT and the City's current Engh Road project that is already in que, this project was moved to the number one position. This is a secondary project that will compliment, the Engh Road project. Public Works Director Mears feels it's important to work with WSDOT and their study. Hearing no other questions or comments from the Council or audience, Mayor Gagné closed the public hearing at 7:04pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 38-2020 – Approve Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program for 2021-2026

Member Foth moved, seconded by Member Clark, to approve Resolution 38-2020. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approve the motion.

Resolution 39-2020 – Approve Contract with LiquiVision Technology for Reservoir Cleaning

Member Gaines moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 39-2020. Public Works Director Mears said that reservoir inspections and cleanings are done on a periodic basis for quality control. Professional inspections provide repair, cleaning, sanitation and condition status. Reservoirs are vital to the city operations. Mr. Mears told Council that the city has worked with LiquiVision in the past and they are very professional. The estimate provided by LiquiVision to perform the work is \$14,353. The project is funded in the 2020 Capital Outlay Budget. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 40-2020 – Approve 2020 Paint Striping Agreement with WSDOT

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Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker to approve Resolution 40-2020. Public Works Director Mears explained to Council that this agreement is for our annual street striping program. He explained that the Washington State Department of Transportation has the equipment and knowledge therefore, making it cost effective for the city. The estimated cost for street striping is \$10,600 and is funded in the 2020 budget. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Resolution 41-2020 – Amending the City of Omak 2020 Fee Schedule

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker to approve Resolution 41-2020. City Administrator McDaniel explained to Council that changes to the business license fees were prompted by the city's inclusion into the Washington State Business Licensing System. The current business registrations are a \$25 one-time fee. The proposed fees are a \$10 new issuance and a \$10 annual renewal fee. While updating the fee schedule, the RV Park rental rates were corrected. The rates in the fee schedule were skewed when the two tenth sales tax increase went into effect April 1, 2020. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Resolution 42-2020 – Approve Cares Act Grant 20-6541C-27 Through the WA State Department of Commerce

Member Gaines moved, seconded by Member Clark to approve Resolution 42-2020. City Administrator McDaniel explained that grant funds allocated by the federal government from the Coronavirus Relief Fund. The Washington State Department of Commerce will pass the grant money through to the City of Omak. The grant is based on per capita and the city will receive \$148,200. All that is needed is a signature on the grant and the city will be eligible for expenditures related to COVID response and second-order costs that may include economic development. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Resolution 43-2020 – Approve Agreement with Economic Alliance – Cares Act Grant Funds

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Gaines to approve Resolution 43-2020. City Administrator McDaniel explained to Council that this agreement with Economic Alliance, a non-profit organization who is in the best position to get the CARES Act money out quickly. The CARES Act funds need to be spent by October 31, 2020. The City of Omak will not spend the entire \$148,200 on direct response costs. The leftover funds can be used to help our local businesses. Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Executive Director of Economic Alliance has received applications for the Small Business Emergency Grant. \$75,000 will be obligated to Economic Alliance to use to fund those grant applicants in the City of Omak. Administrator McDaniel explained that there could be more funding that may go unused. He also told Council that Attorney Howe has reviewed the draft and the Public Safety Committee met about the amounts and recommend the \$75,000. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Ordinance 1891 – Amend OMC Title 4 and Title 18 – Business-Taxation, Regulations and Licensing

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker to approve Ordinance 1891. City Administrator McDaniel explained to Council that this ordinance is amended as it relates to the city's partnership with the Washington State Business Licensing Service. This ordinance has been reviewed by City Attorney Howe. He provided comments and corrections that are included in this ordinance. City Administrator reiterated that there were very few changes. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Mayor Gagné again explained that Dulane Crist and Baya Wells will speak in five-minute increments. She asked that Dulane Crist speak first. Dulane Crist told Council that she has sent numerous articles and internet links to other Councils and small towns that experiences armed vigilantes as citizens practiced democracy in the black lives matter marches. Spokane, Leavenworth and Tri-Cities were not happy about armed citizens on the streets and what the need was. She stated that it was an asymmetrical response to the non-violent protesters. The nation watched a man die and they needed to get together to let the grief out. There were a lot of multicultural people who were in a hurry to come and let voices get heard. There were about 500 people from Okanogan County only practicing democracy. She heard about the march and had no idea there were going to be met with vigilantes wearing green armbands and organized. She said that allowing weapons was institutional and intimidating. She also said that the Omak Police Officers joined. She asked what

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the Omak City Council's position is on allowing untrained vigilantes and why did the Omak Police Officers allow this? She is asking for a response to her questions in writing.

Baya Walls stated that she is an American citizen and a resident of Okanogan County who attended the march. The march was organized by youth. There were speeches, a moment of silence and a peaceful march to honor George Floyd's memory. She was surprised and anxious about the armed civilians. Despite the intimidation, they walked the gauntlet while exercising their right to demonstrate. Okanogan County was still in Phase 1. Marchers followed the Governor's guidelines and wore masks while the armed civilians and the members of Omak Police Department did not. She is asking for a response in writing to her questions. Who gave armed civilians the right to intimidate, even inspire terror, amongst a completely peaceful gathering of concerned citizens? How does the mission of the Omak Police Department and I quote "providing the safest environment possible in accommodating all people of all culture" align with the fact that this event was not safe from a public health point of view? Lastly, she asked the Mayor how she would explain the display of intimidation born out of unsubstantiated rumors to her children and the kids in attendance?

Mayor Gagné thanked both for their letters and they were shared with Council. She said this is a difficult subject and has begun her mission to find out what issues people have. She stated that we at the city did not invite as to what is being referred to as the militia. She said it was clear as to what Mr. Buscko was attempting to do. According to him the green bands were not only for the "militia people" but, they were offered to the leaders of the march to show support of an agreement. She did view the march and glad that it came off peacefully. She also believes one hundred percent that Seattle and Spokane thought they would have a peaceful march as well but, there were people who came in behind the scenes and changed that. Seeing this, the local businesses were fearful. Although she might not agree that armed people were needed, the entire march came off and the message was heard. The Mayor stated that she stands against racism and part of the fix is someone who sits in a position of leadership. As difficult as it was, she is proud of the people and, she had a delightful conversation with the organizers. She added that the comments heard at tonight's meeting will be encapsulated in the meeting notes. In addition, Facebook is not a great form of communication, she likes to have face to face conversations. Mayor Gagné asked if any Councilmembers would like to speak to the issues. Member Foth stated that everyone had a right to march and, the individuals with guns had that right too. He said that he saw the individuals with guns shaking hands with the individuals in the march. Member Dave Womack said he was there and shook hands and visited. He asked out of the five hundred people that were they, no one could know if they were all from Okanogan County. There may have been some that had other intentions (he hoped not). Almost all the businesses have been closed and they feared by what happened in Seattle and Spokane. They had the right to assemble and the right to bear arms by amendments also. He was glad it was peaceful. The speakers were good as were the marchers. Mayor Gagné thanked the two citizens for the information provided and reminded everyone that Omak City Council Meetings are held on the first and third Monday's of the month.

Citizen Daniel Harn asked to speak. He asked if Council was aware of RCW 9.41.270 Weapons apparently capable of producing bodily harm – Unlawful carrying or handling – Penalty – Exceptions. He read a portion of the RCW and asked council if they would again read the RCW, look into how it does or does not apply to what happened in the City of Omak and report at their next meeting. Mayor Gagné stated that Ms. Crist provided her with that RCW to review. Mayor Gagné said the city was there to make sure things were peaceful, and they city did not put on the march. She was glad it was peaceful, and the message was heard.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Committee/Staff Reports:

Fire Chief Kevin Bowling reminded Council that during the last meeting they asked about fireworks in the Eastside Park. He said the Public Safety Committee met and it was decided they will be allowed in Eastside Park. The Colville Tribe's Fire Marshall stated that he will allow sales but is unsure about allowing the use. Chief Bowling is uncertain as to what the Colville Tribe will do but, the City will carry on as normal.

Public Works Director Mears said there were inspection issues with L&I and the Eastside Park lift station. There was a resolution to address concerns and there was an additional cost but, the project is moving forward. The other projects are going well. The Jasmine sidewalk project has rock issues near the bus garage but, that was expected. The Airport well electrical, conduit and fixtures are going in.

City Administrator McDaniel told Council that he met with the Public Safety Committee this past Friday at 2pm. Staff found an anomaly with the sewer charges for commercial accounts that are billed winter average.

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There are some businesses that are using less water than their winter average due to COVID-19 closures or reduced business which, affects their sewer charge. City Attorney Howe explained that the Omak Municipal Code allows staff to make an adjustment. The Committee recommends staff adjust the May bills which are estimated to be \$8,000. Administrator McDaniel would like to continue billing the lesser of the two, actual or average. The Mayor asked if action was needed and Administration McDaniel stated no.

Member Clark asked if the July 6, 2020 meeting will be held in the Council Chambers or if it would still be a Zoom Meeting. Administrator McDaniel will be looking into that further.

As there was no further business before Council, Mayor Gagné adjourned the meeting at 7:42 PM.



Connie Thomas, City Clerk



Cindy Gagné, Mayor