

MINUTES OF THE CASHMERE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY APRIL 8, 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 Jayne Stephenson Jeff Johnson	Shela Pistoresi
Staff:	Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer Steve Croci, Director of Operations	

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andy Thomas, owner of Side Street Cashmere at 105 Railroad Avenue stated that he has a large space in his building that he would like to offer to the library. His vision is that Side Street Cashmere will be the neighborhood hub and the library would be a great addition to his other businesses.

EXCUSED ABSECES

MOVED by Councilor Johnson and seconded by Carlson to excuse the absence of Councilor Pistoresi. Motion carried 4-0.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Councilor Perry and seconded by Stephenson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of March 25, 2024, Regular Council Meeting
Payroll and Claims Packet Dated April 8, 2024

Claims Direct Pay and Check #43325 and #43331 through #43359 totaling \$421,401.25
Payroll Direct Pay and Check #43326 through #43330 totaling \$87,006.58

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

BUILDING USE AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH NCW LIBRARIES

The proposed Building Use and Maintenance Agreement is standard and consistent for all the 31 branch libraries in the five-county district. All branch libraries pay the same compensation rate per square foot for building use and maintenance. The 2024 rate is \$4:00 per square foot.

NCW Library's annual compensation for 2023 was \$13,110 for the 3496 sq ft facility. The compensation for the Riverside Center facility for 2024 is \$19,100 for a 4,775 sq ft facility. With the larger facility the library has more space and parking to expanding their programs.

Mayor Fletcher estimates the annual expenses for the library at Riverside Center at \$32,500, of which the city would be responsible for \$13,400.

Councilors Perry and Carlson are concerned with the increased cost of the library. The city's expenses increase annually, and the library's compensation rate only increases every three years by \$0.25. The city's responsibility for expenses will continue to get larger over the years.

In 2020 the Library District's facility condition report recommended \$120,000 in deficiencies plus \$495,000 for upgrades to Cashmere's library building that was constructed in 1964. NCW Libraries was successful in obtaining grant funds to make improvements in their 31 branch libraries, including \$487,000 for Cashmere facility improvements. In discussions with the District, the City proposed moving the library into Riverside Center instead of spending funds on the current library building that is 60-years old.

Riverside Center was constructed in 2002 to be a community center. City staff and third-party managers have operated the center on a rental basis. The center is an expensive building to maintain and not affordable for smaller events and lacks a catering kitchen for large events. The building sits empty most of the time.

Moving the library to the Riverside Center building provides the highest and best use of the facility, benefiting city residents by providing year-round free access and use of the facility, which taxpayers paid to construct.

No decisions will be made until a study session is held for more information.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) identifies the terms and conditions for NCW Libraries to make improvements within Riverside Center. Once the plans and designs are prepared the city will have the opportunity to review and approve any proposed structural changes. The grant funds the library has for improvements to the Cashmere facility will be used for furniture, shelving, and interior improvements. The city is responsible for structural improvements to the facility.

No decisions will be made until a study session is held for more information.

SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR THE 2024 CITY-WIDE ROADWAY MAINTENANCE PROJECT

The city requested MRSC Small Works Roster bids for the 2024 City-Wide roadway maintenance project, which includes crack fill, pavement repair and pre-leveling. The city received five bids ranging from \$207,179.50 to \$59,078.00. The engineer's estimate for the project was \$231,875.00. Quality Paving Inc. was the low bidder at \$59,078.00. City staff recommended selecting Quality Paving as the contractor for the 2024 Roadway Maintenance project.

MOVED by Councilor Perry and seconded by Councilor Carlson to approve Quality Paving Inc. as the contractor for the Roadway Maintenance project and authorize the mayor to sign documents.

DISCUSSION ON RECOMMENDED CODE REVISIONS TO RECREATIONAL VEHICLES PARK

The Planning Commission proposed revisions to the recreational vehicle (RV) park regulations, to clarify and correct the review and approval process and to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the park occupants. The amendments to the district use chart are intended to clarify the permitting process and zoning districts in which the use is allowed. Currently, even though an RV park is permitted in the city, an RV park cannot be permitted within the city using the process prescribed in the code. With the proposed amendments RV parks would no longer be allowed in residential zones.

An ordinance amending the code will be presented for action at the next council meeting.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Mayor Fletcher handed out information from the Port District Summit. The economist that spoke provided good information on economic development and economic development enablers, prosperity, key demographics, and local spending.

The mayor stated that the city is purchasing and planting trees for Arbor Day.

Director Croci informed the council the Wastewater Treatment Plant is out of compliance. They have traced this back to Blue Star using a new cleaning chemical that killed the bugs in the plant. It will take a while to get the plant back in compliance.

The city crew is working on getting the pool ready and brush pick up.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM.


James Fletcher, Mayor

Attest:


Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer