

MINUTES OF THE CASHMERE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY OCTOBER 26, 2020 AT CASHMERE CITY HALL – DIGITAL CONFERENCE

OPENING

Mayor Jim Fletcher opened the regular City Council meeting via digital conference at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. City Clerk-Treasurer Kay Jones took minutes.

Now for the roll call of the council members to document attendance. Please respond with an acknowledgment of your presence when your name is called.

ATTENDANCE

| | <u>Present</u> | <u>Not Present</u> |
|----------|---|---|
| Mayor: | Jim Fletcher | |
| Council: | Daniel Scott - digital Chris Carlson - digital Dave Erickson - digital Jayne Stephenson - digital Derrick Pratt - digital | |
| Staff: | Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer | Steve Croci, Director of Operations Chuck Zimmerman, City Attorney |
| Public: | Kirk Beckendorf, Cashmere Valley Record – digital | |

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Councilor Pratt and seconded by Councilor Scott to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of October 12, 2020 Regular Council Meeting by Digital Conference
Payroll and Claims Packet Dated October 26, 2020
Claims Direct Pay and Check #40734 through #40766 totaling \$153,179.77

MOVED by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Scott to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING ON REVENUE SOURCES AND POSSIBLE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAX

Mayor Fletcher gave a brief explanation regarding the property tax levy and the 1% increase the City is allowed. The 1% increase over last year's levy amounts to \$6,490. The additional amount the City will receive is due to the assessed value of new construction, which is \$51,418.

Mayor Fletcher opened the Public Hearing at 6:08 p.m. to take public comment on revenues and the possible increase in property tax. Bill Donald residing at 104 Meadowsweet Pl., asked how the City would use the increase if the 1% increase was taken.

The Mayor explained that the property tax is receipted into the Public Works fund to operate and maintain City streets, parks, pool and cemetery. Any excess reserves are transferred into the capital fund for capital improvements to the same.

With no further questions the Mayor closed the hearing at 6:14 p.m.

Since the City's tax levy will increase due to the new construction, the consensus of the City Council was to not increase taxes and bank the 1% for future.

DISCUSSION ON 2021 BUDGET

Mayor Fletcher shared the budget charts for the General, Public Works, and Water/Wastewater funds. He also discussed the proposed capital purchases and projects for the General Capital fund and the Water and Wastewater Capital funds.

The proposed revenues do not include the \$51,418 in property tax for the new construction and the proposed water and wastewater revenues do not include the planned 4% water rate increase and 2% wastewater rate increase.

The City Council discussed the rate resolution and the rate increases scheduled for January 2021. Most of the City Council agrees to change the rate resolutions; with no increase in 2021 and pushing all the increases out one year.

Councilor Scott would like to maintain the scheduled increases to stay on track. The City has talked about refinancing the USDA Bonds and he suggested taking a closer look at that before changing rates.

PROSECUTION SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR 2021

The proposed agreement has a \$25 increase in the per case fee, which is an increase from \$250 to \$275. With the 43 cases in the 12-month period the annual amount for prosecution services for 2021 is \$11,825, which is a decrease from the 2020 contract.

MOVED by Councilor Scott and seconded by Councilor Erickson to approve the Prosecution Services Agreement for 2021. Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION 07-2020 DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY - SEWER LINE REPAIR

MOVED by Councilor Pratt and seconded by Councilor Scott to approve Resolution 07-2020 Declaring a State of Emergency regarding a sewer line break on Division Street hill. Motion carried 5-0.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Mayor Fletcher reported that he has been in contact with the County and all the cities that contract with the Regional Justice Center. There needs to be a joint meeting to discuss the Regional Justice Center contract. The City of Wenatchee is in arbitration with the County regarding the new rate calculation for the contract. All the cities are waiting to see the outcome of the arbitration before signing the contract.

ADJOURNMENT


Mayor Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

City Council Minutes
October 26, 2020



James Fletcher, Mayor

Attest:



Kay Jones, City Clerk-Treasurer