
**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 6, 2024**

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:

Mike Foth	Todd McDaniel, City Administrator (CA)
Nattalie Cariker	Jeremy Patrick, Fire Chief
Barry Freel	Dan Christensen, Police Chief
Steve Clark	Wayne Beetchenow, Public Works Director (PWD)
Meyer Louie	Connie Thomas, City Clerk
Michelle Gaines	Tyler Wells, Building Official (BO)
Dave Womack	Rochelle Danielson, C.O.R.E. Program Manager/Outreach Specialist
	Marc Doney, Team O.N.E

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Mayor Gagné asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Council that was not on the agenda. There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE AND MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Gagné recognized Ronnie Holder-Diefenbach and asked if she wanted to provide an update on the abandoned building/vacant lot subcommittee. Mrs. Holder-Diefenbach reminded the Council that after her presentation last year, the Council Committee was going to meet and discuss how they wanted to move forward, and she doesn't have anything to report currently. The Community Support/Public Safety Committee will meet by the end of the month. They will then reach out to her or Maria Lassila.

Mayor Gagné reminded the Council that during the last Council meeting there was concern about the Meadow Point apartment complex on Jonathan Street. Mayor Gagné and City Administrator McDaniel met with Nancy Nash-Mendez, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Okanogan County. During their meeting, Mayor Gagné found out that it's not easy for the Housing Authority to evict tenants. There was discussion about the value of hiring security or installing security cameras at the complex. Mrs. Nash-Mendez will be scheduling a meeting with Police Chief Christensen about security options and funding. Mayor Gagné also informed the Council that according to their contract rule, the complex management is done by a third party vendor and there is no onsite manager. Mrs. Nash-Mendez will be attending a regional executive meeting as all housing authorities are seeing the same problems. There was further discussion about the vetting of tenants, landscaping, and the challenges of the eviction process. Mayor Gagné shared that Mrs. Nash-Mendez is also frustrated and there are a lot more questions than answers.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Louie, to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the April 15, 2024 meeting; 2024 claims checks numbered 111062-111125 in the amount of \$1,377,689.46; April 2024 payroll checks numbered 110963-110965, 111039-111060 and, ACH payments in the amount of \$460,146.63; As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution 40-2024 to Amend the City of Omak Fee Schedule 2024

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Louie to bring Resolution 40-2024 back to the floor. CA McDaniel informed the Council that he met with the Personnel/Finance Committee, and they recommend removing reference to pool fees from the schedule. The amendment to the fee schedule was initially brought to Council to correct a typographical error in the building permit valuation. This correction is still needed. Member Gaines moved, seconded by Member Clark to approve Resolution 40-2024 as amended. As there were not further questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

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NEW BUSINESS:

CIU (Crime Impact Unit) Briefing

Police Chief Christensen introduced Officer Terry Shrable and Detective Brian Bowling and said they will be giving a presentation on the Crime Impact Unit (CIU) "Disrupt and Dismantle". Officer Shrable explained to Council the purpose of the CIU is to investigate incidents above patrol level. In January 2024 Chief Christensen created the CIU pilot program. Assigned to that team were Sergeant Duncan (22 years' experience), Detective Bowling (12 years' experience) and Officer Shrable (18 years' experience). Officer Shrable explained to the Council these types of teams are normally associated with larger departments. In 2023 there were several investigations that needed a specialized team. Some of those investigations shared were theft of \$300,000 in gold, theft of firearms, a property crime at T Mobile and all were solved. Officer Shrable went on to share calls, results, and the team's value reaching beyond Omak. Chief's Mantra is that "Commit crime in Omak doesn't mean you get away with it when you leave Omak". Detective Bowling shared that the State Attorney General's Office (missing persons) were on-sight for three days last week reviewing the Esmerelda "Kit" Mora case. He and Officer Shrable shared information with the AG Office. As a team they conducted interviews, canvased past living sites, and reviewed details of the case. The newly formed Task Force selected this Omak case as one of their priority cases. Detective Bowling shared that this case is one that will haunt him throughout his career. He has hopes it will be solved. Officer Shrable shared how the unit organized the call to 611 E Jonathan resulting in the seizure of controlled substance. They wanted Council to visually see and feel the amount of substance seized so they mocked up items. The fentanyl seized that day was enough to take out half of the Omak population. This team is dedicated to teaching its patrol officers, supporting their investigative efforts, affecting change through arrests, and service the to City of Omak. Chief Christensen's vision is to make the CIU a two-detective full-time team.

Jazmine Martinez – Okanogan Behavioral Health Care (OBHC) - Jail Transition Services Program

Dave McClay informed the Council that the Jail Transition Services Program began in December 2023. Carelon Healthcare Services is a partner and shares funding for the coordinator position. He introduced Jazmine Martinez who is the Transition Services Coordinator. Ms. Martinez shared a power point presentation with the Council about the Jail Transition Services Program. The program coordinates transition services for those exiting incarceration who have mental health concerns or substance use disorders. After the presentation, she asked if there were any questions. Member Gaines suggested that as the program is new that she would like Ms. Martinez to come back in a year to show the success of the program and how many people took advantage of the services. Audience member Lena Boyle said she is curious about the referral engagement process and how referrals are received by OBHC. Ms. Martinez said the inmates send a "kite" (formal request processed by correctional staff) for services. There was discussion about the "kite" process and other ways OBHC is making inmates aware of the services. Mayor Gagné thanked them for bringing the program to Okanogan County and sharing it with the Council.

Resolution 41-2024 – Accepting the Law Enforcement Vehicle Pursuit Technology Grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce

Member Foth moved, seconded by Member Clark, to approve Resolution 41-2024. Police Chief Christensen informed Council that he applied for a Law Enforcement Pursuit Tehcnology Grant from the Department of Commerce. The Omak Police Department was one of eighteen to receive the grant. The grant amount awarded was \$32,000 and it will be used to purchase additional FLOCK LPR Cameras. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 42-2024 – Approving the Purchase of FLOCK LPR Cameras

Member Cariker moved, seconded by Member Clark, to approve Resolution 42-2024. Chief Christensen explained to Council the Law Enforcement Vehicle Pursuit Technology Grant will fund the purchase of two additional FLOCK LPR Cameras and a single portable camera for two years. Member Womack asked how many cameras there are. Chief Christensen said there are nine. There was discussion of the cost to maintain the cameras. As there were no additional questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 43-2024 – Approve a Professional Service Agreement with Kimley-Horn

Member Cariker moved, seconded by Member Gaines, to approve Resolution 43-2024. PWD Beetchenow informed the Council that Kimley-Horn will do an Independent Fee Estimate (IFE) for the north end taxiway airport reconstruction project. This IFE will compare against the anticipated proposal from J-U-B Engineers. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

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Resolution 44-2024 – Approve a Reimbursable Agreement with Okanogan County

Member Cariker moved, seconded by Member Gaines, to approve Resolution 44-2024. PWD Beetchenow informed the Council the agreement with Okanogan County is for the 2024 chip seal project funded through the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB). This agreement will reimburse Okanogan County for equipment, labor, and materials. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 45-2024 – Amend the City of Omak Personnel Policy

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 45-2024. CA McDaniel informed the Council that the amendment to the personnel policy recognizes the change of payday from the 1st to the 7th of the month. CA McDaniel has worked with the bargaining units on the change. The city has always estimated the last days of pay for employees, this change will accurately capture hours worked. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Ordinance 1941 – Approve the Annexation of Real Property

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Ordinance 1941. Building Official Wells was asked by CA McDaniel to look into the annexation of real property, Parcel No. 3426120030. BO Wells informed the Council that the Office of Financial Management has preliminary reviewed the annexation. City Attorney Howe has also provided a review of the annexation. CA McDaniel said this is a .27-acre piece of land acquired during the "Through the Fence" issue in 2016. As there were no questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Ordinance 1942 – Amending the 2024 Non-Union Salary Schedule

Member Cariker moved, seconded by Member Clark, to approve Ordinance 1942. CA McDaniel explained to the Council that during the budget process information was released by Association of Washington Cities about the 2024 minimum wage number. Deputy Clerk Hicks found a discrepancy noting the minimum wage amount changed. The change in the minimum wage only affected pool employees. Member Louie expressed his views on paying minimum wage and would like that pay increased. CA McDaniel stated the budget process is coming up and this would be a conversation for those sessions. As there were no further questions or comments, Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Committee/Staff Reports:

Member Freel informed the Council that the Infrastructure Committee met prior to the meeting tonight and reviewed current projects. The Public Works Director has shared his department report to Council. The committee also discussed the replacement of a pump at the north well. Member Freel said the pump was pulled and found it needed to be replaced to have it operational. The committee advised that Public Works proceed with replacement. CA McDaniel informed the Council that he will bring a budget amendment to council to capture the purchase.

Member Louie informed the Council the Personnel/Finance Committee met on April 19th to discuss the pool permit fees that were proposed in the 2024 City of Omak Fee Schedule. The committee recommended the removal of the pool permit fee.

Member Clark informed the Council the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) met and continued to review the Solid Waste Management Plan.

PWD Beetchenow informed the Council that he has given each member a copy of the City of Omak Construction Standards. He plans to bring this by resolution at the next council meeting. If Council has questions when reviewing, please reach out. He will also be working on the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). If Council has projects they would like to see on that list, contact him.

C.O.R.E. Program Manager Danielson informed the Council they held the last Rubik's Cube event at an East Omak Elementary assembly. One of the students competed against Chief Christensen and solved the cube within forty-one seconds beating the Chief. Mrs. Danielson shared that Chief Christensen happened to see the child outside of school and had a great connection. She also shared the C.O.R.E. Team and Omak Police attended a field trip with first graders and educated them on when to call 911. There are a lot of upcoming events this summer and C.O.R.E. will be intentional about what they will attend.

CA McDaniel informed the Council that he should have the annual report available to review by the next council meeting. He also informed the Council that two million dollars was moved out of the Local Government Investment Pool into the cash account.

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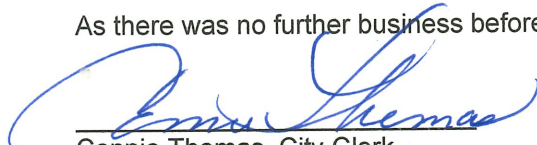
Marc Doney, Team O.N.E. provided Council with a handout about TEAM O.N.E. He also informed the Council the office remodel is almost complete, and he has created the applications, policies, and procedures for the Team O.N.E. volunteers. He has also obtained Volunteer Management Systems Software to track volunteer times and events. He shared the Open House for the Team O.N.E. building will be held on May 31st from 11am to 6pm. Mr. Doney also commented that Officer Shrable and Detective Bowling with their years in service have not "lost the fire" and the City of Omak is feeling the impact of that. He presented Mayor Gagné with a Team O.N.E. volunteer T-shirt and the policy manual. Mr. Mayor Gagné recommends the volunteer policy and procedures be vetted by City Attorney Howe.

Member Foth reminded all that May is mental health month. The Color Walk will be held on Saturday, May 18th from 9-2:30pm. He said the TRANGO will have a booth and encourage everyone to come out.

Member Cariker said she attended the first-grade field trip, and it was great seeing the Omak Police Department and Fire Department there. It was great to see the outreach the City Officials do.

Mayor Gagné informed the Council that Arbor Day came and went, and it was celebrated by administration, City staff and seventy-six kids from East Omak Elementary who enjoyed popsicles.

As there was no further business before Council, Mayor Gagné adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.



Connie Thomas, City Clerk



Cindy Gagné, Mayor