
**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 6, 2023**

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	Wayne Beetchenow, Public Works Director
Meyer Louie	Connie Thomas, City Clerk
Michelle Gaines	Tyler Wells, Building Official
Dave Womack	Rochelle Danielson, Co-Responder/CORE Specialist
	Darren Duncan, Police Sergeant
	David Ebenger, Municipal Court Judge
	Danyle Gaines, Court Administrator

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Kris Little, Owner of Grandma's Attic, Business Owner's, and Omak Citizen's

Kris Little owner of Grandma's Attic introduced herself to Council. She has been in business on Main Street of Omak for almost thirty-one years and said her "neighborhood" is important to her. She expressed concern about the unsafe situations her and her staff have been in, as well as the lack of snow plowing in the alley behind her business. She also shared with Council during the winter, city crews will plow snow to the center of Main Street and this winter, snow was plowed onto the sidewalks and then, city code enforcement tagged the business's requiring the snow to be cleared from the sidewalks. She wants Council to help come up with solutions.

Carlyn Rubert employee of Grandma's Attic. Mrs. Rubert informed Council that she was the daughter of Mrs. Little. Her desire is to take over the family business downtown Main Street. She is concerned for her safety and the safety of the staff.

Citizen Crystal Sheets spoke to Council about her experience when her and her two children utilized the Omak Public Library. She does not feel like the librarians are enforcing the "Library Code of Conduct". The library can either nurture kids or a homeless society. Mrs. Sheets is asking Council to pay attention and help give a solution so kids can safely go to the library.

Angie Morgan citizen and business owner explained to Council that she has a family-owned business and rents portables. She informed Council that portables were delivered to the North Omache Mall for contractors to use during a remodel project. The portables were damaged while there. She too would like to know what citizens can do to make the community better.

Tyler Christensen citizen and owner of Tyler's Fit Factory. He has been in business for three years. Mr. Christensen shared his business experience so far. He also shared an incident that took place in his home where a man was came into his home and threatened his family. Mr. Christensen went into detail on how he protected his family in that situation. He asked that Council to protect Main Street and the citizen's will protect the city.

Dennis Carlton owner of Carlton Financial addressed Council. Mr. Carlton informed Council the business owners and citizen's are not laying the problem in the city's lap. He referred to a memorandum written by Police Chief Christensen a year ago. The memorandum included information that property crimes were up 1,000% in January 2022 and they are working to address crime and loss. A year later, the temperature of the community is hotter than you know. He has concerns for our community and it's about the future of Carlyn's future children and the children we have now. He shared concerns as a member of the Omak School Board. He asked what codes can the city enforce as, people are sleeping in tents and cars in yards and this appears to be a nuisance. He is encouraged by a new sheriff, new code enforcement and new patrol officers with experience. He understands our police department is doing their best and he applauds them for their brave service to the community. He understands the challenges Mayor Gagné and Council have to lead and enforce the Omak Municipal Codes to the maximum extent.

**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 6, 2023**

Alyssa Harn, Omak Citizen addressed Council. She informed Council how happy she was to purchase and live in a home in the neighborhood she grew up in. Property owners now have to take measures to protect their property. Her neighborhood has a drug house kiddy corner to her home and, they need to be held accountable. She shared some incidents that happened at the Omak Dance Studio on Ash Street. When the girls come or go from the dance studio, they are often approached by men. The dance students and parents have to be vigilant and aware. She doesn't want any of our children to become an Amber Alert.

Karissa Duncan owner of Paws and Petals addressed Council. She explained that her and her husband own three businesses on Main Street, Paws and Petals, Intrigue Communications and the PC Nut Hut. She opened Paws and Petals six months ago. When she was moving in and receiving freight, the dumpster was full and she witnessed on her camera's a gal with a lighter and Mrs. Duncan said since she saw the camera, it potentially avoided a dumpster fire. She said there is a room full of people tonight because they are tired. Business owners from Coffee Express up north to Jess Auto south of Omak all have the same stories. Is there something the city can do to change this and not have Omak be a haven for people who steal. We need to do something different and find the change and make Omak better again.

Deanna Houston addressed Council. She informed Council that she works in both Omak and Okaogan and both City's are experiencing the same problems. She recently visited Chelan and didn't see the people we see in Omak and Okanogan. She also visited Twisp and Winthrop and didn't see things that made her feel unsafe. What are those places doing that we are not? The city has to be clean and look safe for tourists to think about stopping.

Mayor Gagné thanked everyone for coming. We have heard you all and she wanted to give everyone the opportunity to be heard. She informed the audience that Sam's Honda Shop and the Corner Shelf buildings will be cleaned up. She said there were a lot of situations and concerns that date back to October. The information Deanna Houston brought up were interesting as to what other ordinances look like. Mayor Gagné will take on the challenge. She will bring a group together as she wants to hear and know what ideas they have.

Ronnie Holder-Diefenbach resident, business owner and Executive Director of Economic Alliance informed Council that a lot of the outlining communities don't have the services for mental health, DSHS and medical facilities. This is a reason people congregate in Omak.

Mayor Gagné informed everyone that Police Chief Christensen and Core Program Manger Danielson are "On the Hill" in Olympia this week for Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs (WASPC) and the Mental Health Crisis issues. Mayor Gagné encouraged everyone to join in on the 7th Legislative District telephone town hall on February 13th from 6-7pm.

Dennis Carlton said the hard working business owners are here and we have ideas and the sooner we can have a meeting, we can share those.

Member Foth informed the audience that Member Cariker and Gaines spoke last Council about creating a task force to address these issues. Council shared their concerns and the desire to work together to fix the issues. Member Cariker has had concerns about the library for over a decade. Mayor Gagné said that she will schedule a meeting with Dennis Carlton.

Ronnie Holder-Diefenbach shared that Economic Alliance created a subcommittee who has been working over a year on a policy to address vacant building and lots that are in disrepair. They will introduce the policy and process to the Okanogan Council of Governments (OCOG). The policy and processes will address issues throughout the entire county. It will include best practices from other communities and address vacant lots, buildings and property. Omak City Planner Kurt Danison is also on the committee.

Member Louie said that it was alarming to hear what everyone has said this evening. He does share a lot of the same concerns for his family and his own safety.

CORRESPONDENCE AND MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Gagné asked Omak City Council to affirm her appointment of Jeremy Patrick as Omak Fire Chief. Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Louie. Because all members of Council were not involved in the hiring process, Member Freel asked about the process. Mayor Gagné explained that four applicants were interviewed. The interview panel consisted of a business owner/citizen, industry professionals, Omak Assistant Fire Chief Dan Wood, Councilmember Clark, City Administrator McDaniel and, herself. She said they all were qualified individuals and, it came down to the industry professionals, our local fire department and the line officers who are all behind him and she trusts those leaders. Mayor asked Mr. Patrick to address Council. Mr. Patrick thanked Council and said that he was looking forward to what is coming. Mayor Gagné thanked the

**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 6, 2023**

Omak Fire Crew for showing up and supporting him as well. Mayor Gagné recognized the volunteers in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Member Foth moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve the consent agenda consisting of minutes from the January 17, 2022, meeting; 2023 claims checks numbered 108466-108536, in the amount of \$218,780.13; January 2023 payroll checks numbered 108367-108369, 108441-108463 and, ACH payments in the amount of \$346,175.79; As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 09-2023 - Approve Sole Source Purchase of a Sludge Transfer Pump

Member Gaines moved, seconded by Member Clark, to approve Resolution 09-2023. Public Works Director Beetchenow informed Council the wastewater treatment plan needs to upgrade the sludge transfer pump. This is a sole source purchase from Whitney Equipment Company with a purchase cost of \$16,747.90. This purchase is under budget. As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 10-2023 - Approve Purchase of a Fleet Pickup through Special Market Conditions

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Gaines, to approve Resolution 10-2023. Public Works Director Beetchenow reminded Council of Resolution 19-2022 to purchase a fleet vehicle to replace the 2012 Dodge Avenger ER No. 401. There was no expected delivery date so, the order was canceled. Detective Bowling researched and found a fleet vehicle. Using Special Market Conditions, a 2022 Chevrolet will be purchased through Sunrise Chevrolet in Omak in the amount of \$40,641.84. As there was no discussion or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 11-2023 - Approve Sole Source, Brand Specific Booster Pump from PumpTech, LLC

Member Foth moved, seconded by Member Womack, to approve Resolution 11-2023. This resolution will approve the purchase of a replacement pump for the Riverside Booster Station. This is a Brand Specific, Sole Source Purchase from PumpTech, LLC. The amount of this purchase is \$13,826.97 and requires Council approval. As there was no discussion or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 12-2023 - Approve Purchase of Pool Covers for City Pool

Member Gaines moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 12-2023. This is for the purchase of pool covers for the Omak Swimming Pool. The quote from Pure Water Aquatics is \$6,162.27 not including shipping. As there was no further discussion or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 13-2023 - Approve Purchase of a V-Snow Plow

Member Womack moved, seconded by Member Gaines, to approve Resolution 13-2023. Public Works Director Beetchenow explained to Council that a snow plow was going onto a vehicle the city was unable to obtain due to market conditions. The plow will now be installed onto the 2022 one ton ER No. 185 which will be in the fleet until the year 2042. The v snow plow will make it easier to remove snow in the alley's. The purchase will be made through Sourcewell, a cooperative purchasing agency of the State of Minnesota. The purchase total provided by 24-7 Property Maintenance a local dealer is \$10,220.84. As there was no discussion or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 14-2023 - Approve the Purchase of a Sander Spreader

Member Womack moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 14-2023. Public Works Director Beetchenow informed Council the sander spreader will also go onto the 2022 one ton ER No. 185. This sander will allow the city to purchase salt in bulk versus by the bag and will be a cost savings. This purchase will be made through Sourcewell, a cooperative purchasing agency of the State of Minnesota. The purchase total provided by 24-7 Property Maintenance a local dealer is \$9,690.31. As there was no discussion or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 15-2023 - Approve the Purchase of a Roller

Member Gaines moved, seconded by Member Foth, to approve Resolution 15-2023. Public Works Director Beetchenow informed Council the replacement of this roller has been in the budget the last two years.

**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 6, 2023**

This roller will replace the used roller purchased by the city in 2011. Member Womack confirmed this is a new roller and Mr. Beetchenow confirmed it was. The purchase will be made through Sourcewell, a cooperative purchasing agency of the State of Minnesota. The purchase total provided by Sourcewell is \$48,030.83. The roller will be received from PacWest Machinery, LLC, the regional dealer. As there was no discussion or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 16-2023 - Approve the Purchase of a Snow Blower

Member Womack moved, seconded by Member Freel, to approve Resolution 16-2023. Public Works Director Beetchenow reminded Council the snow blower is included in the 2023 budget. This will replace the 1986 Norland Snow Blower the city purchased used in 1997. The purchase will be made through Sourcewell, a cooperative purchasing agency of the State of Minnesota. The purchase total provided by the dealer of this equipment, SWS Equipment, LLC., is \$220,874.03. Member Womack asked about the snow blower and, if it had mechanical issues this winter. Mr. Beetchenow explained the snow blower was breaking sheer pins constantly. The parts for this equipment are not available so, Diebel's Welding & Machine will build the parts. As there was no further discussion or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 17-2023 - Approve the Purchase of a CORE/Police Vehicle through WA State Purchasing Cooperative

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 17-2023. Chief of Police Christensen informed Council the vehicle is funded by the NCACH grant for the CORE program. The vehicle will support the COPS position which is part of the CORE program. The vehicle was selected through the Washington State Procurement Cooperative. The purchase will be made through Bud Clary Ford in the amount of \$50,510.06 not including graphics. As there was no discussion or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 18-2023 - Approve the Purchase of Law Enforcement Radios through WA State Purchasing Cooperative

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 18-2023. Police Chief Christensen informed Council the radios are funded in the 2023 budget. He explained the costs will be split with Equipment Rental vehicle replacement and the CORE program and funded through the NCACH grant. The purchase is through the Washington State Purchasing Cooperative. Racom Critical Communications is the bona fide distributor of the contracted JVC Kenwood equipment and provided a cost estimate of \$13,356.63. As there was no discussion or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 19-2023 - Approve Professional Service Agreement for Camp Host at the Carl Precht Memorial RV Park

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Gaines, to approve Resolution 19-2023. Public Works Director Beetchenow informed Council the Camp Host agreement is a renewal for the 2023 summer season. The agreement will begin on April 1, 2023 and shall run through September 30, 2023. As there was no discussion or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 20-2023 - Approve Professional Services Agreement with Kimley-Horn

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Gaines, to approve Resolution 20-2023. Public Works Director Beetchenow explained the City is required by the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) to provide an independent fee estimate (IFE) to compare against the proposal from J-U-B Engineers, Inc. Administrator McDaniel added the IFE was for the north taxiway reconstruction design for the airport. He also informed Council that WSDOT FAA will fund ninety percent of the project and the state will fund five percent and the city will fund the remaining five percent. Project design is in 2023 with construction in 2024. As there was no discussion or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 21-2023 - Approve Write-Off Certain Aged & Uncollectible Accounts Receivable-Omak Municipal Court

Member Foth moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 21-2023. City Administrator McDaniel explained to Council that Court Administrator Gaines and Judge Ebenger have reviewed all the Municipal Court receivables and have populated a list of write-off's. The list contains past due accounts that are ten years old or greater or those with a death certificate and dating back to 1981. The amount of \$346,196.25 will clean up the accounts to date. Mrs. Gaines has spent a lot of time with the collection agency and researching each account. Member Womack asked about the collection agency rates and the process used for collecting comparable to other companies. Administrator McDaniel said he would do some research and report

**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 6, 2023**

back. Member Gaines felt it made sense and was reasonable to write off accounts older than ten years. Administrator McDaniel informed Council the court intends to write off annually. Mrs. Gaines has been an asset working four days a week in the court office. As there was no further discussion or comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 22-2023 - Approve Writing Off Specific City Utility Outstanding Accounts

Member Gaines moved, seconded by Member Louie, to approve Resolution 22-2023. City Administrator McDaniel informed Council Utility Clerk Flora Rogers reviewed outstanding accounts within the utility billing system. The utility write-off's contain charges that are older than six years and credits that are three years or older for a total of \$1,987.12. As there was no further discussion and no comments from the audience, Council voted with six member voting yea and Member Womack voting nay. The motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Committee/Staff Reports:

Member Clark reported the SWAC Meeting scheduled for February was canceled due to a lack of quorum.

Member Cariker attended a LEOFF Board meeting last week.

Building Official Wells informed Council, that he has issued a demo permit for the burned "Corner Shelf" building last week. He and Fire Chief Bowling have been in contact with the property owner since the fire and knew that January was the timeline for demo. He also issued a demo permit for the "Sam's Honda" building and was in contact with the property owner the day after the building collapsed. The clothing store, Maurices have begun remodel on their store located in the Omache Shopping Center. Mr. Wells has also scheduled a Public Hearing February 21, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. for a Conditional Use Permit for the operation of a nightly rental on Oak Street.

Fire Chief Bowling congratulated Jeremy Patrick on his new appointment and will ensure he is trained "The Omak Way".

Sergeant Duncan informed Council that he wanted to speak all meeting. He enjoyed what the citizens had to say and understood their concerns and shared his personal experiences. He would like our citizens to put their best foot forward. He explained the Omak Police Department team is coming together and it's the strongest it's been in years. He is excited about the new lateral officer that was hired and the CORE program. Member Clark asked about the schedule of the new lateral officer. Sergeant Duncan explained the officer has eighteen years of service and is very intense. His qualifications are in property crime and malicious mischief. He is currently training with the younger officers to understand the policy and procedures for Omak and in turn, he is sharing his knowledge. Chief Christensen informed Council the jail has not opened and the Sheriff is refusing to book which have huge impacts. He asked if Council had any questions about his briefing or objectives. There were none.

Public Works Director Beetchenow thanked Public Works Lead Mechanic Chad Cleveland for his attendance this evening. He also thanked him for the time he spent researching all the equipment purchases. He also informed Council that Water Operator, Jordan Verstegen passed his Group 2 Water Certification exam.

Member Cariker congratulated Jeremy Patrick on his appointment. She said it is good to have people in the crowd and she is excited to see what the committee will accomplish.

Member Louie congratulated Jeremy Patrick

Member Freel appreciated the citizens and said that we all have the same concerns.

Member Clark said the attendance tonight seemed overwhelming, but Council doesn't know unless the citizens come forward. He believes everyone took responsibility and together we can try and build something positive.

Member Womack asked Public Works Director Beetchenow about the security company the city is contracting with. Mr. Beetchenow explained that he received daily reports from the security company. Those are emailed to the public works crew and the police department. The reports have good detailed descriptions for vehicles and people they are coming into contact with. Member Womack asked about the status of the security cameras. Public Works Director Beetchenow explained the city hired Intrigue Communications to complete the installation and we are waiting on that company.

**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 6, 2023**

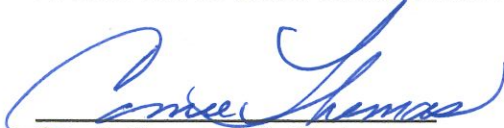
Member Gaines said the last Council meeting the discussion was started to form a task force. Council would like ideas and wants to be part of the solution.

Citizen and business owner, Paula Chambers explained how the police department whittled away at a drug house and it took time to fix it. One drug house at a time.

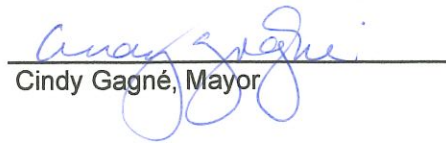
Citizen Ronnie Jackson addressed Council with her concerns.

Member Louie said that he has spent time at Manfisher Ministries, and they would like to participate and help with the downtown problems.

As there was no further business before Council, Mayor Gagné adjourned the meeting at 9:18 PM.



Connie Thomas, City Clerk



Cindy Gagné, Mayor