

MINUTES OF THE CASHMERE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY FEBRUARY 26, 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 Tammy Miller, Permit Specialist	
Planning Commission:	Zak Steigmeyer, Chair Laura Redden	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Fletcher announced there is a vacancy on the Airport Board that Derrick Pratt previously filled. The mayor asked if any of the council members were interested in sitting on the Airport Board to represent the city.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments from the public.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of February 12, 2024, Regular Council Meeting

Payroll and Claims Packet Dated February 26, 2024

Claims Direct Pay and Check #43259 through #43273 totaling \$28,526.68

Affirm appointment of Erin Smart to the Planning Commission

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON REQUEST OF VACATION OF PORTIONS OF SPRING STREET BY KENNEDY AND SMITH

Mayor Fletcher opened the public hearing at 6:04 pm to receive comments from the public regarding petitions to vacate unimproved portions of Spring Street. Albert Kennedy petitioned the City Council to vacate a portion of Spring Street and Blaine and Jacqueline Smith petitioned the City Council to vacate a portion of Spring Street.

Al Kennedy spoke in favor of vacating unimproved portions of Spring Street. The platted Spring Street runs straight into his property and ends, connecting to another street is not possible without the city purchasing additional property.

Blaine Smith spoke in favor of vacating unimproved portions of Spring Street. The platted Spring Street runs through his property and renders a parcel of his property unusable. Spring Street was platted on a hillside and goes nowhere, making it unlikely it will ever be improved and used as a Street.

With no other comments from the public the public hearing was closed at 6:06 pm.

JOINT PLANNING COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council and Planning Commission members discussed work items for 2024. A couple of items the Planning Commission will be looking at are expanding the UGA and looking at the code to make sure it does not limit potential business growth.

The State is developing regulations that will allow Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) in residential zones. When the state finalizes the regulations the Planning Commission will be revising the code to meet the State regulations.

ORDINANCE NO. 1324 VACATING UNIMPROVED PORTIONS OF SPRING STREET (KENNEDY)

ORDINANCE NO. 1325 VACATING UNIMPROVED PORTIONS OF SPRING STREET (SMITH)

Councilor Perry voiced his concern stating that he does not believe vacating portions of Spring Street is in the best interest of the city as the ordinance states. He believes it's in the best interest of the petitioners. Especially when the city just paid \$5 a square foot to purchase right-of-way on Sunset Highway and we are selling property for \$.079 per square foot for vacating this property.

Permit Specialist Tammy Miller explained that the city code outlines the formula to use for determining the value when vacating property. The city code would need to be amended and the formula revised to increase the value of the property for vacation.

MOVED by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Pistoresi to adopt Ordinance No. 1324 and Ordinance No. 1325 vacating unimproved portions of Spring Street. Motion carried with four in favor and Councilor Perry voting no.

ORDINANCE NO. 1326 AMEND AND UPDATE OFF-STREET PARKING STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

The Planning Commission was asked to review, consider, and make recommendations to the City Council to approve, approve in part, or deny adoption of the proposed Off-Street Parking code amendments. The proposed amendments to Cashmere Municipal Code Chapter 17.54 Off-Street Parking relate to the application, space requirements, and standards.

All the required procedures have been met and the ordinance is ready for council action.

MOVED by Councilor Carlson and seconded by Councilor Perry to adopt Ordinance No. 1326 amending and updating off-street parking standards and regulations. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-2024 AMENDING WATER RATES

The proposed resolution amending water rates was drafted for three years with a 7% increase starting March 1st, 2024, and a 7% increase on January 1, 2025, and January 1, 2026.

Councilor Perry voiced his concern that the proposed increases would not be adequate to keep up with inflation and capital improvements needed for the water department. Perry proposed a 10% increase for the three years. Councilor Carlson agreed with the proposed 10% increases.

Other council members were not comfortable with increases that high. The resolution can be reviewed annually and adjusted if needed.

MOVED by Councilor Pistorresi and seconded by Councilor Johnson to approve Resolution No. 03-2024 amending water rates. Motion carried Motion carried with three in favor and Councilor Perry and Carlson voting no.

RESOLUTION NO. 04-2024 AMENDING WASTEWATER RATES

The proposed resolution amending wastewater rates was drafted for three years with a 1% increase starting March 1, 2024, and a 3% increase on January 1, 2025, and January 1, 2026.

Councilor Perry voiced his concern that the proposed increases would not be adequate to keep up with inflation and capital improvements needed for the wastewater department. Perry proposed a 5% increase for the three years. Councilor Carlson agreed with the proposed 10% increases.

Other council members were not comfortable with increases that high. The city's wastewater rate is already higher than surrounding areas. The resolution can be reviewed annually and adjusted if needed.

MOVED by Councilor Stephenson and seconded by Councilor Johnson to approve Resolution No. 04-2024 amending wastewater rates. Motion carried Motion carried with three in favor and Councilor Perry and Carlson voting no.

REPORTS

Dorien McElroy, Project Manager for the water and wastewater departments reported on the following:
Bio Solids report and Water Facilities Inventory report
NPDS permit is up for renewal and renewal for the Lab Accreditation
SCADA Upgrade project

Director Croci reported that the Public Works crew is working on spring maintenance such as:
Trees, potholes, weeds, and getting the bathrooms ready to open.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 7:29 PM.


James Fletcher, Mayor

Attest:

Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer