

MINUTES OF THE CASHMERE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY OCTOBER 25, 2021 AT CASHMERE CITY HALL – In Person and Digital

OPENING

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

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Governor’s proclamation; public can attend the council meeting in person, by phone or by digital conference.

ATTENDANCE

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Present</u>
Mayor:	Jim Fletcher	
Council:	Vacant Chris Carlson - Digital Dave Erickson - Digital Jayne Stephenson - Digital Derrick Pratt	
Staff:	Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer Steve Croci, Director of Operations	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Fletcher announced that since Shelia Cates-Pistoresi is running unopposed for a vacant council position she will take the office as soon as the votes are certified.

The Mayor mentioned the training in December for the newly elected officials to attend.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Councilor Pratt and seconded by Councilor Carlson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of October 11, 2021, Regular Council Meeting
Payroll and Claims Packet Dated October 25, 2021

Claims Direct Pay and Check #41476 through #41494 totaling \$103,333.32

Manual Check #41475 not needing prior approval

MOVED by Councilor Erickson and seconded by Councilor Stephenson to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARING ON REVENUE SOURCES AND POSSIBLE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES

The Mayor discussed the calculations on the Tax Levy Staff Report. The City is limited to a 1% increase in property tax without a vote of the people. The 1% increase over last year’s levy amount is \$7,060.72.

Mayor Fletcher opened the public hearing at 6:05 p.m. to receive public comment on revenue sources and the possible increase in property tax.

With no comments from the public the Mayor closed the hearing at 6:06 p.m.

The City did not take the 1% the previous year due to the pandemic. The options before the City Council include not taking the 1%, taking the 1% or taking the 1% plus what is banked from last year.

MOVED by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Erickson to take the 1% the City is allowed. Motion carried 4-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 1304 ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 10.08 TO THE CMC ESTABLISHING SPEED LIMITS IN THE CITY

Engineers performed a traffic study on Pioneer Avenue between Vale Elementary School and Cashmere Middle School to assess whether the speed limit should be reduced in the gap between the school zones to maintain a consistent 20 mph speed limit all the way through. The engineers concluded that a reduction in the speed limit for the 695 feet of Pioneer Avenue between the two school zones is appropriate.

MOVED by Councilor Pratt and seconded by Councilor Carlson to adopt Ordinance No. 1304 establishing speed limits in the City. Motion carried 4-0.

REINSTATING LATE FEES AND SERVICE DISCONNECTIONS STARTING JANUARY 1, 2022

On March 23, 2020 the City Council suspended the late fees and service disconnections due to the COVID Pandemic.

The Governor's State of Emergency Proclamation 20-23-16 prohibiting providers from disconnecting essential services and charging late fees ended on September 30, 2021.

Due to the number of past due accounts staff requested the City Council reinstate the late fees and service disconnection starting January 1, 2022. If approved Utility Customers will receive a 60-day notice that late fees and service disconnection will be reinstated. The letter includes the option of a payment plan or contacting the Community Action Center for financial assistance.

MOVED by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Erickson to reinstate the late fees and service disconnection policies January 1, 2022. Motion carried 4-0.

VENDOR AGREEMENT WITH CHELAN DOUGLAS COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER

The proposed Vendor Agreement outlines the responsibilities between the City and Chelan Douglas Community Action Center for assisting Cashmere customers with past due balances on their City utility bill.

MOVED by Councilor Erickson and seconded by Councilor Pratt to approve the Vendor Agreement with Chelan Douglas Community Action Center. Motion carried 4-0.

RIVERSIDE CENTER BUILDING USE AGREEMENT AMENDMENT No. 1 – AMENDING EXHIBIT B RATES

The proposed rate changes give the contractor more flexibility in the rates as additional booking incentives. Such as offering "off season" rates to "peak months" in the months of May and October or if the applicant is within one month of their event date when booking. If the Center has not been rented the day prior to an event the Contractor can offer the Center for event setup at a discount. The booking incentives are at the Contractor's discretion.

MOVED by Councilor Erickson and seconded by Councilor Stephenson to approve Amendment No. 1 to the Cashmere Riverside Center Building Use Agreement. Motion carried 4-0.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATOR IN CHARGE

The City received a letter from Department of Health informing the City that they must retain the services of an operator certified as a Water Treatment Plant Operator 2 and Water Distribution Manager 2. Current employees do not have the level of certifications required.

The proposed Contractual Agreement is for management, operations and cross-connection control. Valley Water Services has the required credentials and are capable to be the operator in charge of the Water Treatment Plant in order to meet the States requirements. Effective date of the agreement is November 1, 2021.

MOVED by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Erickson to the Contractual Agreement with Valley Water Services. Motion carried 4-0.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Mayor Fletcher reported that they have interviewed three firms for the management of the water and wastewater utilities. All three firms are highly qualified. The next step is to visit sites where these firms currently manage the utilities.

Director Croci reported that shipment issues are holding up the SCADA improvement project.

Sullivan Steet utility improvements have been completed.

Public Works is still waiting on garage doors to be delivered.

The Safe Routes to School project is waiting on flashing lights for completion.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.


James Fletcher, Mayor

Attest:


Kay Jones, City Clerk-Treasurer