

MINUTES OF THE CASHMERE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2024, 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. The 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 Pistorosi Jayne Stephenson Jeff Johnson	
Staff:	Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer Steve Croci, Director of Operations	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The audit exit meeting was held with the State Auditors that morning and Mayor Fletcher announced that the city had a clean Accountability Audit and a clean Financial Audit. Both audits were for the years 2020 – 2022. Mayor Fletcher and the City Council congratulated Clerk-Treasurer Kay Jones. The city's next three-year audit will be in 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments from the public.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of January 22, 2024, Regular Council Meeting

Minutes of February 5, 2024, Special Council Meeting

Payroll and Claims Packet Dated February 12, 2024

Claims Direct Pay and Check #43231 through #43259 totaling \$352,457.69

Payroll Direct Deposit and Check #43228 through #43230 totaling \$87,482.25

MOVED by Councilor Perry and seconded by Councilor Carlson to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

SERGEANT STUTZMAN – ANIMAL CONTROL UPDATE

Executive Director James Pumphrey and Sergeant Stutzman spoke to the City Council about Wenatchee Valley Humane Society's (WVHS) three-year strategic plan. Beginning in 2024 WVHS will launch programs that support the three-year strategic plan, including affordable and accessible veterinary care,

behavioral classes, advocating for pet-friendly housing policies and promoting pet-friendly public spaces. The benefits and outcome of the strategic plan is that more families stay together, fewer pets end up in the shelter, pets and people avoid unsafe situations reducing the impact to public safety.

RH2 ENGINEERING'S SCOPE OF WORK FOR WATER MAIN DESIGN, BID-READY PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS, SERVICES DURING BIDDING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR SOUTH DOUGLAS ST.

The scope of work for design of a water main on South Douglas Street is \$64,714. The water main between Cottage Avenue and East Parkhill Street will be upsized and looped. The roadway will be resurfaced upon the completion of improvements. RH2's scope of work is for the design phase and up through the bid process. There will be a separate scope of work for the construction phase.

MOVED by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Johnson to approve the RH2 Engineering Scope of work for water main design for South Douglas Street in the amount of \$64,714. Motion carried unanimously.

UTILITY RATE RECOMMENDATION

Mayor Flecher presented a worksheet on water and wastewater operating funds showing the recommended rate increases for the next several years to bring us closer to where we should be to cover maintenance and operation expenses and be able to transfer money into the Capital funds for capital projects and equipment.

The CPI is coming back down from the record 9% in 2022, some predicted it to be back to 2% in a couple of years. The mayor used 3.5% CPI in the worksheet and predictions. The annual CPI is directly related to the rate increase needed. The mayor stated that the rates will be reviewed annually to see if the city is moving in the right direction.

After a lengthy discussion, the council agreed to have staff draft a resolution setting rates for three years 2024 – 2026 for water and wastewater.

Water will increase March 1st, 2024, by 7% and January 1st, 2025, and 2026, by 7%.

Wastewater will increase March 1st, 2024, by 1%, and January 1st, 2025, and 2026, by 3%.

PLANNING COMMISSION TOPICS FOR FUTURE PLANNING

A joint Planning Commission and City Council meeting will be held on January 26, 2024. Director Croci asked the council to think about what they want the Planning Commission to work on.

Suggestions were made to review the zoning codes for the following:

Downtown Business Zone to promote growth

Residential Zone to increase new water and wastewater connections

Commercial Zone to benefit businesses and to increase sales tax for the city

Mayor Fletcher stated that the Planning Commission should start discussing issues now that will need to be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan Update in 2025.

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ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM.



James Fletcher, Mayor

Attest:



Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer