
**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gagné called the regular meeting of the Omak City Council to order at 7:00 PM and established a quorum. Everyone joined in the flag salute.

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL:

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Mayor Gagné asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to address the Council. Ronnie Jackson asked to address the Council. Mayor Gagné will add her to the base of the agenda as item number nine.

CORRESPONDENCE AND MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Gagné informed the Council the agenda has been modified. She will strike Leon Hoover as he will be presenting in February. Item number seven, the Interagency Data Sharing Agreement will be replaced with a Park Use Power Point Presentation as a preliminary to item number eight.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Member Foth moved, seconded by Member Womack, to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the January 6, 2025, meeting and the January 16, 2025, Special Meeting; 2025 claims checks numbered 112465-112494 in the amount of \$90,407.42; January 2025 Payroll check numbers 112406-112424, 112463 and ACH Payments in the amount of \$433,037.33. As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, the Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Hope Project – Lee Smith and Elysia Nelson

Elysia Nelson addressed the Council and reviewed the data sheet provided to City Council in the agenda packet. Omak New Hope Project is a Non-Profit Organization that is looking to purchase a church in the Omak area. Their request to City Council is to help them obtain a community Development Block Grant for the acquisition of the property. Ms. Nelson is willing to put the time in to help complete the grant application and can assist in submitting reports to the Washington State Department of Commerce. Ms. Nelson summarized her work history and stated she is currently working for Tonasket City Hall. Member Womack asked for some clarification about their request of City Council and confirmed that Omak New Project is not seeking a monetary contribution from the City and they are not. This request was referred to the Community Support and Public Safety Committee.

Resolution 05-2025 Interlocal Agreement with Okanogan County for Building Official Services

Member Gaines moved, seconded by Member Womack, to approve Resolution 05-2025. Building Official Wells explained that this was an annual agreement with the Okanogan County Building Department to cover the City of Omak Building Department in his absence. As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, the Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 06-2025 Approval of the 2025 City of Omak Fee Schedule

Member Gaines moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 06-2025. City Administrator McDaniel explained to the Council the fee schedule proposed for 2025 includes an overall increase to the total utility bill of less than three percent. This increase was decided by Omak City Council during the budget process. CA McDaniel explained that there are slight changes to the garbage rates to

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normalize rates with the contractor which will have a de minimis effect on garbage services costs. The ten percent business and operating taxes will now be captured in the utility rate which will not affect the total cost to the customer. As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, the Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 07-2025 Approve the Purchase of a Street Sweeper

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Foth, to approve Resolution 07-2025. Public Works Director Beetchenow explained to the Council that this purchase will replace the existing 1997 street sweeper. This purchase was funded in the 2025 City of Omak Budget document. As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, the Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 08-2025 Authorize Grant Application for Federal Assistance – Omak Airport Runway Pavement Maintenance Project

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Gaines, to approve Resolution 08-2025. Public Works Director Beetchenow explained to the Council that approving the resolution will authorize the submission of an application for federal assistance for improvements at the Omak Airport for the 2025 Runway Pavement Maintenance project. As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, the Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Power Point Presentation - Park Use and Meeting Room Use Fees

Tim Omer, Public Works Administrative Assistant, provided a presentation to the City Council. The presentation included photos of our current sport fields and sport fields of other Cities. He did research on sport field fees in those Cities and proposed three different levels of fees for Council consideration. A percentage of revenue collected from the fees will be put back into the sport fields. PWAA Omer did the same research for the park shelters and the City Hall meeting rooms. Fee levels were also provided for Council consideration. A percentage of the meeting room fees will be used for cleaning, repairs and maintenance of equipment.

Resolution 10-2025 Approve the 2025 City of Omak Fee Schedule to Include Park and Room Use

Fees

Member Womack moved, seconded by Member Foth, to approve Resolution 10-2025. Mayor Gagné opened the floor to questions and comments.

Donny Marsden

Mr. Marsden asked for clarification about who will be paying the sport field use fees. Mayor Gagné said that she understood the cost would be per team. PWAA Omer explained that the sport league will conduct the registrations and based on the number of teams, the fee will be calculated. Mr. Marsden asked if the Omak Stampede and attendees will use the fields for camping and if they are paying fees. He explained a lot of damage is done to the fields during that event. City Administrator McDaniel explained there is an agreement with Omak Stampede, Inc. that includes the Encampment and the Owners and Jockeys. They are in control of the park, and all share the revenue and expenses within those groups. Mr. McDaniel said the Omak Stampede is the biggest event in Okanogan County and it's hard to quantify the amount contributed and he believes they all are contributing.

Justin Delfino – President of River Valley Soccer Club (RVSC) and a local General Contractor

Mr. Delfino said that he was in attendance to talk about all the clubs and sports. Past practice for the City is that the park is open to all families and non-profits for use. All organizations have helped with fields by providing materials and labor with minimal support from the City. He explained that RVSC has already established registration fees, and the City user fees would cut into their bottom line. RVSC was planning to invest in new goals and the board reversed that decision due to the potential user fees. He shared his concern about no prior notice of fees and the implementation to take effect in February. He urged the City Council to implement the fees in the fall or next spring. He also explained to the Council without notice, the City of Omak took ownership of the RVSC storage shed and goals. He strongly urged the Council to look at lower rates and support youth.

Chris Miller

Mr. Miller said that he was not against the fees as they are needed. He had some clarifying questions about the fees. He wanted to know how to generate more money to upkeep fields. He had questions about insurance and liability and thought everyone should come to the table with different ideas on how to collect revenue.

Ted Moomaw – Coach with Omak Youth Baseball and Board Member

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Mr. Moomaw informed the Council that Omak Youth Baseball applied for and received a grant from the Colville Tribes in the amount of \$15,000 to resurface the little league, major, and minor fields. The grant will also fund the purchase and installation of a new scoreboard and a portable pitching mound. There were questions about scheduling and who will have priority. PWD Beetchenow explained that all league fields will be reserved first.

CJ Hendrickson – Teacher for the Omak School District – Board Member for Omak Baseball

Mrs. Hendrickson expressed her concern that last season there were no restroom facilities available, and the water was turned off before the season was over. She explained to the Council that these sports are not travel teams but recreational. It's unfair to put the financial burden on the kids.

Luis Rubio – Retired Boarder Patrol, High School Soccer Coach, President of Omak United FC

Mr. Rubio explained to the Council that he is trying to bring a traveling soccer club to the area. The fees of \$75 per team would be detrimental to Omak United FC. This past fall, he said there was no water, trash cans or bathrooms available for a tournament that his group hosted and it didn't look well for Omak. His group had to provide Porta Potty's for the event and did not make enough to cover the costs. Omak United FC is trying to host tournaments which in turn will produce revenue for the City and fill hotels. Mayor Gagné asked how Omak United FC made up the difference of their shortfall last season. Mr. Rubio said that it had come out of his pocket. He doesn't want to take away sponsors from RVSC. Mayor Gagné asked about fundraising such as candy sales and car washes and wanted to know if those things are still happening.

Jordan Buckner – Vice President of River Valley Soccer Club

Ms. Buckner asked for a plan from the City on what the fees would be used for. She asked if it would be more than watering and mowing. She explained that the U-14 Soccer Field is unsafe. Member Womack said that the Council Committee discussed the revenues going back into the parks. He said the dollars will go farther if the groups can help with labor. He doesn't want to see the fees absorb into the budget and wants it to go into the parks.

Karen Condon – Vice-Chairwoman – Omak District Representative Colville Business Council

Ms. Condon asked the Council to table the Resolution until more information can be provided to the public. She referred to the memo attached to the resolution that mentioned blanket scheduling requests for fields. She thought applications that didn't have specific days and times of use, should be rejected. She does agree a plan is needed and asked for additional time for the City and public to have discussions. She also felt the pool fees need to increase as the pool is in need of repairs. She explained that fees are impacting everyone.

Kevin Newport – Omak Resident and Law Enforcement Officer

Mr. Newport explained to the Council that he was former president of RVSC. He asked if the resolution could be tabled to a later date. This will give time to come up with a different solution.

Justin Delfino

Mr. Delfino addressed the Council again. He said that Porta Potty's were donated to RVSC as the City bathrooms are being used for illegal activity. He explained that it's not a fee issue, it's the timing of the implementation of the fees. He also explained to the Council that a lot of damage is done during the Omak Stampede event. RVSC brought in a dump truck of dirt, and someone ended up stealing it.

Donny Marsden

Mr. Marsden said that everyone has made great points. He asked if the fees can be slowly implemented. With the short notice, no one knew. He again asked about the Stampede fees and what they are going toward.

Tara Cruz

Citizen Tara Cruz explained to the Council that she has been in the soccer community for more than twenty years. She shared with the Council her soccer journey and the time and commitment she has given to the fields to ensure they are safe. She asked that the resolution be tabled and have a committee work with the presidents of the clubs. She said the fee schedule is not all bad, but she wants to know what the City will do with the money.

Ted Moomaw

Mr. Moomaw asked the Council what assurance the City can give if damage is done by the Omak Stampede event. Is there funding set aside to fix the fields?

Chad Morrison – Local Omak

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Mr. Morrison explained to the Council that he has played soccer his entire life. His son was the one that was injured by a metal stake in the soccer field. There are a lot of problems with the fields and safety hazards. His main concern is asking the community to fund upkeep of the fields. What can the community expect? The leagues are not getting a lot of support from the City. He explained to Council his role in moving the High School Soccer team to the High School field to ensure their safety.

CJ Hendrickson

Mrs. Hendrickson had some additional questions. Is there a contract with Omak Stampede, Inc. and is it a public record? Clerk Thomas explained that she could request the document, and it can be provided. She asked if the Stampede pays to use the park. CA McDaniel explained that the City has a Management agreement with Omak Stampede and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Stampede, Encampment and Owners and Jockeys. He explained the significance of the tax revenue generated by the event.

Member Foth rescinded his motion to second, Resolution 10-2025. He also felt the slide show presentation done by Tim Omer was excellent.

PWAA Omer shared that the Omak Public Works Department has a link "Report a Concern" this is found on the Home Page of the City of Omak website omakcity.com. Your concern will be reported directly to the Public Works Department who will follow up.

Leon Hoover – President of Omak Stampede, Inc.

Leon Hoover explained that Omak Stampede does have a Management Agreement with the City of Omak. In addition, there is a Memorandum of Understanding for use of nine days. The Omak Stampede remits twenty-one and a half percent back to the City of Omak to help pay for repairs and maintenance. The Omak Stampede also has a Park Improvement Fund that helps maintain certain areas of the park. The Encampment Committee covers the soccer fields, and he believes that Karen Condon, Vince McDonald and the Stampede Board will help with that. Mr. Hoover said he will have a discussion with the Stampede Board about the baseball fields that are used for parking, and they can potentially change that.

Donny Marsden

Mr. Marsden asked where the City funds are going and what they are paying for. Mayor Gagné explained that the City of Omak held four budget workshops in 2024 that are open to the public. She explained that one person from the public attended those workshops. She is disheartened on how things have degraded in the park.

Member Womack moved, seconded by Member Cariker to table Resolution 10-2025 until March 17, 2025, Council Meeting. As there was no further discussion or comments from the audience, the Council voted with six members voting yea and Councilmember Clark voting nay. The motion carried.

Mayor Gagné explained that the Council will conduct meetings in a Workshop format. All will be invited, and she encouraged everyone to provide their email to any City Staff member so they can be notified of the workshops. She also encouraged all to call, schedule a meeting or email her. Member Clark explained his opposition, stating that he felt a lot more time was needed to review the issues.

Mayor Gagné recapped and shared priorities heard. The sheds, soccer goals, insurance, water, and bathrooms. She liked the idea suggested by Mrs. Condon, "reject incomplete applications." Member Womack felt the park users could provide Council with projects ideas along with associated costs. Then the Council will have an idea of what the needs are.

Jordan Buckner

Mrs. Buckner explained to the Council that she has been involved with Master Gardner's and sent budget-based fields information to PWD Beetchenow to review.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Ronnie Jackson


Mrs. Jackson has not received a response to her concerns and comments submitted back in December.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Member Cariker informed the Council that the Community Support and Public Safety Committee met and discussed the user fees.

As there was no further business before the Council, Mayor Gagné adjourned the meeting at 9:14 PM.

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Connie Thomas, City Clerk



Cindy Gagné, Mayor