
**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 1, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER:

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

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL:

Michael Foth	Todd McDaniel, City Administrator
Nattalie Cariker	Kevin Bowling, Fire Chief
Barry Freel	Dan Christensen, Chief of Police
Steve Clark	Ken Mears, Public Works Director
Meyer Louie	Connie Thomas, City Clerk
Michelle Gaines	Tyler Wells, Building Official
Dave Womack	David Ebenger, Judge

CORRESPONDENCE AND MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Gagné told Council that she would like to add an item to the agenda. Under the Correspondence and Mayor's Report she would like to add item number 2, Executive Session. She cited RCW 42.30.110 (i)(h) "to evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office". Member Womack moved, seconded by Member Cariker to add the Executive Session as an agenda item. As there was no discussion, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Interview and Selection of Candidate for Councilmember Position No. 7

Meyer Louie

Mayor Gagné asked Mr. Louie to step to the podium and address City Council. Mr. Louie told Council that it is a pleasure to be here and, thanked them for the invitation. He told Council that he applied for the position based on two reasons. He explained that he was viewing the City's website and noticed an application for a vacant council position. He felt this was an opportunity but in all his life, he has never seen a vacant position. This vacancy is not good for the City of Omak and democracy. He feels that Omak needs a fully represented community. Rather than complain about the vacant position, he wanted to be a solution and applied. Whoever Council selects is their business but, Omak needs full representation. He told Council that he grew up in Omak and lived on a farm. He shared that he has spent 30 years in education as a teacher, administrator, and college math professor. He loves the Omak community and that is why he returned to the area. He wants to be a part of developing policy and help Omak grow and prosper. This goal will be fulfilled tonight if the vacant position is filled. Mayor Gagné asked if any Councilmembers had questions of Mr. Louie. Member Womack said in looking at his application, reading the application, he noted that one of his future goals was to restore confidence in local government. Member Womack asked Mr. Louie to give an example of a lack of confidence and how he would restore that. Mr. Meyer explained that there is a voter issue and an unfilled Council position. This is just not in Omak but all over, it's hard to fill positions and people are throwing up their arms and losing hope in government. People are disenfranchised and he understands this is a massive undertaking. As a city representative, he would be out talking to people as he likes to network. He would attend School Board meetings, football games and small business meetings. He wants to know what the citizens want. He wants to build the rapport and trust.

Member Womack asked if he were chosen, what unique value would you bring to the Council. Mr. Louie told Council that most of his contacts are with the Colville Confederated Tribe. He has attended many of their Council meetings and his Doctorate Degree focus was Tribal Councils. Some of his contacts include Deb Louie, Mel Tonasket, and Eddy Palmanteer. He would be a liaison between Omak City Council and Nespelem. He wants to be that bridge. This is the unique thing he can offer. It's all about relationships. With no other questions from council, Mayor Gagné thanked him.

Carl Christensen

Mayor Gagné invited Mr. Christensen up to the podium to address City Council. Mr. Christensen said that he was the father of Police Chief Dan Christensen and has lived in his Omak residence for twelve years. He told Council that everything is in the application and, he is ready for questions. Member Womack asked how he would handle an issue that directly involves his son (Omak

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Chief of Police)? Mr. Christensen said he would recuse himself from certain issues. He explained that he does have a law enforcement background and it would depend on the issue. Member Womack asked if he was chosen, what unique value would you bring to Omak City Council? Mr. Christensen said he would bring his seventy years of experience. As there were no further questions from Council, Mayor Gagné thanked Mr. Christensen.

Executive Session – RCW 42.30.110 (1)(h) To Evaluate the Qualifications of a Candidate for Appointment to Elective Office

Mayor Gagné told the audience and city staff that City Councilmember's will retire to an Executive Session citing RCW 42.30.110 (1)(h). She stated the time is now, 7:14pm and advised the audience Council will be back on the record by 7:30pm. If additional time is needed for the Executive session, she will come out and announce the extended end time.

Mayor Gagné resumed the Council meeting at 7:30pm. Prior to Council acting Mayor Gagné thanked both candidates for applying as they are both more than adequate to take the position. She explained that this is a working Council and, they work together as a panel to get business done. She said that there are volunteer opportunities if they are not the person seated. Mayor Gagné called for a motion. Member Womack moved, seconded by Member Foth to appoint Meyer Louie to Council Position No. 7. Council voted to approve the motion with five members voting yay and Member Freel voting nay. The motion carried.

Mayor Gagné told the audience that City Clerk Thomas will administer the Oath of Office to Meyer Louie. City Clerk Thomas administered the Oath and congratulated Mr. Louie and asked him to take his seat at the dais.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve the consent agenda consisting of minutes from the October 18, 2021, meeting; minutes from the October 25, 2021 Budget Workshop; 2021 claims checks numbered 105798-105845, in the amount of \$119,021.13; October 2021 payroll checks numbered 105726-105728, 105846-105874 and, ACH payments in the amount of \$324,618.02; As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2022 Budget Revenue Sources – Consideration of 2022 Ad Valorem Revenue Taxes

Mayor Gagné opened the Public Hearing at 7:33pm. City Administrator McDaniel told Council that hearing is for the annual property tax increase of one percent. He reminded Council that they have already held one Budget Workshop and the one percent increase is necessary to keep the reserves at a level that City Council wants to see. He explained to Council that the 2022 levy amount of \$17,282.46 includes a maximum allowable increase of one percent and the recovery of a one-time error correction from the 2020 levy amount or 2.0069%. Member Gaines asked about the 2020 correction. Administrator McDaniel explained that Jan Million with Okanogan County handles the Ad Valorem and can best explain the adjustment. Administrator McDaniel said that Mrs. Million has reached out to the Department of Revenue and they confirmed an error and the need for a correction. Because being a larger jurisdiction the property tax correction affected Omak more. As there was no public comment, Mayor Gagné closed the Public Hearing at 7:36pm

City of Omak Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) 2021-2026

Mayor Gagné opened the Public Hearing of the Capital Facilities Plan at 7:37pm. Contract Planner Kurt Danison presented the staff report to Council. Mr. Danison told Council that this was the third or fourth CFP he has done in the thirty years he has worked for the City of Omak. The Capital Facilities Plan is a requirement to obtain funding and to potentially score higher on projects. With the COVID-19 Pandemic, this update has taken several years. He told Council that department heads met and ranked a list of criteria that is outlined in chapter three. The ranking produced a list of ten projects that made it into the Executive Summary. Several of the ranked projects didn't make it into the summary because of funding. The intent of this document is that when starting the budget process, staff looks to the CFP for projects. This document also allows Council and the Community to see how the city is spending money. Mr. Danison explained the projects costs are just projections and, it's hard to say how accurate costs are. This document was sent out for SEPA review and

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comment. Okanogan County provided comment and reminded the city that approach permits are needed on county roads. He told Council that he is happy to answer questions. As there were no questions or comments, Mayor Gagné closed the Public Hearing at 7:43pm. There was no further discussion

City Administrator told Mayor and Council that there were technical difficulties, and he would like the record to reflect that the Public Hearing for 2022 Budget Revenue Sources and consideration of 2022 Ad Valorem Revenue Taxes was not recorded.

Mara Machulsky – Northwest Solutions – City of Omak Legislative Consultant

Mayor Gagné welcome Legislative Consultant Mara Machulsky. Ms. Machulsky said that she wanted to address Council in person but didn't find out until this morning the meeting was open to the public. She told Council that she was from Alaska and went to grad school in the state of Washington. She is a contract lobbyist like James Rowland. She currently serves several clients and is connected with city issues. She told Council that Mr. Rowland was the first lobbyist she worked with and, she has supported the City of Omak contract for two years. She also assisted in securing funding of the airport water reservoir. She would like to learn more about the City's priorities prior to the 2022 legislative session. When she can meet with Senator Short, Representative Joel Kretz and, Representative Jacquelin Maycumber she can share those priorities. Ms. Machulsky said this session, the legislature is focusing on the Transportation Package. When in Omak, she toured the road projects which included the extensions from Robinson Canyon to Quince which connects residential area with the shopping center. Most prominent for Omak are, the wildfire suppression issues. She said that 4.3 million dollars have been invested in construction with the water tower to help support a Department of Natural Resources Fire facility. Under the wildfire suppression umbrella is the need for additional jet fuel storage capacity, housing for seasonal fire crew and a base which will further the partnership. Ms. Machulsky said that Mayor Gagné spoke to her about the need for an inpatient mental facility to serve community needs and as an employer. There was also discussion about a public health and safety building and after the city receives the results of the cost study, she can pinpoint needs. She wants to keep Council informed and is open to their input. Ms. Machulsky talked about the bridge and funding saying it's difficult to come by as there are not many funding sources. She discussed funding options and reminded Council that the Transportation Package will take up a majority of the 2022 session.

On the COVID front, mandated vaccinations reduced the state workforce by three percent, so the state system is adjusting from that. The house has announced they are requiring proof of vaccination prior to entering buildings. She is waiting to hear if public will be allowed into the Capital building.

She touched on ballot measures as tomorrow is election day. She announced that Secretary of State, Kim Wyman announced her resignation. She has accepted a position with the Biden Administration in cyber security. Governor Inslee will appoint her successor. Ms. Machulsky said that she looks forward to a list of priorities. She misses Jim but, she is happy to support and spend more time in Omak. Member Freel thanked Ms. Machulsky for making an appearance and speaking to Council. Mayor Gagné thanked Mara and invited her to stay on Zoom throughout the meeting.

Ordinance 1907 Authorize Ad Valorem Taxes for 2022 Fiscal Calendar Year

Member Foth moved, seconded by Member Clark, to approve Ordinance 1907. This Ordinance is fixing the amount of the City of Omak's financial requirements to be raised by Ad Valorem Taxes upon all taxable property, both real and personal, within the City of Omak, Okanogan County, Washington, for the ensuing fiscal and calendar year 2022. As there were no further questions or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 53-2021 – Approve Agreement with North Central Washington Narcotics Task Force

Member Womack moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 53-2021. Police Chief Christensen told Council that the contract amount of \$5,600 in his memo was a clerical error and incorrect. The actual contract amount remains \$5,300. The City of Omak being a part of the Task Force is instrumental and, he supports this resolution. As there were no questions or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 54-2021 – Approve 2021-2026 Capital Facilities Plan

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 54-2021. This Resolution is to support and approve the update of the City's Capital Facilities Plan for the years 2021-2026. As there were no questions or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

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Resolution 55-2021 – Approve Purchase of VFD for Wastewater Treatment Facility

Member Womack moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 55-2021. Public Works Director Mears told Council that the Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) at the Wastewater Treatment Plant has failed. The influent pumps that handle waste coming into the plant operates using a VFD. The VFD has a screen that allows the operators to monitor and control the pump from an offsite location. The screen is not visible and needs replaced. Member Gaines asked if the budget could absorb this purchase. Mr. Mears said yes. As there were no further questions or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Committee/Staff Reports:

Member Foth told Council that Chief Christensen met individually with member of the Personnel/Finance Committee about a surplus vehicle purchase. Chief Christensen has the opportunity to purchase a vehicle from the Task Force for \$8,300 to replace the Ford Taurus. Member Gaines asked about the gas costs and if it would be an additional increase to the police fuel budget. Chief Christensen said he could do an analysis. Council had questions about the impact on the equipment rental fund. Administrator McDaniel explained to Council that he will meet with Chief Christensen and sort out the questions and concerns and report to them at the next Council meeting.

Chief Christensen provided the statistics for the month stating Omak had 404 incidents which have more than doubled compared to years past. He completed several surveys over the Blake case. He introduced new officer, Ryan Carnahan who was in the audience. Officer Carnahan will be going to the Spokane Police Academy in February 2022. Because of COVID and vaccine mandates, Academy was extended one month. He explained to Council that the Spokane Academy has a focus on Eastern Washington values. Currently Carnahan is working nights with Sergeant Tallant. Officer Carnahan is sharp and has helped a lot at the Police Department and City Hall. Member Cariker was very appreciative of the help of Officer Carnahan and his family at the Halloween Harvest Fest. Regarding the 404 incidents Chief Christensen reported, Member Gaines asked if he was using similar reporting for past years. Chief Christensen explained that he is, and the numbers speak the truth. The calls are impacting the ability to investigate as they are trying to solve the armed robbery and all hands are needed. The rise in incidents is speculative but, with the change, they cannot charge for drug offenses along with other changes that is fundamentally changing society. Citizens are walking out of Home Depot and Wal-Mart with items not to feed their family but to purchase drugs. The mental health issues are having an impact also.

Public Works Director Mears thanked Mara Machulsky for her hard work on the airport water reservoir and he congratulated Meyer Louie. He also told Council that the concrete will be poured for the library drop box and he will be bringing an Ordinance to Council for ten-minute parking in that area.

City Administrator McDaniel told Council that last week he was working on the 2022 budget, meeting agenda and with the Washington State Auditor. He will start back on budget this week in preparation for the Monday Budget Workshop. He told Council that the home on 510 S Main has been boarded up while he continues to find a solution.

Member Cariker thanked the City Public Works for cleaning the Bandshell prior to the Harvest Festival Event. She thanked the Police Department for their help and thanked Mayor Gagné. She said the Zombie Fun Run had approximately 75 participants and there were about 200 people at the Harvest Festival. She told Council that Christmas is coming up and can always use the help. The Christmas Parade is always the second weekend in December. They are doing a parade and trying to figure out logistics for Santa's House.

Member Louie thanked Council for their vote of confidence, and he needs to get up to speed. He plans to get out in the community right away to let residents know we are here, and we care. He also told Council that the Community Center does a lot of activities. He also thanked applicant Carl Christensen and enjoyed reading his values outlined in his application. He loves Omak and wants the best.

Member Clark reminded Council that Saturday is the free Fall Clean-Up event. He thanked Mara Machulsky for coming on board and thanked Member Louie for being willing to serve. He thanked applicant Carl Christensen and said the city has vacancies on other committees. He also thanked Officer Ryan Carnahan.

Member Womack welcomed Member Louie.

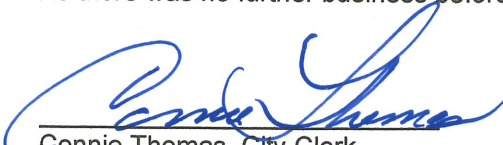
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Member Gaines echoed Member Clark.

Mayor Gagné thanked Ms. Machulsky and Mr. Carl Christensen.

Member Gaines thanked Member Cariker for community support. Member Cariker said this was one of the reasons she ran for Council.

As there was no further business before Council, Mayor Gagné adjourned the meeting at 8:22 PM.



Connie Thomas, City Clerk



Cindy Gagne, Mayor