
**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 6, 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	

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mayor Gagné asked if there were any audience members or anyone online that would like to address Council. Branch Librarian Alyssa Collins said that she talked with staff about the recent issues with the Omak Public Library. She appreciated the advice she received on handling the recent problems.

CORRESPONDENCE AND MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Gagné would like Council to affirm the appointments of Stacey Okland and Jack Schneider to the Omak Planning Commission Board. Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Foth to approve the appointments. Motion carried.

Mayor Gagné would like Council to affirm the appointments of Dale Erickson, Mark Brown, Shea Brewer, Dan Higbee and Randy Reed to the Building Code Appeal Board. Member Foth moved, seconded by Member Clark. Motion carried.

Mayor Gagné told Council that she received a letter of congratulations from the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board for the 2021 Seal Coat, Multiple Locations project grant award. She also told Council a plaque was received for the Wastewater Treatment Plant from the Washington State Department of Ecology for Outstanding Performance in 2020.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Womack, to approve the consent agenda consisting of minutes from the November 15, 2021, meeting; 2021 claims checks numbered 105979-10642, in the amount of \$422,478.76; November 2021 payroll checks numbered 105878-105881, 105944-105978 (voided checks 105956-105959 & 10596-105963) and, ACH payments in the amount of \$345,763.18; As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ordinance 1908 – 2ND Read – Adopting the Final 2022 Budget with Corrections

Member Foth moved, seconded by Member Gaines, to approve Ordinance 1908 with corrections. Administrator McDaniel told Council that this is the second read of this ordinance. He reminded Council that workshops were held in addition to a public hearing. This ordinance has one correction. The City of Omak was not awarded grant funding for the Second Avenue Sidewalk Project. The budget was reduced by that amount. He believes it's a good budget and he recommends approval. As there were no questions or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance 1909 – 1st Read – Amending 2021 Budget – Cemetery Fund

City Administrator McDaniel told Council this is the first read of the ordinance. The Cemetery experienced a failure of the irrigation pump earlier in the year. He has been tracking this fund and the expenditures will exceed the 2021 budget amount. This ordinance will appropriate an additional \$4,550 to cover the unexpected cost. The Ending Fund balance will be reduced by the like amount. There were no questions or comments from Council.

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Ordinance 1910 – 2022 Non-Union Salary Schedule

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Foth, to approve Ordinance 1910. City Administrator McDaniel told Council the ordinance establishes 2022 wages for the Non-Union Employee's. The ordinance reflects a six percent increase across the board. There was the addition of a stipend for an on-call supervisor for the Fire Chief. The Part Time Records Clerk was removed because that position is now full time. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 60-2021 – Approving MOA with Okanogan County Fire District No. 3

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 60-2021. Fire Chief Bowling told Council that for several years, Fire District No. 3 has reimbursed the City of Omak for time he spent on fires in the district. Starting January 1, 2022, the district will increase that amount to \$36,500 a year. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 61-2021 – Approve Interlocal Agreement with Okanogan County for Building Inspection/Plan Review Services

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Gaines, to approve Resolution 61-2021. Building Official Wells told Council the agreement was the same as in 2021. The contract allows the Okanogan County Building Department to cover the City of Omak if Mr. Wells is out-of-town training, sick time, vacation or, unforeseen circumstances. As there were no questions or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 62-2021 – Adoption of the 2022 Fee Schedule

Member Foth moved, seconded by Member Clark, to approve Resolution 62-2021. City Administrator McDaniel told Council that the 2022 Fee Schedule mimics 2021 for the exception of the city utilities. In 2021, there were no increases in the utility rates. In 2022 there will be a three percent increase on all utilities. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Committee/Staff Reports:

Member Gaines told Council that the Personnel/Finance Committee met and asked Administrator McDaniel to brief Council on the items discussed. With the help of Member Womack, Administrator McDaniel gave a brief overview of each item. The contract for Judge Ebenger is being reviewed by Attorney Howe. They discussed Juneteenth, a new holiday in 2022. The Omak Municipal Code references RCW 1.16.050 legislative recognized days and Juneteenth has been included. The Committee recommends recognizing the holiday. Administrator McDaniel will be updating the Personnel Policy with the additional holiday. Water Operator, Corey Wilder has accepted another job and left employment with the City of Omak. The house at 410 S Main that was abated by the city has been cleaned up. The home has been boarded up and will stay that way for now. When Member Louie was seated, there was discussion about bonding. The Omak Municipal Code (OMC) 2.16.010 requires certain department heads be bonded so, Administrator McDaniel reached out to Attorney Howe and CIAW, the City's insurance company. Because the City Insurance covers errors and omissions it was determined a bond was not needed. The OMC will be updated in the future. City staff is reaching out to the airport hangar lessee's about using the hangars for aeronautical use. The committee approved a one-time forgiveness of a water bill due to a leak. There was discussion about setting a monetary threshold so administration can approve a lower dollar adjustment and anything above that threshold will come to committee. Member Womack told Council personnel issues were also discussed.

Police Chief Christensen shared that the Police Department call load was up 36% from last month.

Public Works Director Mears told Council that Jordan Versteegen accepted the Lead Water Operator position. He has pretested for the water distribution manager 2 certification. Mr. Mears has posted the Assistant Water Operator position in house and that will close on December 16th. He also told Council the city was not awarded a TIB grant for the Second Avenue Sidewalk project. The city has been fortunate to upgrade residential streets and gave a shout out to Okanogan County for their cooperation. Mr. Mears said he is not surprised about another award for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Both Jesus Arciniega and Don Able do a good job. Knowing the plant is taken care of allows him to focus on other projects.

Member Louie told Council that he was at the Senior Center and invited them to attend the City Council meeting. He is also on the docket of Tribal Council. He intends to offer to be a liaison. He also met some people from Manfisher Ministries.

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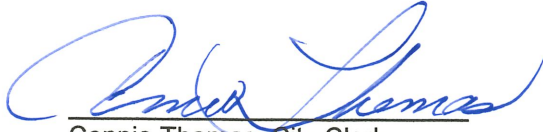
Member Womack asked for clarification of times for the Pie Social. It was confirmed the social event will begin at 6pm with a break for a short Council meeting at 7pm and the social event will continue until 8pm.

Member Cariker reminded Council about Christmas Downtown this Saturday. A free movie will be offered at the Mirage Theater, Okanogan Valley Orchestra and Chorus will hold a performance at the PAC. Santa House will open at 2pm with cookies, crafts, and hot cocoa. After the parade there will be music, roasting of chestnuts, marshmallows, and visits with Santa. She also asked that in 2022, the Public Safety Committee should schedule a meeting. She would like to discuss the homeless issues. Member Clark asked if there were going to be fireworks after the parade and she replied, no.


Member Freel congratulated the WWTP for their Department of Ecology Award. This is a big deal and, he likes to see that every year. He thanked all that were involved in getting the Transportation Improvement Board grant. It's great to see and, he is glad the city can continue to receive those.

Member Womack noticed the lighting in the bandshell in the evenings. It's lit up and he hasn't seen anyone staying in there. He thinks the lighting is a deterrent. This would be a lot less expensive than a gate.

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



Connie Thomas, City Clerk



Cindy Gagné, Mayor