
**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 3, 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.

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL:

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| 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:

Michael Porter, Omak School District Superintendent

Mr. Porter thanked Mayor Gagné for the invitation to participate. He said in his new role as the Omak School District Superintendent, he has been making his presence known either face to face or by Zoom. He told Council that he has been meeting with superintendents around the valley two to three times a week. He explained the challenges with reopening the schools amid the COVID-19 pandemic. A fifty-five-member advisory team has been meeting to discuss aspects of what reopening schools would look like. During the meetings, they have discussed, transportation, meals, student and staff safety. The number one priority is the safety of students and staff. He said with the recent increase in positive COVID-19 cases, the face to face school operations are not looking good. This Friday he will have a decision as to the direction the Omak School District will go. He understands that a no matter which decision he makes, people will be unhappy. He stated that this was not the way he wanted to start his position as superintendent. Member Walt Womack asked about Mr. Porter's background. Mr. Porter said that he taught in the Bridgeport School District for nineteen years and he also held the position of Principal. Member Dave Womack asked what avenues have been looked at? Mr. Porter explained that they have looked at remote learning and a hybrid model of that. Okanogan County is the least connected county in the State of Washington because it's rural which makes online learning challenging. The Okanogan County Public Utility District has expanded capacity and set up Mobile Hotspots. He said those students that don't have access to the internet, they have discussed mailing flash drives and packets. Member Walt Womack asked about fall sports. Mr. Porter said that WIAA modified sport seasons to create four shortened seasons. They have moved all the contact sports such as football to spring 2021. Member Clark told Council that he worked with Michael and he is impressed with his willingness to work with the community which is a big plus. Mr. Porter thanked Member Clark for those words. Mayor Gagné asked if there has been discussion of year-round school or split days with disinfection in between. Mr. Porter said they have not discussed that because those are impactful changes that affect other schools. He would support exploring those ideas. Mayor Gagné thank him for attending the meeting.

Peter Rutherford, MD, Chief Executive Officer, Confluence Health

Mayor Gagné introduced Dr. Rutherford and Dr. Wilson. Doctor Rutherford explained to Council that Dr. Wilson has been a physician for nineteen years and specializes in family medicine. He will be Dr. Rutherford's successor in October 2021. Dr. Rutherford began his presentation by stating, COVID-19... what is it? Why do we care? What can we do about it? He said that COVID-19 is a viral illness in a group of the Coronavirus. It's a systemic disease and it's a strong disease. The disease has a long, time frame with an incubation period lasting two to twelve days. He explained that there are two tests available, one is the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test which is very accurate and has a turnaround time of three to fourteen days depending on the lab. The other test is an Antigen test with a fifteen-minute turnaround time but not as accurate. Dr. Rutherford discussed slides that were made available to Council. The slides show COVID-19 data for Okanogan County as of August 2nd. He said the incidence rate cases spiked at the end of July and Okanogan County is significantly affected at this moment. He discussed the affects COVID-19 patients have on hospitals as it takes a lot of hospital staff to care for a COVID-19 patient. The hospitals are then forced to cut back on elective surgeries, physical therapy and other procedures. One note of hope is that social distancing and masks are helping to slow the spread. He talked about the science behind the transmission and the reason for a mask. There is no

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vaccine so, the only options to reduce the spread of the disease is to wear a mask, social distance and handwashing. There was discussion about the number of positive cases in Brewster and Focus testing they are doing there. Dr. Rutherford said most of the positive cases in Brewster are from residents that reside in the area twelve months out of the year. There were further questions from Councilmembers regarding elective surgeries, citizens that are asymptomatic and if they pose a risk; Antibody testing, blood type studies and the fear of COVID-19 and the normal flu season that is approaching. Mayor Gagné asked what the confidence level of seeing a vaccine for COVID-19 this year? Dr. Rutherford said the evidence of the initial trial is hopeful.

At approximately 7:40, the Omak City Council Zoom Meeting was hacked by "Zoom Bombers". All attendees were forced to exit the meeting. By 7:43pm, City Administrator McDaniel had sent out a new Zoom Meeting invitation and the Council meeting resumed.

Mayor Gagné apologized and asked Dr. Rutherford to continue with his presentation. Regarding Mayor Gagné's question, Dr. Rutherford said if there is a vaccine, it will take several months to have a supply of the vaccine and enough supply to get everyone vaccinated. The best you can hope for is the vaccine is 80% effective and, if you get 80% of the people in the community to take the vaccine, then it's a 64% immunity level. If the percentages are lower, it will not be effective at reducing the disease spread in a community. Mayor Gagné asked if anyone else had further questions for the doctors. Hearing none, Mayor Gagné told Dr. Rutherford and Dr. Wilson that they had the stage and if they could tell all the constituents that we have the most important thing to do given where we are, what is it? Dr. Rutherford said that we should recognize the disease is here and it's not going away and, we must deal with it. If we want the schools to open and have as much economic activity as we can and as much emotional pain resolution as we can, we have to social distance, don't get in big crowds. Wear mask and wash your hands. Dr. Wilson echoed that. Mayor Gagné thanked them so much for attending and welcomed them back at any time.

CORRESPONDENCE AND MAYOR'S REPORT:

Proclaiming September 2020 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month"

Mayor Gagné read a proclamation declaring the month of September 2020 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month" in Omak Washington. The mother of the child who is now a cancer survivor is sending updates and she is please to do this proclamation.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Dave Womack, to approve the consent agenda consisting of minutes from the July 20, 2020; claims checks numbered 103099-103169, in the amount of \$1,127,754.57; July manual checks numbered 103013-103018 in the amount of \$582.04; July payroll checks numbered 103014-103016, 103069-103098 and various ACH's in the amount of \$301,977.54; As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 31-2020. City Administrator McDaniel told Council that Resolution 31-2020 and 32-2020 complement each other. Under the Youth Athletic Field Application (YAF) Grant, the City would match \$17,395 which the City has done during the design phase. Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) would match \$51,000, the YAF Grant would fund \$350,000 and the City would have a \$418,000 skate park project. Resolution 32-2020 that will follow is the WWRP Grant which is a match for the YAF Grant. Based from the guidance from Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), in the application we are seeking 100% funding of \$418,000 with no match. The City does have the option to reject funding. Staff has been working diligently and spent a lot of time with RCO. He told Council that Member Cariker will report on new information regarding the 2018 RCO Grant. Administrator McDaniel said it's important to keep the application process moving forward for the YAF and WWRP. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

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Resolution 32-2020 – Authorize RCO WWRP Grant Application – Skate Park

Member Cariker moved, seconded by Member Clark, to approve Resolution 32-2020. City Administrator did not have anything further to add regarding this Resolution. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 48-2020 – Approve Change Order No. 1 – Selland Construction – Airport Water Project

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 48-2020. Public Works Director, Ken Mears told Council that it was discovered in the field that one of the panels needed to be relocated as it was too close to a water distribution line. This was discussed with the Infrastructure Committee and he recommends it's approval. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 49-2020 – Approve Sole Source Purchase – Grit Removal Parts – Kuster-Water Corporation

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 49-2020. Public Works Director Mears told Council that this is a sole source purchase. The parts are for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The parts need to be available as it's paramount to the keep the fine screen drum operational. He said the parts take about two to three weeks to arrive. This purchase was reviewed by committee and is also included in the 2020 budget. Member Dave Womack confirmed the Infrastructure Committee did discuss the purchase and recommend approval. As there were no questions or comments, council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 50-2020 – Approve Purchase of Right of Way & Construction Easements-Engh Road Project

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Freel, to approve Resolution 50-2020. Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Freel, to approve Resolution 50-2020. City Administrator McDaniel explained that with the Engh Road project, there are three properties the City needs to obtain right of way and construction easements from. Gray & Osborne, Inc. and Epic Land Solutions have been working on negotiations. The City has accepted two offers and are working on the third. The offers have been reviewed by City Attorney Howe and are under budget. Member Gaines asked if the offers were reviewed by committee. Administrator McDaniel said the actual offers were not reviewed by committee. As there were no further questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 51-2020 – Approve Purchase of Public Works Modules & Hardware

Member Gaines moved, seconded by Member Clark, to approve Resolution 51-2020. Assistant Public Works Director, Wayne Beetchenow told Council that the modules and hardware will add to the current asset management system. This will also give crew the ability to stay separated in the field by using tablets. Administrator McDaniel told Council that this purchase was reviewed by the Infrastructure Committee. This purchase will be made with CARES Act Funds. The modules and hardware will allow the crew to work independently in the field. It also allows the public to report online, issues related to public works at any time. He also explained that Public Works looked at this module a couple years ago. With the pandemic, it makes sense to purchase these modules. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 52-2020 – Approve COVID-19 Policy

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 52-2020. Administrator McDaniel drafted a COVID-19 policy using policies from other Cities. The policy is not inclusive of what could happen but, provides guidance that can be used in response to COVID-19. The City wants to be proactive in maintaining a healthy workplace. The City does not have the luxury to send everyone home. This policy was reviewed by the Community Support & Public Safety Committee. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Committee/Staff Reports:

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Member Cariker reported on the Community Support/Public Safety Committee meeting. She was unable to attend the meeting but provided input on the COVID-19 Policy prior to the meeting. They also discussed the hiring of two officers and these positions are already included in the 2020 budget. City Administrator McDaniel received a call from RCO regarding the City's 2018 Skate Park application. She asked Administrator McDaniel to report on that. Administrator McDaniel told Council that RCO stating that they will accept the City's 2018 grant application. That application was for a \$350,000 grant with a ten percent match. Administrator McDaniel said the project costs including cultural resources is closer to \$418,000. If we accept the \$350,000 from RCO, the City would have to fund approximately \$86,000 out of Current Expense and there are funds available in the 2020 budget. Does Council want to accept the 2018 grant and come up with the match? Administrator McDaniel believes that the grant applications that were just approved with the passage of Resolution 31-2020 & 32-2020 will be competitive. There was further discussion about how to proceed, the match amounts, project costs and additional match money. Member Foth and Member Dave Womack recommend that we hold off on taking the 2018 grant. Council unanimously agreed.

Member Dave Womack said the Infrastructure Committee met and discussed several items that were on the agenda. Administrator McDaniel reminded Member Dave Womack that there were two requests for water adjustments that were approved. Member Dave Womack discussed the Jasmine Street project. Administrator McDaniel has talked with Attorney Howe and will schedule an Infrastructure meeting this week to discuss it further.

Building Official, Tyler Wells told Council that he received an approval from Hearing Examiner Dale Crandall regarding the CUP for Four Pillars Property, LLC mini storage located at 83 Copple Road. Mr. Wells told Council that he is staying busy with permits as they continue to come in. Tomorrow the Planning Commission will meet via Zoom. The agenda includes discussion of the transportation element and the cleanup of conflicting information found in the Omak Municipal Code.

Police Chief Koplín reminded Council that he has two open patrol positions in his department. He has spoke with both the Mayor, City Administrator and Council Committee. Everyone agreed to fill both positions. He will propose a Conditional Offer of Employment to the to the top two applicants.

Public Works Director Mears told Council that the Eastside Park lift station is up and operational. He also told them there have been some issues in the park and staff is working together on those. POW Contracting will be completing the striping of the Jasmine Street project this week. The new GapVax Truck arrives tomorrow. He thanked City Council, Mayor and Administrator McDaniel for getting the best equipment for the crew. The Mayor asked about the audio video equipment for the Council Chambers and Conference Room. He is working on that and may have a resolution ready by the August 17, 2020 meeting. Member Dave Womack asked if the City hired an RV Host this year. Mr. Mears said that we did not.

Member Clark asked about the drive-in movie at the Stampede Grounds. Administrator McDaniel said that he spoke with Maria Lassila and it sounds like it has been successful. She can get approximately sixty cars in and it seems to be more of a family event. She would like to continue but is hesitant that Governor Inslee may modify his requirements. Administrator McDaniel discussed a monthly rental. It's nice to have something for families to do.

Administrator McDaniel clarified the sales tax revenue with Council. During the last Council Meeting he reported the City received \$164,920 in sales tax revenue. He then found out that he was looking at the wrong number. The July sales tax came out and it was \$195,707, the highest for the month of July since we have been tracking. Public Works boarded a home at 20 N Douglas as it was an unfit dwelling.

Member Walt Womack said that he visited with Administrator McDaniel. He has received numerous calls from constituents about City Hall being closed to the public. He asked why City Hall is still closed. Administrator McDaniel said that he and City Clerk Thomas will look at those regulations tomorrow. Member Gaines said that it's the Safe Start Plan and Phase 3 will allow customer-facing government services and at this time there are still no in person public meetings. Member Walt Womack said that staff in City Hall are in offices and behind glass and they don't come into contact with customers. Administrator McDaniel said it's about the public coming into City Hall, using restrooms, touching doors, counters and there are a lot of customers coming in to visiting office staff. We are really trying to prevent a gathering place for the public.

Member Gaines asked about the brown grass in Eastside Park and Oak Street Park from June through July. Public Works Director Mears said there is no seasonal help this year. They are filling gaps with full-time employees when they can. The current operator has been working hard to take care of all the duties. Once you lose the grass, it's hard to get back but, he is working hard.

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Mayor Gagné noticed to the credit of Fire Chief Bowling and Code Enforcement Officer Lewis that the property on Ash Street has been cleaned up. She thanked them for that.

As there was no further business before Council, Mayor Gagné adjourned the Zoom meeting at 8:51 PM.



Connie Thomas, City Clerk



Cindy Gagné, Mayor