
**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 15, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gagné called the regular meeting of the Omak City Council to order at 7:00 PM, established a quorum and all joined in the flag salute.

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL:

Michael Foth	Tyler Wells, Building Official
Nattalie Cariker	Kevin Bowling, Fire Chief
Barry Freel	Dan Christensen, 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:

Proclamation – Michael W. Marshall

Mayor Gagné read a Proclamation which proclaims Friday, March 26, 2021 as, "Gave his Life for His Friend's Day". March 26, 2021 marks the 23rd anniversary of the senseless murder of Officer Michael W. Marshall. Everyone is encouraged to observe a Moment of Remembrance with silence and prayer in honor of Officer Marshall. His service to our community and department will never be forgotten.

Oaths of Office

Mayor Gagné administered the Oath of Office to Fire Chief, Kevin Bowling, Public Works Director, Ken Mears, City Administrator, Todd McDaniel and City Clerk, Connie Thomas. It was discovered the Oath of Office was not given at the time of appointment to the appointed department heads in accordance with Omak Municipal Code Chapter 2.16.010.

Appointment – Omak Planning Commission – John Schneider

Mayor Gagné asked Council to affirm her appointment of John Schneider to the Omak Planning Commission. As there was no discussion or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Schneider was in attendance and thanked Building Official Wells for reaching out. He is honored to serve and is here to learn and help.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Member Gaines moved, seconded by Member Dave Womack, to approve the consent agenda consisting of minutes from the March 1, 2021 meeting; 2021 claims checks numbered 104435-104511, in the amount of \$941,535.12; February manual checks numbered 104430-104431, in the amount of \$197.40; As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 18-2021 – Approving Purchase of Air Compressor – Papé Machinery, Inc.

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Gaines to approve Resolution 18-2021. Public Works Director Mears explained to Council that the 2021 Budget includes an expenditure to replace the 1995 Sullair Air Compressor for the Public Works Department. He obtained three quotes and Papé Machinery, Inc. submitted the lowest quote in the amount of \$22,454.93 and is under budget. As there were no questions and no comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Ordinance 1903 – 1st Read – Amend 2021 Budget – C.E. – Appropriating Funds for Fire Truck Purchase

City Administrator McDaniel explained to Council that the 2021 Budget includes an expenditure of \$500,000 for the purchase of a fire truck. Committee opted to pay in advance for the purchase of the truck which saved an estimate \$12,000 on the purchase price. This Ordinance will appropriate an additional \$96,000 to cover the fire truck purchase of \$595,726. The Ordinance is also recognizing the actual beginning and ending fund balances. Administrator McDaniel also explained that a rounding error of -.01¢ was corrected. The rounding error occurred upon importing the budget document into the financial system.

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Ordinance 1904 – Amend OMC Chapter 2.68 – City Office Hours – Office Hours Designation

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Gaines to approve Ordinance 1904. City Clerk Thomas explained to Council that she met with the Personnel/Finance Committee to discuss a request to adjust the hours of operation for Omak City Hall. The request was to change operating hours from the current 8am to 5pm to 7am to 4pm. Member Dave Womack clarified that with the change, office staff would not be working four tens. City Clerk Thomas affirmed that staff schedules would not flex to four tens. This change will be affective on April 1, 2021. As there were no further questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Committee/Staff Reports:

Member Foth told Council that he sat in on the Library Board meeting and there was nothing new to report.

Member Gaines told Council that the Personnel/Finance Committee met this evening along with a group of aviators who are interested in promoting aviation and revitalizing the Omak Airport. There was discussion about having this group form an ad-hoc that would correspond to the Council Personnel/Finance Committee. This group also includes members from the local Washington Pilots Association. Mayor Gagné suggested the group correspond through the Council Committee to steer the group and Councilmembers agreed.

Building Official Tyler Wells thanked Jack Schneider for joining the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will be holding a Public Hearing on April 6, 2020.

Police Chief Christensen reported to Council his seven objectives. He also let Council know that he has been doing community outreach and purchased swag for the kids. Each week, he will have an article in the Omak Chronicle "Desk of the Chief" which will brief the community about the Omak Police Department. On March 26, 2021, the Police Department will share in a moment of silence for Officer Marshall. A wreath will be presented to his mother at that time. Chief Christensen shared there were 112 calls for service compared to the County's 52 calls. Officer Aaron Pennycook graduated from Academy and was Commissioned on Friday. He is now working with Field Training Officers for the next few months. He reminded Council that there is still a vacant officer's position. Code Enforcement Officer Lewis is on leave so, he has handled some garbage complaints. Chief Christensen intends to meet with the Principals of the Omak schools and work on forming a Commercial Criminal Activity Task Force.

Public Works Director Ken Mears told Council that phase 1 of the Storm Drain Project has been completed. The catch basins have been installed along with manholes and piping. His is preparing an ad for the selection of an Airport Engineer Firm. He also told Council that he has brought back Pool Manager, Heidi Sam. They are working together with the Department of Health to figure out a way to open the pool for the season.

Member Clark asked if the Omak Stampede Event will take place. Administrator McDaniel said that he has attended several board meetings. The Stampede, Inc. is working with a new ticket vendor and hopes to start selling tickets soon. They have mapped out the stands based on capacity of 25%, 50% and so on. They also have discussed how to structure the beer gardens and reduce rodeo costs.

Member Dave Womack asked about the RV Park Attendant. Mr. Mears said that he has received six applications and he has discussed specifics with them. So far, all have declined the position because of finances. He has one other interview tomorrow. Member Dave Womack asked about the Spring Clean Up. Mr. Mears replied that it has been set and advertised for April 3, 2021 and it will be curbside.

Member Clark asked the status of the Highway 155 bridge. Administrator McDaniel explained that it was in the design phase. The area has been surveyed and the construction of a pedestrian bridge is slated first. The pedestrian bridge will accommodate emergency vehicles. Mayor Gagné said the bridge project looks promising base on the report she read from City Lobbyist, Jim Rowland. Member Clark asked about the airport fire suppression project. Administrator McDaniel explained that the funding is proving to be difficult.

City Administrator McDaniel told Council that Member Dave Womack inquired about utility accounts in arrears due to the COVID pandemic. He said that Utility Clerk Rogers pulled an Age Analysis Report which reflects an estimated \$28,000 and approximately \$10,000 of that was outstanding with a utility lien prior to COVID. Mayor Gagné said that Okanogan County Community Action Council has funds available for both landlord's and renters who have fallen behind in payment of services. City staff has that information and are sharing it with customers. Administrator McDaniel told Council the City will be receiving over one million dollars

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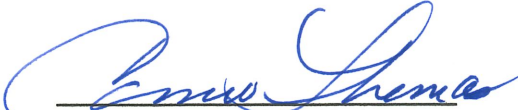
from the COVID American Recovery Plan. This money does not have to be spent until 2024 and he is unclear on how it can be used. The City will also receive nine thousand dollars for the airport from the same plan. He has sent out an application for those funds.

Member Cariker asked Public Works Director Mears about the seesaw in Civic League Park. It has been broken and in need of repair. Mr. Mears and Deputy Clerk Dickinson have reached out to vendors about pricing of a new seesaw. They have found the shipping costs are more than the actual seesaw. Mr. Mears will continue researching vendors.


Member Walt Womack asked if Omak City Hall will be opening to the public. City Clerk Thomas said yes. Staff is working toward the reopening by preparing signage, discussing the sanitation requirements, and working to set up PPE stations for public and employee use.

Mayor Gagné would like to continue this meeting format, observe distancing, and allow constituents and Councilmember's the option to participate by way of Zoom. This is a workable solution.

As there was no further business before Council, Mayor Gagné adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.



Connie Thomas, City Clerk



Cindy Gagné, Mayor