
**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 20, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gagné called the Zoom meeting for the Omak City Council to order at 7:00 PM. Mayor Gagné said in lieu of the flag salute, she asked that we take a moment of silence. She told Council that longtime Omak Stampede supporter, Barbara Shattuck has passed away.

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 asked if anyone wanted to address Council this evening. There was no one. Mayor Gagné welcomed and introduced Marylou Kriner, Mayor of Tonasket who was in attendance.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Mayor Gagné told Council that she attended a webinar today with Governor Inslee and the Washington State Department of Health regarding COVID-19. She said it was interesting and enlightening. She told Council that the City of Okanogan will hold their regular Council meeting July 21, 2020. She said that Dr. Doug Wilson, CEO Elect and Dr. Rutherford, CEO of Confluence Health are on the agenda and will discuss face coverings. Because it's a virtual meeting, she encouraged everyone to listen in.

She reminded Council that she is on the Association of Washington Cities Board (AWC) as the District 3 Director. She represents Okanogan, Chelan and Douglas Counties. At the end of June, AWC hosted the Annual Conference online and the turnout wasn't great. AWC has sent out a survey and she encouraged Council to respond. AWC needs to hear from you about the differences between eastern and western Washington.

Mayor Gagné told Council that she received a postcard from Brooke Sherick-Odom. The Odom Corporation is a family owned business and they have twenty-two open jobs. For more information go to www.odomcorp.com

CONSENT AGENDA:

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Dave Womack, to approve the consent agenda consisting of minutes from the July 6, 2020 council meeting; 2020 claims checks numbered 103019-103067 in the amount of \$642,375.09. City Administrator McDaniel explained to Council that after the Personnel/Finance Committee reviewed the claims checks, he found an error in the amount payable to Seland Construction. City Clerk Thomas will void check number 103053 and reissue a check for an amended amount. The claims amount will be reduced by \$178,345.87. As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ordinance 1892 – 2nd Read – Approve Budget Amendment – CARES Act – Current Expense Fund

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Ordinance 1892. Administrator McDaniel told Council that the budget amendment will recognize \$148,200 CARES Act funds from the Washington State Department of Commerce for the COVID pandemic. These funds have been appropriated to various expenditure lines within Current Expense. The grant money will not have any effect on the estimated ending fund balance. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approve the motion.

Resolution 31-2020 – Authorize RCO YAF Grant Application – Skate Park

Mayor Gagné apologized if she is out of turn. She reminded Council that Resolution 31-2020 and Resolution 32-2020 were tabled during the May 18, 2020 meeting. She deferred to City Administrator McDaniel,

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who told Council that staff has been working with the Recreation and Conservation Office. He reminded Council in 2018 they earmarked \$35,000 for the skate park. With submitting two applications they are trying to determine how to best use those funds. He recommends Council table both Resolutions until the August 3, 2020 meeting. Member Cariker moved, seconded by Member Clark, to table Resolution 31-2020 and Resolution 32-2020. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approve the motion.

Resolution 32-2020 – Authorize RCW WWRP Grant Application – Skate Park
See Resolution 31-2020 motion above.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 46-2020 – Approve Purchase of Radar & LED Stop Signs – Traffic Safety Supply

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 46-2020. Public Works Director Mears explained to Council that these radar signs are designated for Jasmine Street and Ironwood Street. The LED stop signs will be installed at the Ash and Central four-way stop. He reminded Council that the suspended flashing red light failed at that intersection and the LED stop signs will improve traffic control. Member Freel said that he had some concerns about the radar signs. Because of the uncertainty of the city sales tax revenue, he wonders if we should be spending the extra \$7,500. Member Dave Womack reminded Public Works Director Mears that there was discussion about moving the radar signs to different locations. Mr. Mears said that it was an option, the signs would need to be calibrated each time they are moved. Member Cariker said that having the radar signs in the areas of Jasmine and Ironwood Streets are crucial. Member Dave Womack said he knows there is speeding on Jasmine and Ironwood Streets and the street that come into the City from the County are important. He said Jasmine and Ironwood are two of the hot spots. He said in the future Council should look at not getting a lot of signs. Member Freel asked Mr. Mears if he had recent speed data from the radar signs? Mr. Mears said that he has not downloaded any data. He talked about changing the signage to read "Slow Down". He also suggested during the budget, Council should discuss investing into a mobile radar unit versus having more radar signs around town. Member Gaines agreed that the designated locations were important as well. She said the sign purchase would be funded by property taxes versus sales tax and Administrator McDaniel agreed. The signs are funded through the street fund and revenues are better than expected at this point but, he shares Member Freel's concerns about being cautious. As there were no further questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approve the motion.

Resolution 47-2020 – Amend Lease with Federal Express–Office Space – Omak Airport Terminal

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 47-2020. Administrator McDaniel told Council that the City has had a long relationship with Federal Express using office space at the airport terminal. The current lease is set to expire at the end of 2020. Federal Express has been working with the hangar owner and the City to coordinate two agreements. He explained to Council that City Attorney Howe suggested simplifying the formula to a fixed amount for the additional term. Member Dave Womack asked if there was language in the agreement that speaks to if a higher need for the space should arise, does the City have a way out of the agreement. Administrator McDaniel said there wasn't but, he thought if something rose to that level the city could negotiate out. As there were no further questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Committee/Staff Reports:

Member Cariker told Council that the Community Support and Public Safety Committee met this past Friday. They discussed a policy for employees as it relates to preventative and emergency plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. City Administrator McDaniel said he sent Community Support/Public Safety Committee a draft policy to review and comment on. He will have City Attorney Howe review the policy also. He intends to bring the policy to Council on August 3rd. The committee also discussed the purchase of additional laptops to allow work from home if the need should arise. Administrator McDaniel said that Public Works Director Mears is working on a sound system upgrade integrating Zoom for future hybrid meetings. He also told Council that there are a few utility accounts that are starting to accrue high balances. The City is still unable to turn off water or charge penalties according to Governor Inslee's Proclamation. Lobbyist James Rowland's report referred to funds that are being considers by the Governor that could offset utility payments.

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Member Gaines told Council about the success of using the Stampede Grounds for a drive-in movie. Administrator McDaniel said that Maria Lassila of the Omak and Mirage Theater is working with the City of Omak and Omak Stampede, Inc. on a trial basis through August 1, 2020. If Ms. Lassila is successful, city staff will assist the Omak Stampede in drafting an agreement.

Member Freel told Council that he attended the Okanogan County Council of Governments (OCOG) meeting last Monday. He heard a report from Lauri Jones, Community Health Director of Okanogan County Public Health on COVID-19. The Department of Health is concerned about the increase in numbers in the Brewster area. He also told Council that the Washington State Department of Transportation wants cities to spend the money that was allocated this budget cycle. He also said that OCOG voted to write a letter of support for the Colville Confederated Tribes and the City of Omak Safe Route to Schools project grant. The city should be seeing the letter soon.

Police Chief Koplín reminded Council that he has two open positions in his department. The background checks are concluded on the top three entry level applicants. He has scheduled a Chief Interview with the number one applicant which is the last step prior to hiring. He plans to fill at least one of the positions and he intends to have that discussion with Mayor Gagné and Administrator McDaniel.

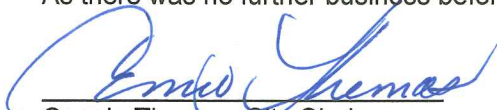
Public Works Director Mears updated Council on the projects. He told Council that the Jasmine Street overlay will begin next week.

Administrator McDaniel will be on vacation Wednesday through Friday but intends on conducting a Zoom Meeting for the Community Support and Public Safety Committee. He would like a response to the COVID-19 policy prior to next Council. Regarding Member Freel's concerns about the budget, Administrator McDaniel pulled up the sales tax revenues and noted there is an increase over last year's revenue. The Hotel/Motel revenue is significantly low as are the RV Park revenues and the royalties the city receives from Omak Stampede, Inc. He told Council that there will be a significant savings in the Hotel/Motel Fund as the organizations will not be using those advertising dollars in 2020. He told Council that he will send them finance reports so they can track the fund revenues and expenditures.

Member Clark congratulated Fire Chief Bowling and his team for putting out the fire quickly in our area, Kudos. He asked to Police Chief Koplín if the budget included a new patrol vehicle. Chief Koplín said they are replacing a vehicle that was totaled. There is a delay on the arrival due to COVID. It will be a Ford Explorer and the first of its kind in the fleet.

Member Gaines said that she also attended the AWC webinar with Governor Inslee and it was interesting. She also asked Public Works Director Mears if Quince Street extends to Shumway? Mr. Mears replied that it does but it's only half of a street, thirty feet.

As there was no further business before Council, Mayor Gagné adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM.



Connie Thomas, City Clerk



Cindy Gagné, Mayor