

MINUTES OF THE CASHMERE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2011 AT CASHMERE CITY HALL

OPENING

Mayor Irle opened the regular city council meeting at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Clerk-Treasurer Kay Jones took minutes.

ATTENDANCE

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Present</u>
Mayor:	Gordon Irle	
Council:	Skip Moore Jim Fletcher Donna Wynne Debbie Knutsen Jeff Gomes	
Staff:	Bob Schmidt, Dir. of Operations Kay Jones, City Clerk-Treasurer Mark Botello, Dir. of Planning/Building	

FLAG SALUTE

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Clifford resides in Wenatchee; he has owned and operated the hardware store at 127 Cottage Avenue since 1978. He stated that the business owners believe the canopies are a vital part of the downtown and they would like them repaired and updated. Mr. Clifford asked that the council revisit the downtown canopy project.

MOVED by Councilor Fletcher and seconded by Councilor Wynne to add the downtown canopies to the agenda as item number 6. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Councilor Fletcher and seconded by Councilor Wynne to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of August 22, 2011 Regular City Council Meeting  
Payroll and Claims Packet Dated September 12, 2011  
Claims Check Nos. 31288 and 31298 through 31346 totaling \$650,728.83  
Payroll Check Nos. 31257 and #31287 totaling \$113,106.81

MOVED by Councilor Knutsen and seconded by Councilor Gomes to approve the items on the consent agenda with a minor amendment to the minutes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 17.60 SIGNS

Mayor Irle opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m. to receive public comments on proposed amendments to Chapter 17.60 Signs. Director of Planning Mark Botello gave a brief summary of the proposed changes to the sign codes. Minor amendments include clarifying definitions and language. Substantial amendments include making Booster Club and temporary signs exempt, amending the building face square footage and the sandwich board language and the non-conforming language.

John Clifford, owner of the hardware store at 127 Cottage Avenue, stated that the sign code needs to address off premises signs for businesses that are not on the main avenue because the City has spent a lot of money on reconstructing Mission Avenue, improving the aesthetics and the accessibility to the businesses. Clifford feels it is very important that the code allow businesses to have signage to let visitors know where they are located. Signage is vital to the businesses.

Jill FitzSimmons, manager of the Cashmere Chamber voiced her agreement with Mr. Clifford.

With no further comments from the public the Mayor closed the hearing at 7:25 p.m.

Councilor Fletcher stated that signage is an important business function. A business sign needs to be readable by a driver; if the lettering is too small the sign is useless. That goes for monument signs also; a monument sign needs to be large enough so that the business names are able to be read. Also, the percentages listed for maximum sign surface area per building face need to be double checked.

The consensus of the council was that signage is vital for the businesses and that the sign code should address off premises signs in some way instead of prohibiting them completely.

Director Botello will take the comments from public and council back to the Planning Commission for consideration.

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER VACATING A PORTION OF FOSTER STREET

Mayor Irle opened the public hearing at 7:50 p.m. to take public comment on considering vacating a portion of Foster Street. Director of Planning Mark Botello explained that a petition for street vacation was received from Crunch Pak. Crunch Pak is the owner of 100% of the property abutting the portion of Foster Street proposed to be vacated. Crunch Pak proposes, as consideration for approval of this vacation, to provide the City with a statutory warranty deed to that certain real property immediately adjacent to River Street; in addition Crunch Pak agrees to compensate the City \$3,750. Director Botello and Director Schmidt are in favor of the proposed vacation.

Derek Knutsen residing at 5650 East Cashmere Road voiced his concern with the proposed vacation of a portion of Foster Street. The remaining access road to the back of the City pool would be only nineteen feet wide. Delivery trucks will not be able to turn around, they will have to back out onto a busy road, which would be unsafe. Currently there is room for about four pool employees to park their cars; the vacation will eliminate the parking behind the pool.

Director of Operations Bob Schmidt is in favor of the vacation and is not concerned with the narrow access road to the residence on Foster Street or access to the back of the pool. The garbage truck and delivery trucks will have to back down the road so they will be driving forward onto Sunset Highway.

With no further comments from the public the Mayor closed the hearing at 7:55 p.m.

UPDATE ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM CHELAN COUNTY REGARDING THE NEW SHERIFF'S CONTRACT

The City received a draft of the new contract for law enforcement services and then an email stating that the Chelan County Commissioners are signing the contract and sending it for the City's signature. The City was surprised by this information since they were told that the new contracts were going to be negotiated regarding RiverCom charges. There has been no discussion or negotiations to date and the proposed contract addresses not only an approximate \$40,000 increase for RiverCom but also an additional \$40,000 increase for services.

Director of Operations Bob Schmidt has been in contact with the City of Leavenworth. It seems that the County has been discussing the numbers and the cost per deputy with the City of Chelan, but the County has not been in contact with the other cities involved; Cashmere, Entiat and Leavenworth. Schmidt explained that the City of Chelan is different than the other three cities; Chelan pays for and has dedicated deputies, whereas the other cities do not. The Leavenworth Administrator and Director Schmidt believe that the three cities should get together and discuss a counter proposal.

Councilor Moore, who is also Chelan County Auditor, stated that he has seen the numbers and how the County has come up with the cost per deputy and the cost per deputy is accurate.

The City Council voiced their disappointment that someone from the Sheriff's office or the Commissioner's office did not come to the City to present the proposal instead of sending the city a signed copy for consideration. The City Council wants the same courtesy and opportunity that they gave the City of Chelan to discuss the costs.

MOVED by Councilor Fletcher and seconded by Councilor Wynne to table the matter until an official from the County comes to talk with the City. Motion carried.

DOWNTOWN CANOPIES

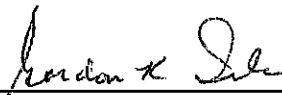
Cashmere Chamber Manager Jill FitzSimmons presented a letter to the Mayor and City Council on behalf of the downtown businesses making a formal request to repair, preserve and update the downtown canopies. Jill FitzSimmons and John Clifford relayed that the downtown businesses believe the canopies are a vital part of Cashmere's downtown. The majority of the businesses are ready and willing to deed the canopies over to the city to restore and maintain. The businesses would like assurance that the city will not tear the canopies down.

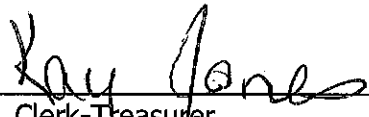
The consensus of the council was to move forward and work with the city attorney to draft agreements regarding the canopy ownership and attachment to the buildings.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councilor Moore and seconded by Councilor Gomes to adjourn.

The meeting closed at 8:45 p.m.

  
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Gordon Irle, Mayor

Attest:   
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Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer