

MINUTES OF THE CASHMERE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY OCTOBER 23, 2023, 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.

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 Pistoresi Jayne Stephenson Derrick Pratt	
Staff:	Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer	Steve Croci, Director of Operations Chuck Zimmerman, City Attorney

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bill Donald resides at 104 Meadowsweets Place; he informed the Council that he reads the minutes to keep up with what's going on in the City. When he saw the Council was talking about raising taxes or cutting services he wanted to come to the meeting. He does not want to see any services cut in the street department. He has already seen cuts in services regarding snow plowing, sweeping, and picking up leaves. The City maintains the downtown area, but not the residential streets.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of October 9, 2023, Regular Council Meeting
Payroll and Claims Packet Dated October 23, 2023
Claims Direct Pay and Check #43018 through #43037 totaling \$70,630.74

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON REVENUE SOURCES AND POSSIBLE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES

A report was provided to the City Council with the City's revenue sources and the amounts received for 2022, 2023 YDT, and the estimated revenues for 2024. Mayor Fletcher presented a chart showing the estimated revenues compared to the proposed expenditures. With the ongoing increase in expenses the

General Fund has not been able to transfer money to the Capital Improvement Fund for the last few years and it's getting more difficult to maintain the \$200,000 transfer from the Public Works Fund to the Capital Fund.

The mayor presented the list of contracts the City has with the County for public safety services, such as law enforcement, RiverCom, jail fees, prosecution services and emergency management. The total for the contracts for 2024 is just under \$740,000, which is a 15% increase over 2023. An increase of over \$98,000 for public safety contracts alone. The City is required to provide public safety services. If services must be cut, the Council will need to look at the cemetery, streets, or parks departments.

In order to keep up with maintenance and operations, and capital projects, the City needs to look at increasing revenue sources or cutting services. It's essential to maintain the transfer of funds to the Capital Improvement Fund to keep up with the needed capital projects. The City is allowed to increase their property tax levy by 1% annually. The 1% increase equates to \$7,397.35 additional revenue. Other revenue sources will need to be looked at to keep up with the high costs of labor and supplies.

Mayor Fletcher opened the public hearing at 6:19 p.m. to receive public comment on the revenue sources and possible increase in property tax.

Bill Donald resides at 104 Meadowsweets Place, and he stated that he is not opposed to taxes, if he knows and can see what the taxes are being spent on. He does not want to see any services cut in the street department. He has already seen cuts in services regarding snow plowing, sweeping, and picking up leaves.

With no other comments from the public the mayor closed the hearing at 6:21 p.m.

ORDINANCE NO. 1321 AUTHORIZING THE REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY

The proposed ordinance is a 1% increase over the previous year levy amount of \$739,435.29, resulting in an increase in tax revenue of \$7,394.35. This increase is exclusive of additional revenue resulting from new construction, value of state assessed property, any annexations that have occurred and refunds made. The total preliminary 2024 maximum regular property tax levy is \$758,095.44.

MOVED by Councilor Perry and seconded by Councilor Stephensen to adopt Ordinance No. 1321 authorizing the regular property tax levy. Motion carried with four voting in favor and Councilor Pratt voting no.

PROSECUTION SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR 2024

The annual amount is calculated on the number of cases prosecuted for the City from September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023, multiplied by the per case amount. The per case amount has increased \$25, which is an increase from \$275 to \$300 per case for 2024.

The County has calculated the annual amount for 2024 at \$15,900, (53 cases at \$300 per case). City staff has questioned 6 of the 53 cases, which are being confirmed. The amount will be amended to reflect the confirmed number of cases, which may be less than the \$15,900.

MOVED by Councilor Pratt and seconded by Councilor Pistorosi to approve the Prosecution Service Agreement for 2024 as confirmed and amended by Chelan County. Motion carried.

RH2 TASK AUTHORIZATION #5 FOR SURVEY WORK ON S. DOUGLAS ST. AND WEST PROSPECT ST.

Task Authorization #5 in the amount of \$57,398 outlines the Scope of Work for providing surveying services along S. Douglas Street and W. Prospect Street.

A topographic survey of W. Prospect Street right-of-way from Aplets Way intersection, west to the west end of the platted right of way. The services will be billed on a time and materials basis not to exceed \$20,500.

A topographic survey of S. Douglas Street right-of-way from Cottage Ave intersection, south to the south end of the platted right of way at Parkhill Street intersection. The services will be billed on a time and materials basis not to exceed \$30,800.

MOVED by Councilor Pratt and seconded by Councilor Pistoresi to approve the Task Authorization #5 with RH2 Engineering for surveying services not to exceed \$57,398. Motion carried with four voting in favor and Councilor Stephensen voting no.

PROGRESS REPORTS

W&C Project Manager Dorien McElroy stated that the Council has hard decisions to make regarding budget and services. She assured the Council that W&C is making every effort to keep expenses down. She reported that they have been testing backflow devices, overseeing Rudnick on the replacement of fire hydrants, getting ready to winterize the water meters, and replacing nine flang meters. Dorien reported they have completed the cleanup behind the fence at the treatment plant. The area had become a dumping ground, now it looks so nice. She presented a check to the council in the amount of \$1,917.00 from the scrap.

Mayor Fletcher reported on his Association of Washington Cities meeting, there were mayors from small cities across the state. They discussed issues such as law enforcement, mental health, housing, and changing the 1% increase limit on property tax levies.

The Mayor discussed Cashmere's urban growth expansion issues at a meeting where some of the people believe that growth should be upwards not outwards.

ADJOURNMENT

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


James Fletcher, Mayor

Attest:


Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer