
**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 19, 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	

CONSENT AGENDA:

Member Cariker moved, seconded by Member Clark, to approve the consent agenda consisting of minutes from the July 6, 2021, meeting; 2021 claims checks numbered 105193-105264 in the amount of \$318,014.18; June manual checks numbered 104935, 105020-105021 in the amount of \$910.69; As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 35-2021 – Approved Professional Service Agreement for Lobbyist & Government Relation Services

Member Cariker moved, seconded by Member Clark, to approve Resolution 35-2021. City Administrator McDaniel told Council that this was an agreement with Northwest Solutions for lobbyist and government relations services. With Jim Rowland retiring, Mara Machulsky expressed interest in providing services to the City of Omak. The contract has been reviewed by City Attorney Howe and is for one year at \$1,750 per month. Administrator McDaniel said that she will do very well. Member Freel requested that Ms. Machulsky introduce herself to Council either in person or via Zoom. Administrator McDaniel said that he will schedule that introduction. Member Gaines asked about the selection process. Administrator McDaniel explained that it was a succession as Ms. Machulsky has been working with City Lobbyist Rowland and she is well positioned to represent the city. She was also instrumental in acquiring the 4.3 million dollars slated in the State Budget for the City of Omak during the last session. As there were no further questions or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 36-2021 – Approving Interagency Agreement with the Washington State Auditor

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 36-2021. City Administrator McDaniel explained to Council that the agreement with the State Auditor's Office (SAO) will formalize data sharing with the City of Omak. Administrator McDaniel has done some research on the laws and spoke with Vision IT who also reviewed the agreement. Vision IT have no concerns regarding our system security. He explained that Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5432 created the Office of Cybersecurity. This office will set policy and procedures for state agencies to secure data and requires data share agreements between agencies. In addition, SAO will have a role in ensuring state agencies comply with best practice to secure data. At this point, the agreement is just for data share with SAO. As there were no questions or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 37-2021 – Approve Cost Allocation Policy

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 37-2021. City Administrator McDaniel explained to Council that during the last audit, it was recommended by SAO that the City implement a Cost Allocation Policy. Administrator McDaniel made several attempts over the last few years to draft a policy that was efficient. This policy really focuses on labor at City Hall as there is currently not an efficient way to track time worked at City Hall for allocation purposes. He explained to Council the methodology and told Council that anyone could replicate the information which allows for consistency. Member Dave Womack told Council that the Personnel/Finance Committee met and reviewed the policy and are in support. As there was no questions or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

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Resolution 38-2021 – Approve COVID-19 Leave Policy

Member Gaines moved, seconded by Member Freel, to approve Resolution 38-2021. City Administrator McDaniel reminded Council that this COVID-19 Leave Policy was discussed with the Personnel/Finance Committee and during the July 6, 2021, Council Meeting. In 2020, there were not many employees exposed to COVID and those that were, used the 80 hours allowed by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act through December 31, 2020. In 2021, there was more employee exposure and those employees used sick time or annual leave. To help mitigate the impact to employees this policy was drafted. It makes the unused 80 hours from 2020 available through December 31, 2021. As there was no further questions or comments from the audience, Council voted and five members voted aye with Members Cariker and Clark voting nay, the motion was approved. Member Cariker wanted to share with Council the reason for voting against the policy. She believes the policy is too restrictive. Member Clark said that he voted nay because employees had the opportunity in 2020 to use the time and the virus could go on for years and at what point does the city say no. He stated that sick leave is available to all employees and should be used appropriately.

Resolution 39-2021 – Approve Loan Contract from DWSRF for Julia Maley Well Treatment

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 39-2021. Public Works Director Mears reminded Council of past discussions regarding the allowable levels of arsenic at the Julia Maley Well. He also let Council know that when the well was started up, they found water quality issues. There are high levels of iron which discolors the water. The City applied for a low-interest loan from the Department of health, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program in November 2020. This Resolution accepts the loan for the design and construction of a treatment facility to improve the water quality and arsenic removal. Public Works Director told Council that the total loan amount is \$2,012,546 with an interest rate of 1.75%. He told Council that City Attorney Howe has reviewed the contract and that City Administrator McDaniel can speak to the debt service. Member Gaines asked if the debt service of two million dollars is built into the current utility rates. City Administrator McDaniel explained the city has debt service that is dropping off and this loan payment will take its place. As there was no further discussion or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Committee/Staff Reports:

Member Freel told Council that the Okanogan Council of Governments (OCOG) met last Monday and received an update on the SCJ Backroads Study. They also heard discussion about HB1310 Law Enforcement. He said that Chief Christensen was involved in that discussion and, Member Freel thought it was a good presentation.

Building Official Wells gave Council an update on abatements. He told Council that Mr. Thompson is working with an attorney to draft paperwork so he can clean up the property at 505 S. Main Street. He reminded Council that the City abated the property at 119 W Apple a couple years ago. The owner came in and satisfied the liens against the property and Mr. Wells is working with him as he worked toward cleaning up the property so it can be occupied again.

Police Chief Christensen told Council that this afternoon, the Fed Ex Truck was stolen while the driver was delivering packages to City Hall. The suspect was arrested and booked. Chief Christensen will also be attending a meeting at Sun Mountain Lodge with the Undersheriff to discuss HB1310. He also advised Council that the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission came out with a Law Enforcement Training Curriculum. Chief Christensen told Council that he applied for a grant from the Omak Elks and that the Department of Criminal Justice will grant fifty percent of the purchase for bullet proof vests. He has also applied for a Wal-Mart Grant and a \$24,000 grant through the Department of Justice for body cameras. He told Council that anytime a grant comes across his desk that does not obligate the city, he will be applying for it.

Public Works Director Mears told Council that the chip seal project will begin on July 21st and the crew is prepared for it. The pool season is going smoothly and, they will be closing the pool for the season on August 10th due to staffing. He commended Airport Manager Tracy Oestreich for his efforts in obtaining fuel that are keeping the fire bosses going. Member Freel asked about the pool closing early. Mr. Mears said that the city has closed the pool during Stampede and then reopened again for two weeks. This year it will just remain closed. Mr. Mears also explained that engineers will be coming in a couple weeks to assess the pool facility.


Member Clark asked about the emphasis patrols the Omak Police Department has done in the

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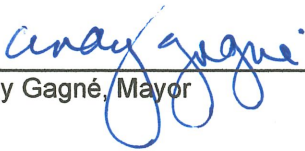
past with the Okanogan County Community Coalition. He understands that during COVID pandemic, youth parties declined but wondered if the emphasis patrols will start again. Police Chief Christensen said that he didn't have an answer for Member Clark. He explained that new laws are restricting what Law Enforcement can do in the schools. The Omak Police Department will be as invested as they can within the law. He also said that Stacy Okland, Executive Director of the Coalition is a solid partner. The relationship will continue with the implementation of HB1310 and the various groups.

Member Gaines asked again about the early closure of the City Pool. Public Works Director Mears said that typically after the Omak Stampede event, participation drops, and staffing is an issue this year. He anticipates next year will be a normal schedule.

As there was no further business before Council, Mayor Gagné adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM.



Connie Thomas, City Clerk



Cindy Gagné, Mayor