

MINUTES OF THE CASHMERE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY JUNE 24, 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. 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 Shela Pistoresi - zoom Jayne Stephenson Jeff Johnson	Chris Carlson
Staff:	Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer Steve Croci, Director of Operations	

EXCUSED ABSENCES

MOVED by Councilor Stephenson and seconded by Councilor Perry to excuse the absence of Councilor Carlson due to a work commitment. Motion carried 4-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fire Chief Blake Larson announced a Certificate for Unusual Heroism will be given to a member of the community "for averting serious injury and life-saving effort with risk to self". This was a response to a recent call the department had received.

Director Croci announced that the city is looking for 16-year-old students interested in an internship.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karl Allen Specht addressed the council regarding the arborvitae shrubs between the Center and Riverside Park. They are a safety hazard and need to be trimmed annually because you can't see around them.

Director Croci informed him that the shrubs were going to be removed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of June 10, 2024, Regular Council Meeting
Payroll and Claims Packet Dated June 24, 2024

Claims Direct Pay and Check #43497 through #43528 totaling \$124,241.99
Manual Check #43496 not needing prior approval

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON MASTER CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Mayor Fletcher opened the Public Hearing at 6:05 PM to receive comments on the Master Cable Franchise Agreement. No comments were received so the hearing was closed at 6:04 PM.

FIRE CHIEF BLAKE LARSON - FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Fire Chief Larson provided the Council with a status report of operations. The department recently acquired a brush truck from WA Department of Natural Resources and are working on rebuilding a water tender. The demand for the department is growing. According to Larson, about 400 calls were received in 2004, compared to about 700 in 2023. Placing an increased demand on the volunteers, which can result in nobody being available when some calls are received. He said that the Department has about 30 volunteers and about 25 are EMTs.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH CHELAN COUNTY FOR FIRE INVESTIGATION

The proposed agreement is for investigating fire, explosions and the release of hazardous materials. The Volunteer Fire Department does not have anyone certified in this area.

MOVED by Councilor Johnson and seconded by Councilor Perry to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the County for investigation services. Motion carried 4-0.

TREE COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Steve Crossland and Joanne Carr, members of the City of Cashmere's Tree Committee, addressed the Council and recommended that only 5 or 6 Norway spruce trees that pose a threat to the PUD substation be removed. Their suggestions were in response to city's plans to cut down all the spruce trees along Evergreen Drive. Crossland and Carr explained that they had examined the trees with the PUD's arborist who assessed that only 5-6 posed a direct threat to PUD infrastructure.

Mayor Jim Fletcher explained that the PUD had initially expressed concern that many of the trees posed a threat to the substation. Fletcher said that he was concerned about the city's liability. He added that there are plans to redo Evergreen Street although the exact layout has not yet been engineered. Crossland requested that the Tree Committee be a part of the planning process. He recommended that the trees should not be cut down without a plan to replace them and he asked that the inclusion of trees be a critical part of the city's planning, since trees are an important part of the city's legacy. Council members suggested having a workshop to investigate the matter further.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKING DISCUSSION

In response to a citizen's complaint and suggestion at a previous meeting, the Council began reviewing the code regulating the parking of RV's, boats and trailers, on city streets and in private driveways.

Director of Operations, Steve Croci, suggested that if someone has a RV on the street it encourages others to do the same. He explained that the current city code restricts vehicles from being unattended on city lots and streets for more than 24 hours. Typically, the city informs citizens when complaints are received. Croci told the Council that most people comply once they have been informed of a code violation. Some people want the city to enforce the code and others do not, Croci said.

Council member Jeff Johnson said he understands that storing RV's on streets is a safety issue, but he questioned why the city would restrict someone from parking an RV in their own driveway.

Council member, Shela Pistoresi, said she is leery about telling people what they can do on their own

property and argued that the city is not an HOA. Pistorosi told the other Council members that she is not opposed to people leaving their RV or boat on the street, if it is not a safety issue.

Council member, Jayne Stephenson, expressed her view that the code is outdated, and revealed that she is currently out of compliance since her boat is on the street. But, according to Stephenson, as a law-abiding citizen she is working to get the boat off the street. She further explained that although the city may not actually issue a ticket, she felt singled out when one person complaining resulted in the sheriff coming to her house.

The mayor asked Council members to review the current code and other local city's codes and make edits. He added that changing the code would be a multiple step process and the Council's edits would be used to start the process. Croci recommended that council members think about what direction they want to go with the code and enforcement.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Finishing up the new Play Center at Riverfront Park
Updating and improving Ardeta Parkis being installed
W&C down two employees and are working on filling both positions
Well #4 Rehabilitation
Requesting more funds for the generator
City-wide paving will start after July 4th
The leak on the corner of Emerald and Orchid will be started after the playground

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM


James Fletcher, Mayor

Attest:


Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer