

MINUTES OF THE CASHMERE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY OCTOBER 9, 2023, AT CASHMERE CITY HALL – In-Person and Digital

OPENING

Chris Carlson Mayor Pro-Tem opened the regular City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Clerk-Treasurer Kay Jones 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 – Mayor Pro-Tem Shela Pistoresi Jayne Stephenson Derrick Pratt	
Staff:	Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer Steve Croci, Director of Operations	Chuck Zimmerman, City Attorney

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Carlson reported that he toured the new Chelan County PUD building.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public present for comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Councilor Pratt and seconded by Councilor Perry to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of September 25, 2023, Regular Council Meeting

Payroll and Claims Packet Dated October 9, 2023

Claims Direct Pay and Check #42994 and #42998 through #43017 totaling \$365,235.58

Payroll Direct Pay and Check #42995 through #42997 totaling \$83,678.33

MOVED by Councilor Pratt and seconded by Councilor Stephensen to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 17.54 OFF-STREET PARKING

City staff proposed changes to off-street parking regulations to encourage and foster economic development. The Planning Commission (PC) supported the proposed changes and city staff asked for direction from the Council whether to move forward in the direction they were going with the amendments.

Planning Commissioner Zak Steigmeyer was present to discuss the proposed changes to the off-street parking requirements. Zak told the Council that he wanted to make certain the Council agreed with the direction they were going before they continued with the review and process. Zak explained that the Commission has looked at what other cities are doing for parking requirements. They want to encourage business development in Cashmere.

The proposed amendments allow businesses to use public parking lots to fulfill 75% of their parking requirements. These amendments will require customers to walk a block or two. The use chart was simplified; however, no changes were made to the downtown residential parking requirements.

Councilor Pratt suggested the PC review the downtown residential parking requirements and Councilor Perry suggested that if the Railroad Parking Lot was going to be used then the city should look at making a pedestrian pathway across the railroad tracks.

The consensus of the City Council was to have the Planning Commission continue in the direction they are going with the off-street parking amendments. The Council wants to make it easier for businesses to meet parking requirements.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

The City Council was provided graphs showing the preliminary numbers for the 2024 budget for the General Government Fund and the Public Works Fund. They were also provided a list of the county contracts showing a 15% increase in the county contracts amounting to over \$97,000. The jail contract alone increased \$72,000.

The council discussed the need to increase revenue in the general fund. One option is a temporary or permanent property tax levy lift, which wouldn't bring in a lot of revenue when a 1% increase in property tax amounts to \$7,394. Another option is to form a Transportation Benefit District (TBD). The most common TBD funding source is sales and use tax. The City Council can form a TBD by ordinance and impose a 0.1% sales tax to fund it, which only requires a public hearing. However, an increase of more than 0.1% in sales tax would require a vote of the people. The 0.1% sales tax would generate \$80,000 to \$90,000 a year, which wouldn't cover the increase in costs in the General funds but would help. The Mayor and City Staff are advocating for the TBD.

The City Council will also be looking at a utility rate increase to cover the rising costs in the water and wastewater funds. The contract for managing the utilities increased 12% for 2024. The CPI for the past couple of years has been 7% and 8%. City revenue is falling behind. Everyone is suffering from the high increases in expenses. The City of Wenatchee has approved an annual rate increase of 11% for the next three years.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Director Croci reported that Evergreen Bike Alliance has started paving the pump track. They are looking for more volunteers to haul gravel.

The SCADA improvement project is moving forward.

City staff met with Correct Equipment last week to close out the meter project, they are very close.

The Public Works department is working on blowing out irrigation lines and working on drainage along Rank Road and the trail.

City Council Minutes
October 9, 2023

The Wastewater Treatment Plant has a pump that down and the department is working on getting it repaired under warranty.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.


Chris Carlson, Mayor Pro-Tem

Attest:


Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer