
**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 17, 2023**

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:

Mike Foth	Tyler Wells, Building Official
Nattalie Cariker	Kevin Bowling, Fire Chief
Barry Freel	Dan Christensen, Police Chief
Steve Clark	Wayne Beetchenow, Public Works Director
Meyer Louie	Connie Thomas, City Clerk
Michelle Gaines	Todd McDaniel, City Administrator
Dave Womack	

CONSENT AGENDA:

Member Foth moved, seconded by Member Clark, to approve the consent agenda consisting of minutes from the January 3, 2023, meeting; 2022 claims checks numbered 108370-108416 in the amount of \$349,654.26; 2022 December manual checks numbered 108199-108201 in the amount of \$52.69; January 2023 claims checks numbered 108417-108438 in the amount of \$39,779.75. As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Officer of the Year Presentation

Chief of Police Christensen presented Officer Aaron Pennycooke with the 2022 Officer of the Year Award. Then Detective Brien Bowling told a story to the gallery about he and Officer Pennycooke that was filled with humor and comradery. Detective Bowling presented Officer Pennycooke with a framed photo with the caption "the face you make when you do real police work". Officer Pennycooke accepted the awards and thanked his family, wife, fellow officers & sergeants.

Council Review – Comprehensive Plan Updates – Elements C, D, E and F

Building Official Wells explained to Council the, the Omak Planning Commission has been reviewing and updating elements of the Omak Comprehensive Plan to ensure compliance with state stature. The document provided is a strikethrough version put together by Contract Planner, Kurt Danison (attached). Mr. Wells explained no action needs to be taken tonight. The Planning Commission will be reviewing one more element and then, the entire plan will come before Council. If Council has comments he ask they be sent to him. Mr. Wells will ensure any comments are shared with the Planning Commission.

Resolution No. 04-2023 – Approve Amendment No. 5 Professional Service Agreement with Gray & Osborne, Inc.

Member Cariker moved, seconded by Member Louie, to approve Resolution 04-2023. Public Works Director Beetchenow informed Council that Amendment No. 5 amends the professional service contract with Gray & Osborne, Inc. to update the City's Construction Standards for 2023. The last update was done in November 2001. Mr. Beetchenow informed Council the update was included in the 2023 Budget. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution No. 05-2023 – Approve Task Order No. 45-22-043 – Airport Reservoir Construction Project with J-U-B Engineers, Inc.

Member Foth moved, seconded by Member Clark, to approve Resolution 05-2023. Public Works Director Beetchenow informed Council the Task Order will allow J-U-B engineers, Inc. to provide engineering services for the construction phase of the airport water reservoir. Cost for these services will not exceed a budget of \$478,150. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution No. 06-2023 – Approve Amendment No. 6 – Professional Services with Gray & Osborne, Inc.

Member Freel moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 06-2023. Public Works Director Beetchenow informed Council the Amendment to the Gray & Osborne will allow consulting services for the design, bid and award of the water system improvement project. The project area is on Jasmine Street

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between 4th and 6th Streets. This will also include the Mid Valley Hospital water main. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution No. 07-2023 – Approving Amendment No. 7 – Professional Services with Gray & Osborne, Inc.

Member Gaines moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 07-2023. Public Works Director Beetchenow informed Council Amendment No. 7 to the Gray & Osborne will allow consulting services for the design, bid and award of the Julia Maley Water Treatment Facility. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution No. 08-2023 - Accept Washington State Department of Commerce Grant for the Airport Water Reservoir Project

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 08-2023. City Administrator McDaniel reminded Council of the \$4,300,000 the State Legislature appropriated in the 2022 Capital Budget. This resolution will accept the \$4,300,000 grant funds from Washington State through the Department of Commerce to construct the Omak Airport water reservoir. If approved, the Mayor will sign the grant agreement using DocuSign. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Committee/Staff Reports:

Member Freel shared with Council that he attended the OCOG meeting last Monday. The board elected a new Chair, Jon Neal, Wayne Turner as Vice-Chair and Clerk of the Board remains Paula Brantner-Thomas.

Building Official Wells informed Council that he has a Conditional Use Permit for a nightly rental at 335 Oak Street. Its current in the comment period with a public hearing scheduled for February 21, 2023. He also informed Council a section of Sam's Honda Shop building collapsed with the snow load this past Thursday. The City of Omak hired Cates and Erb to make the location safe and Mr. Wells has been in contact with the owner.

Chief Christensen informed Council that he is in day six of a trial for armed robbery. Chief Christensen also shared that he has hired lateral officer, Terry Shrable who will start on February 1, 2023.

Member Cariker said it was great to see law enforcement out and supporting each other.

Member Louie paid tribute to Virgil "Smoker" Marchand who recently passed away. He was a very talented man and, he will be missed.

Member Clark reiterated what Member Cariker said. The Omak Police Department does a great job and work a lot of hours. He appreciates the officers, and also thanked their family's for the support.

Member Gaines said there was more vandalism downtown. She is wondering if Council should revisit the public safety sales tax. She understands there is a lot that law enforcement and the city can't do. She suggested creating a task force to determine what can be done. She understands the citizens and business owners are frustrated. There was further discussion of who would be on the task force committee and how to get it off the ground. Member Foth said if the public safety sales tax was passed, hiring additional police and having more presence may be a deterrent. Member Gaines said that she is willing to help with the information sheet and she would like to be a part of the task force.


Maria Lassila, local business owner asked about the status of the private security hired by the city. Public Works Director Beetchenow explained security is being done every night and he is receiving reports daily and the security guard is making contacts every night. Police Chief Christensen explained that in 1998 the City of Omak conducted a staffing study that indicated the City of Omak needed 14-16 Officers to deliver the services. We currently have less officers and have seen an increase call volume. A rational number of incidents per Officer should be 250-450. Our officers are well above that with several above 700. Officers with only 6 months on are well over 500. We have Sergeants that have exceeded 400 or nearly 400. This is not allowing them to supervise effectively. No matter which method of evaluation he has utilized from the staffing study course, the light hearted comment from the Paulsbo Chief, that if you have a Walmart double your force, to a new process that Rochelle Danielson has found. Boil all of those down and each of them indicate we should be at 16-18 Officers based upon call load and service expectation. We are at 9, thus so far no matter what method of evaluation we keep landing on that 16-18 Officers. We have SB5361, and a public safety tax to consider as we all know the funding is not there to support that staffing level, and we have recruitment to consider.

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Member Louie informed Council that Pastor Steve and Cheryl of Manfisher Ministries are more than eager to help with the downtown situation.

Mayor Gagné encouraged everyone to visit Representative Jacquelin Maycumber's website and go to her "News & Media" and view "Representative Jacquelin Maycumber preview 2023 session with Spokane Public Radio's Rebecca White" 12-29-22. The legislature is in their long session so, reach out to those who have power to make changes. She again thanked everyone for attending and congratulated Officer Pennycooke on his award.

As there was no further business before Council, Mayor Gagné adjourned the meeting at 7:24 PM.



Connie Thomas, City Clerk



Cindy Gagné, Mayor