

MINUTES OF THE CASHMERE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY NOVEMBER 28, 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. Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer took minutes.

The 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 Pistorosi (logged in at 6:26 p.m.) Jayne Stephenson Derrick Pratt	
Staff:	Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer Steve Croci, Director of Operations	Chuck Zimmerman, City Attorney Kate Schilling, City Attorney

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Fletcher announced that public works is down an employee due to an extended family leave, so snow removal may initially be slower than normal in Cashmere.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments from the public.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Stephenson to approve the amended agenda as submitted. Motion carried 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of November 14, 2022, Regular Council Meeting
Payroll and Claims Packet Dated November 28, 2022

Claims Direct Pay and Check #42345, #42346, and #42350 through #42365 totaling \$79,034.72
Manual Check #42347 through #42349 not needing prior approval
Manual Check #42343 replaced lost #41614
Manual Check #42344 replaced lost #42344

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON FINAL BUDGET FOR 2023

Mayor Fletcher asked the council if they had any questions or comments on the final budget. The mayor opened the public hearing at 6:04 p.m. for comments from the public. The mayor closed the hearing at 6:04 p.m. with no comments.

ORDINANCE NO. 1314 AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY

The mayor announced that the council has to adopt Ordinance No. 1314 authorizing a general property tax levy. The options are to authorize a levy with a 1% increase or a 0% increase.

Councilor Carlson stated that he will not vote in favor of a property tax increase. His reasoning was that we just came out of COVID, high inflation, increase in gas tax, and an increase in water and wastewater rates. Carlson would rather the city reduce services. When you don't have the funds, you do less. Councilor Pratt agreed with providing less services instead of increasing taxes.

Mayor Fletcher stated the effects of the 1% increase, which equates to \$7,167.35 is about \$1.50 per 100,000 assessed value. The 1% annual increase is compounding, so by not taking the 1% the City loses that compounding interest and cannot get it back. The citizens have made it clear that they want to keep the City Pool operating. The line item for pool wages in the 2023 budget as increased 50% and the Fire Department budget has increased \$37,000. The City has to have more revenue to maintain City operations in parks, pool and other services.

Councilor Stephenson stated she doesn't want to increase taxes but would rather see small increases that are easier to swallow rather than a large increase to catch up.

Councilor Perry stated that did not want the city to reduce services and that without an increase in city revenue the city would be further behind in its budget.

MOVED by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Pratt to authorize the general tax levy at a 0% increase. Motion failed with a 2 to 2 tie, with Councilors Perry and Stephenson voting no.

MOVED by Councilor Stephenson and seconded by Councilor Perry to authorize the general tax levy at a 1% increase. Motion failed with a 2 to 2 tie, with Councilors Carlson and Pratt voting no.

Clerk-Treasurer Jones stated that the City Council has to authorize a property tax levy, which must be certified and submitted to the county by November 30th. If a levy amount is certified to the county assessor after the 30th day of November, the county assessor may use no more than the certified levy amount for the previous year for the taxing district. The City would not receive the new construction and annexation revenues.

Mayor Fletcher stated they would move on with the agenda, to allow some time and see if Councilor Pistoresi is able to join the meeting. Councilor Pistoresi is needed to break the tie.

ORDINANCE NO. 1315 ADOPTING THE 2023 BUDGET

MOVED by Councilor Perry and seconded by Councilor Carlson to adopt Ordinance No. 1315 adopting the 2023 Budget. Motion carried 4-0.

BACK TO THE VOTE ON THE GENERAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY

Councilor Pistoresi logged into the meeting at 6:26 p.m. Mayor Fletcher informed Pistoresi that the council is at a stand still and her vote will break the tie as to whether the property tax levy will be authorized at a 1% increase or a 0% increase.

Councilor Pistoresi voted in favor of the 1% increase in property tax, so the motion to authorize the general property tax with a 1% increase carried with 3 in favor and Councilors Carlson and Pratt voting no.

AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE TEMPORARY AND SEASONAL EMPLOYEES FOR SNOWPLOWING

Director Croci reported that one of the public works employees is out on extended family medical leave. To assist with snow plowing during his absence the city desires to hire temporary seasonal snowplow operators who possess a valid commercial driver's license. Temporary seasonal employees do not receive any benefits that regular employees receive. The hourly rate will need to be negotiated.

MOVED by Council Pratt and seconded by Councilor Stephenson to authorize the mayor to hire temporary seasonal snowplow operators with valid commercial driver's licenses to plow snow, hourly rate to be negotiated and established by the mayor. Motion carried 5-0.

ANNEXATION REQUEST FROM CHRIST CENTER AND MARK SPEARS – KIMBER ROAD

The City has received two letters of request for annexation; one from Christ Center, owner of 20.55 acres at 5800 Evergreen Drive, parcel #23-19-05-210-750 and the other from Marc Spears, owner of 3.87 acres, parcel #23-19-02-210-850.

The properties are outside the contiguous city limit boundary and have water and sewer lines that front the properties and are adequate size to serve the properties. The properties allow for future short plats and subdivisions that may include approximately 30 new homes, which are currently zoned Suburban Residential (SR) and the recommendation would to be rezoned as Multi Family.

MOVED by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Pratt to approve the annexation request and authorize staff to move forward with the Direct Petition Method. Motion carried 5-0.

OUT OF SCOPE WORK AUTHORIZATION FOR WATER METER REPLACEMENT CAPITAL PROJECT

The City anticipated needing assistance to locate meters and repair or replace broken valves, water lines and meter boxes associated with the water meter replacement capital project, and budgeted \$70,000. Woodard and Curran (W&C) agreed to help locate meters, purchase replacement parts and conduct repairs as out-of-scope services. Section 3.09 of the W&C agreement provides for contingency/out-of-scope services which will be invoiced separately at a rate of cost plus 5% overhead fee. W&C's estimated cost is not to exceed \$50,000.

MOVED by Councilor Pratt and seconded by Councilor Carlson to approve the Out of Scope Work Authorization for the water meter replacement capital project and authorize the mayor to sign. Motion carried 5-0.

OUT OF SCOPE WORK AUTHORIZATION FOR CITY LIFT STATION PUMP INSTALLATION

The City purchased two new pumps for the city lift station using capital funds. Woodard and Curran (W&C) agreed to install the pumps as a contingency/out-of-scope service. Section 3.09 of the W&C agreement provides for contingency/out-of-scope services which will be invoiced separately at a rate of cost plus 5% overhead fee. The estimated cost is not to exceed \$4,850.

MOVED by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Pratt to approve the Out of Scope Work Authorization for City Lift Station pump installation and authorize the mayor to sign. Motion carried 5-0.

OUT OF SCOPE WORK AUTHORIZATION FOR SCADA EARLY ACTION ITEM

The SCADA master plan identified replacing the dissolved air floatation (DAF) transducer/level sensor at the wastewater treatment plant to reduce after hours alarm calls and was identified as an early

implementation action item. Woodard and Curran (W&C) agreed to install the transducer as an out-of-scope service, which will be invoiced separately at cost plus 5% overhead fee. W&C's estimated cost is not to exceed \$6,790.

MOVED by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Pratt to approve the Out of Scope Work Authorization for DAF Transducer Installation, an early action item for SCADA and authorize the mayor to sign. Motion carried 5-0.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN – NO ACTION REQUIRED

Director Croci reported that the Planning Commission completed the 2023 -2028 Parks, Recreation and Open space Plan. Comments from agencies and the public were solicited by various means and incorporated into the plan.

The four main goals are well-stewarded parks, vibrant riverfront, outdoor recreation and connectivity. Many potential actions are listed for each park. Various funding options are identified to help pay for improvements, upgrades, or expansions. A public hearing will occur at the December 12th City Council meeting.

Director Croci encouraged the council members to submit comments no later than Monday, December 5th, for the Planning Commission meeting.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Mayor Fletcher reported there was a heating issue at the Riverside Center that has been fixed. The HVAC system needs to be replaced and the City needs to hire a consultant to advise the City on the best method to replace the system with the least amount of disruption. The unit is far larger than the access to the attic.

The mayor announced he wants to schedule another community meeting in the spring to seek citizen input regarding the library being moved to Riverside Center, Sunset highway project and funding for the pool and parks.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.


James Fletcher, Mayor

Attest:


Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer