

MINUTES OF THE CASHMERE CITY SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY MARCH 16, 2022, AT CASHMERE CITY HALL – In Person and Digital

OPENING

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

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:	John Perry Chris Carlson Shela Pistoresi Jayne Stephenson Derrick Pratt	
Staff:	Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer Steve Croci, Director of Operations  Kate Schilling, City Attorney	Chuck Zimmerman, City Attorney
W&C:	Brian Bzdawka, President of O&M Marc Thomas, National Operations Leader Dave Kitzmiller, Area Manager Anthony Naccarato, Client Manager	

CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS ON THE UTILITIES OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH WOODARD AND CURRAN, WITH POTENTIAL ACTION

Mayor Fletcher started the conversation by showing the council a graph of the City's Water and Wastewater Capital fund reserves over the past several years, which have been steadily increasing. He also showed Woodard & Curran's budget for water and wastewater compared to the City's budget. The cost of maintenance and operations will go up due to the increase in services and scope of work W&C will be providing. If need be, the City will redirect funds to maintenance and operations instead of to the capital funds. With an asset management program and an increase in preventative maintenance, the life of the equipment will or should be extended, which will reduce or offset the need for capital purchases.

Director Croci stated it was in the best interest of the City to contract with Woodard & Curran. He believes they are the right company for Cashmere. Every interaction with them for the last several months has been positive and good. They use modern technology, and they invest highly in training and safety. They are nationwide, so they have great resources to pull from.

Mayor Fletcher asked every Council Member what their thoughts were.

Councilor Pistoresi stated that she is very comfortable with Woodard & Curran. In her line of work she is familiar with contracts with larger consulting firms. She has found Woodard & Curran great to work with.

Councilor Stephenson listed pros and cons. She sees more pros and is in favor of moving forward with a company that specializes in utility operations management.

Councilor Perry stated he was comfortable with the contract after the City attorney explain Section 11:01 regarding termination and retaining employees.

Councilor Carlson stated that he read the contract thoroughly. He believes its importance to keep up on maintenance and technology. He called other cities where W&C operated their facilities and spoke with mayors and council members. He asked what they would do differently if they were starting the process over. All of them said they would hire W&C sooner. They said W&C stayed within or came in below budget and one city said they helped them get grants in the amount of 35 million.

Councilor Pratt said he did a little research of his own and he's comfortable and believes Woodard & Curran is the right team, he's just of a different mindset and prefers to maintain control.

Councilor Pratt inquired about the next steps regarding the employees. Mayor Fletcher explained that the City will notify the union and with the contract approved Woodard & Curran can contact the union to start negotiations, after which they will contact the two city employees regarding employment opportunities.

Suggested revisions to the agreement included adding language to Section 11.01 to clarify and deleting language in Exhibit B, Section 2d.

MOVED by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Stephenson to approve the Agreement with the two revisions pointed out by council and authorize the Mayor to sign. Motion carried with four in favor and Councilor Pratt voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

  
James Fletcher, Mayor

Attest:

  
Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer