
**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 1, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gagné called the regular meeting of the Omak City Council to order at 7:00 PM 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 – Via Zoom
Steve Clark	Russ Tallant, Sergeant
Meyer Louie	Wayne Beetchenow, Public Works Director
Michelle Gaines	Connie Thomas, City Clerk
Dave Womack	Tyler Wells, Building Official

CONSENT AGENDA:

Member Foth moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve the consent agenda consisting of minutes from the July 18, 2022, meeting; claims checks numbered 107509-107565 issued, in the amount of \$432,747.76; July 2022 payroll checks numbered 10418-107420, 107487-107506 and, ACH payments in the amount of \$349,728.75; July manual checks 10741-107416, 107486, 107507-107508 in the amount of \$3,828.50; As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 47-2022 – Support and Adoption of the Okanogan County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Gaines, to approve Resolution 48-2022. The update to the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan was accomplished through public workshops hosted by Okanogan County Emergency Management. Fire Chief Bowling explained to Council the plan has been updated by Okanogan County. He explained this is an eight-hundred-page document which include sections specific to the City of Omak. As there was no questions or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 48-2022 – Approving the Purchase of a Pickup through the Washington State Purchasing Cooperative

Member Gaines moved, seconded by Member Womack, to approve Resolution 48-2022. Public Works Director Beetchenow informed Council the 2008 Chevy ½ Ton pickup is scheduled to be replaced in 2023. He explained the open window to order vehicles for 2023 is through August 10, 2022. If the City waits until the year 2023 to order, the vehicle will not arrive until 2024. Member Womack asked when the city would take possession of the vehicle if it was ordered this year. Public Works Director Beetchenow explained that it would be received and paid for in 2023. Administrator McDaniel added that based on the calculations in the equipment rental schedule, the replacement value is \$34,151. The purchase price is \$49,886.76 which is a higher cost. The additional cost will need to be figured into the 2023 budget equipment purchase. As there were no additional questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion

Leon Hoover, President of Omak Stampede, Inc.

Mr. Hoover was in attendance to talk about the concert, the carnival and the Stampede Event. He informed Council the concert was a great event. The Stampede Board talked and plan to continue the event next year. He briefed Council on the profit and loss for the event. The Stampede Board intends to sign a performer by the end of the year for the 2023 event which will allow them to advertise sooner. He said that, Spencer Crandall was an awesome performer and, the board wants to keep moving forward because having an event in the facility is their goal. He informed Council that Omak Stampede has sold 134 more tickets to date compared to 2021. The Omak Stampede worked hard to bring a carnival to town for the event. As of Saturday, he secured a carnival. The reason Davis Shows and the carnival out of Montana canceled is due to staffing, truck drivers and fuel prices. He is hoping Stampede will be selling arm bands for the carnival on Wednesday. Mr. Hoover invited Council to attend the Stampede Kick Off Party on Wednesday. Happy Hour begins at 5:30pm and dinner at 6pm and, Pappa Murphy's is donating the pizza and salad.

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OTHER BUSINESS:

Committee/Staff Reports:

Councilmember Freel reported that the Public Safety Committee met last Monday regarding concerns from Sarah Clune during the last Council Meeting. He asked Chief Christensen to provide his report. Police Chief Christensen said that he appreciated the person coming forward as he was unaware of the situation. The body cam footage was reviewed along with a video taken by a private citizen. He also interviewed Detective Brien Bowling and Sergeant Darren Duncan. He explained that law enforcement has had extensive history with the suspect who is currently incarcerated. In watching the multiple events and talking with the officers, the situation was handled very well. The suspect has been involved in 197 engagements with police. After a thorough review, the outcome doesn't show anything improper. Member Foth said the committee also agreed with the chief's report. Member Gaines asked if there was a weapon drawn. Chief Christensen confirmed a weapon was drawn by Detective Bowling. The person assaulting began to approach Detective Bowling and held what was later determined to be a fork. The suspect eventually complied and, Detective Bowling secured his firearm. Chief Christensen explained that at the end of the day it was a fight between two males and neither wanted to press charges so there were no victims which makes this a non-report. This is the reason Chief Christensen was unaware of the situation. Chief Christensen informed Council that he is attending a National Command College course. The police department had a couple of injuries this past weekend and both Administrator McDaniel and Clerk Thomas were made aware. He informed Council the police department has responded to 459 calls for the month of July. Year to date calls have increase 18% compared to the same timeframe in 2021. Sexual Assaults are up 1,000%, theft is up 916%, burglaries 913% and agency assists for child protective services have increase 600%. Chief Christensen also reported to Council that Public Records requests are increasing. The police department currently has 149 requests to date for the year. He explained that in 2021, they had a total of 125 and in 2020 they had 37. He went on to share all city public records combined in 2019 were 92, for 2018, 85 and in 2017, 117.

Citizen Ronnie Jackson

Ms. Jackson was in attendance via Zoom and wanted to address Council. She thanked everyone and then referring to reports she obtained from the Omak Library asked what officer came from the police department yelling. She also felt the Omak Police Department does not write full reports. If this is a "no report" why are the police pulling guns or tasers, arresting and letting them go. She informed Council the Omak Library provided more detail in their reports. She feels there is a massive problem with the homeless and we need someone to protect our city parks and all humans. Ms. Jackson also informed Council that she went to the Omak Police Department to get a copy of the June 30, 2022 report to find out details of what happened. She said the Police Chief approached her in the parking lot and was rude. The reason she wanted the records was to find out the officer's side of the story. She understands that both Omak and Okanogan are having problems in their parks. Mayor Gagné stated for the record that Ronnie Jackson wrote a formal complaint which in turn, she reached out by phone and talked with Ms. Jackson. Mayor Gagné welcomed Ms. Jackson to any meeting and thanked her for sharing her thoughts. She also wanted to ensure Ms. Jackson heard the review of the events and that Council also reviewed the event. She again asked Ms. Jackson to come forward if she has concerns.

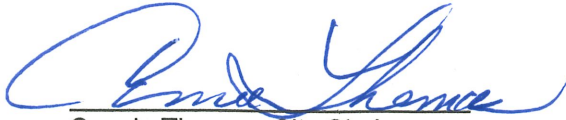
Citizen Sarah Clune

Ms. Clune was in attendance and asked to address Council. She wanted to encourage the city to provide a beat cop who would walk the parks and city streets. This would allow officers to be face to face and come together with the community. Member Foth said that he understands what she is saying but, there are not enough officers available for this type of patrol. Ms. Clune had heard the department was understaffed. Chief Christensen explained the police department has filled all of the funded positions and they still have a lack of discretionary time and have to be reactive. He explained that a single officer in one day had twenty-seven reports. As he mentioned earlier, there is a thousand percent increase in sexual assaults. Chief Christensen is working on strategies to pay for additional staff as the current expense fund does not have the surplus. Ms. Clune asked how the community could help fund the department. Mayor Gagné explained the City of Omak has cooperative agreements with Okanogan County, Okanogan Behavioral Healthcare and other agencies. She asked for civility as they try and figure things out. Mayor Gagné said she has a lot of hope and, the Police Department and city staff are doing a good job working with the public. They are all human and hard working. The city will continue to look for funding and partnerships.

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As there was no further business before Council, Mayor Gagné adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM.



Connie Thomas, City Clerk



Cindy Gagné, Mayor