
**OMAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 3, 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	Jeremy Patrick, Fire Chief
Steve Clark	Dan Christensen, Police Chief
Maria Lassila	Wayne Beetchenow, Public Works Director (PWD)
Michelle Gaines	Connie Thomas, City Clerk
Dave Womack	Rochelle Danielson, CORE Program Manager/Outreach Specialist
Mike Foth	Tyler Wells, Building Official
	Marc Doney, Team One Lead - absent

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mayor Gagné asked if there was anyone in attendance that would like to address the Council. Citizen Peg Finch expressed concern about the situation at the White House with Ukraine. She didn't know where to begin with her concerns and started at the "Grass Roots". Mayor Gagné appreciated her concern and asked her to leave her contact information.

CORRESPONDENCE AND MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gagné informed the Council that they will be interviewing three candidates for the vacant City Council position. She explained that names were drawn prior to the meeting to set the order the candidates will interview. After the candidates complete the interview, Councilmember's will go into Executive Session and then seat a new member tonight. Applicants Rick Duck, Maria Lassila and Jennifer Miller-Mercado were asked five questions each by the Council. The questions included an introduction of themselves, what motivated them to apply, what they thought were the most pressing issues facing Omak, how they would handle citizens' disagreement with a policy or decision and, finally, what areas do they think the City is overspending or underfunding.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RCW 42.30.110 (1)(h) Qualifications of an applicant/candidate for appointment to elective office

Mayor Gagné stated that Council will adjourn to Executive Session at 7:21pm and be in there for twenty minutes. They will be back on record at 7:40pm.

At 7:40pm, Mayor Gagné called the meeting to order. She explained that everyone knows decisions are not made in the Executive Session and each Council Member cast their vote. Mayor Gagné said that any of the applicants could do this job. Two will not be seated tonight but she informed them of vacant positions on other committees. Maria Lassila was selected to fill Council Position No. 7. City Attorney Michael D. Howe administered the Oath of Office to Councilmember Lassila and then she took her seat at the dais.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the February 18, 2025, meeting; 2025 claims checks numbered 112645-112691 in the amount of \$141,776.19; As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, the Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

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Leon Hoover, Omak Stampede President

Leon Hoover was in attendance to share with Council an overview of the 2024 Omak Stampede expenses and revenues. He highlighted expenses and rising costs that had a significant hit on their budget. He informed the Council that the Omak Stampede Board just approved the concert for the 2025 Stampede event. Member Womack asked about sponsors for the concert. There was some discussion about the sponsorship process and how sponsors are compensated. Mr. Hoover explained to the Council the Omak Stampede profit and loss statement for 2024 reflects a loss.

Request for Out of State Travel for Omak Police SRO Officer

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve out of state travel for the Omak Police SRO Officer. Police Chief Christensen explained to the Council that Officer Lopez will be attending the Washington State Narcotics Investigation Association Training Summit in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The topics include vapes and marijuana. As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, the Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 16A-2025 – Approve Agreement with North Central Washington Narcotics

Task Force

Member Foth moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 16-2025. Police Chief Christensen explained to the Council the agreement with NCWN is an extension of last year. There is no change. As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, the Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 17-2025 – Approve the Purchase of an Air Compressor

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 17-2025. Fire Chief Patrick explained to the Council that the purchase of the air compressor was included in the 2025 budget. He obtained three quotes, and Fastenal provided the lowest quote. Member Womack asked if there were plans for the old compressor. Chief Patrick said that it's still up in the air, but it will either be surplus or repurposed. As there was no further discussion and no comments from the audience, the Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 18-2025 – Approve the Purchase of a Sewer Camera

Member Clark moved, seconded by Member Womack, to approve Resolution 18-2025. PWD Beetchenow explained to the Council that the camera would replace the existing one. The camera is used to inspect sewer and storm drain lines. Member Womack asked if this purchase was in the budget. PWD Beetchenow confirmed that it is. As there was no further discussion and no comments from the audience, the Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 19-2025 – Approve a Public Works Contract with Veolia to Replace UV

Lights at the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Member Gaines moved, seconded by Member Cariker, to approve Resolution 19-2025. PWD Beetchenow explained that Veolia is the manufacturer of the UV Lights and will be replacing and installing those at the wastewater treatment plant. Member Lassila asked about the lighting. PWD Beetchenow explained the UV lights disinfect the water before it enters the river. As there was no further discussion and no comments from the audience, the Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution 20-2025 – Approve Amendment No. 15 with Gray & Osborne, Inc.

Member Gaines moved, seconded by Member Womack, to approve Resolution 20-2025. PWD Beetchenow explained to the Council the amendment with Gray & Osborne, Inc. is for engineering of several projects at the wastewater treatment plant. The projects are included in the 2025 budget. As there was no discussion and no comments from the audience, the Council voted and unanimously approved the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

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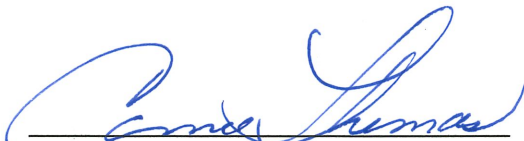
Committee/Staff Reports:

Member Cariker informed the Council that the Community Support and Public Safety Committee met and discussed the park fee schedule and room use.

Member Clark asked that the Personnel/Finance Committee meet to discuss drafting a policy for Councilmembers. The committee will meet at 6pm on March 17th prior to the next City Council meeting.

CORE Program Manager Danielson informed the Council they held the second public workshop on February 25, 2025, and she thanked all those that attended. She also informed the Council that since the beginning of 2025 C.O.R.E has submitted approximately thirty informational reports to Okanogan Behavioral Healthcare (OBHC) following law enforcement contacts where mental health was an underlying concern. Now that we don't have a co-responder position due to loss of funding, they are trying to partner more with OBHC's mobile crisis team. She said that she and Police Chief Christensen established monthly meetings with OBHC's crisis team.

As there was no further business before the Council, Mayor Gagné adjourned the meeting at 8:14 PM.



Connie Thomas, City Clerk



Cindy Gagné, Mayor