



WENATCHEE CITY COUNCIL
Thursday, September 12, 2024
Wenatchee City Hall Council Chambers
301 Yakima Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801

MINUTES

"To create community through responsive leadership and services for the citizens and visitors of the Apple Capital of the World."

Present: Mayor Mike Poirier; Councilmember District 1 Jose Cuevas; Councilmember District 2 Chelsea Ewer; Councilmember District 3 Top Rojanasthien; Councilmember District 5 Charlie Atkinson; Councilmember A-Large B Keith Huffaker.

Staff Present: City Administrator Laura Gloria; City Attorney Danielle Marchant; Assistant City Attorney Steve Smith; City Clerk Tammy McCord; IT Support Zach Steele; Finance Director Brad Posenjak; Public Works Director Tom Wachholder; Police Chief Edgar Reinfeld; Community Development Director Glen DeVries; City Engineer Jake Lewing; Project Engineer Zach Horton; Utilities Planner Darci Ronning; Assistant Community Development Director Stephen Neuenschwander

4:45 p.m. Executive Session

Mayor Mike Poirier called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. for the purpose of meeting in executive session. It was noted for the record that Councilmembers Hornby and Herald were absent.

Executive Session to discuss with legal counsel potential litigation to which the city is, or likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency (RCW 42.30.110(i)).

Motion by Councilmember Keith Huffaker for City Council to meet in executive session for a time period not to exceed 20 minutes, to discuss with legal counsel potential litigation to which the city is, or likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency (RCW 42.30.110(i)). Councilmember Jose Cuevas seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

A 5:05 p.m. the City Clerk announced that the Council would be in executive session for an additional 5 minutes. Council adjourned from executive session at 5:08 p.m.

5:15 p.m. Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call. Mayor Mike Poirier called the regular meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Councilmember Chelsea Ewer led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmember Travis Hornby and Councilmember Linda Herald were absent.

Motion by Councilmember Keith Huffaker to excuse the absences of Councilmembers Hornby and Herald. Councilmember Chelsea Ewer seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

2. Citizen Requests/Comments

Amber Smelser, 23 23rd Street NE, East Wenatchee, Wenatchee business owner of A&N Plumbing located at 1517 South Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee, stated their business was recently robbed of thousands of dollars of tools. She addressed the City Council with her concerns about the nearby encampment and safety concerns.

Carlos Corales, 124 North James, East Wenatchee, and business owner of The Crepe House, announced to the City Council that they reached their goal of providing 500 backpacks to local children. They soon will be hosting a fundraiser for Pinnacles Prep and will share that information when it is available.

Denise McBurnie, 930 Wheeler Hill Road, Wenatchee, announced that KHQ will be broadcasting a story about her son Travis on the "Help Me Hailey Segment" after Sunday Night Football, and is hoping to reach the fundraising goal for Aloft.

Shawn Drummond, Housing Services Coordinator at Oxford House, offered assistance to the City to help with the homeless issue.

Joseph Reyes, 1545 South Mission Street, unhoused resident in Wenatchee, addressed the City Council and said he has been talking to the homeless community about what their needs are and feels they are being harassed unfairly.

Glen Wilson, unhoused resident of Wenatchee, addressed the City Council that he would like the city to create a tent city with the upcoming cold weather, that he can operate.

3. Consent Items

- *Motion to approve agenda, vouchers, and minutes from previous meetings.*

Vouchers:

Claim checks #301448 through #301527 in the amount of \$1,859,608.98 for 7/31/2024 – 8/1/2024

Payroll distribution in the amount of \$23,174.44 for 8/5/2024

Payroll distribution in the amount of \$1,652.91 for 8/6/2024

Claim checks #301535 through #301611 in the amount of \$1,389,266.72 for 8/8/2024 – 8/9/2024

Payroll distribution in the amount of \$3,385.95 for 8/12/2024

Payroll distribution in the amount of \$471,575.00 for 8/20/2024

Claim checks #301612 through #301738 in the amount of \$759,446.15 for 8/15/2024

Claim checks #301739 through #301833 in the amount of \$1,236,454.05 for 8/22/2024 – 8/23/2024

Payroll distribution (retirees) in the amount of \$3,581.24 for 8/30/2024

Payroll distribution in the amount of \$691,927.55 for 9/5/2024

Benefits/deductions in the amount of \$1,093,456.92 for 9/5/2024

Wires #136- #137 and claim checks #10192 - #10290 and #301836 - #301919 in the amount of \$585,770.28 for 8/26/2024 – 8/30/2024

Payroll distribution in the amount of \$15,313.81 for 9/5/2024

- *Motion to accept the work performed by the contractor KRCI, LLC, on City Project 1905-2, and authorize the City Administrator's signature on the Final Contract Voucher.*

Motion by Councilmember Keith Huffaker to approve agenda, vouchers, and minutes from previous meetings, and to accept the work performed by the contractor KRCl, LLC, on City Project 1905-2, and authorize the City Administrator's signature on the Final Contract Voucher. Councilmember Charlie Atkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

4. Presentations

- Wenatchee Youth Baseball Recognition – Not able to attend.
- City of Wenatchee Employee Recognition – City Employee Justin English (Seasonal Parks Worker) was presented a Certificate of Recognition for his heroic effort in assisting an elderly woman when he witnessed her vehicle drive off the roadway as he was coming from Kenzie's Landing.
- Digital Equity Day Proclamation was read by Councilmember Keith Huffaker and presented to NCW Tech Alliance Director of Entrepreneurship Jenny Rojanasthien and Director of Operations Sarah Sanford received the proclamation and spoke about digital equity.
- Recovery Month Proclamation read by Councilmember Jose Cuevas and presented to Recovery Coach Victor Estrada with Women's Resource Center and Travis Aasen, Recovery Navigator, announced the event "Hands Across the Bridge" and spoke about the treatment options available in the community.
- Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Review. Chamber Executive Director Steve Wilkinson and Marketing Organization Director Ashley Sinner presented their annual review.

5. Action Items

- A. City Project No. 2406 – Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan - Grant Agreement Authorization

City Engineer Jake Lewing presented the staff report. Council asked questions.

Motion by Councilmember Top Rojanasthien for City Council to authorize the City Administrator to sign the Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan grant agreement with the Federal Highway Administration. Councilmember Chelsea Ewer seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

- B. City Project No. 2107 Broadview Improvements - Change Order

Utility Planner Darci Ronning presented the staff report. Council asked questions.

Motion by Councilmember Chelsea Ewer for City Council to approve Change Order No. 5 for City Project No. 2107 Broadview Improvements Project, and authorize the Mayor's signature on the change order for Strider Construction's work in the amount of \$91,994.36. Councilmember Charlie Atkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

- C. Commercial & Investment Real Estate Purchase & Sale Agreement and Addendum to Purchase & Sale Agreement Between Hogback Development Company, LLC and the City of Wenatchee for the property generally located at 1551 North Wenatchee Avenue

City Administrator Laura Gloria presented the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Keith Huffaker for the City Council to approve the Commercial & Investment Real Estate Purchase & Sale Agreement and Addendum to Purchase & Sale Agreement Between Hogback Development Company, LLC and the City of Wenatchee for the property generally located at 1551 North Wenatchee Avenue and authorize the City Administrator's signature. Councilmember Jose Cuevas seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

- D. City Project No. 2204 North Wenatchee Water Quality Project - Budget Amendment Authorization to Award Contract

City Engineer Jake Lewing presented the staff report. Council asked questions.

Motion by Councilmember Top Rojanasthien for City Council to amend the project budget and award the construction contract for the North Wenatchee Water Quality Project, City Project 2204, to the lowest responsive bidder, Hurst Construction LLC, and authorize the City Administrator to sign the contract documents. Councilmember Keith Huffaker seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

- E. City Project No. 2312 Fifth and Emerson Pedestrian Crossing - Authorization to Award Construction Contract

Project Engineer Zachary Horton presented the staff report. Council asked questions.

Motion by Councilmember Top Rojanasthien for City Council to authorize the City Administrator to sign any documents necessary to effectuate the City of Wenatchee's grant funding agreement with the Transportation Improvement Board, and to award the construction contract for the Fifth and Emerson Pedestrian Crossing, City Project No. 2312, to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder, and authorize the City Administrator to sign the contract documents on behalf of the City of Wenatchee pending WSDOT concurrence and TIB approval. Councilmember Jose Cuevas seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

6. Public Hearing Items

The Mayor called the public hearing to order and stated the public hearing process.

F. Amendments to Wenatchee City Code Title 10 Zoning, Chapter 10.50 Signs and Chapter 10.72.050 Nonconforming Signs

Assistant Community Development Director Stephen Neuenschwander presented the staff report. The Mayor then asked for public comment, and the following individuals addressed the Council:

David Carpman, attorney for Outfront Media, provided information about the settlement agreement and sees it as a win-win solution and provided information about digital billboards.

Russell Speidel, 1031 Grenz Street, Wenatchee, spoke in opposition to the code change.

Teresa McFadden, 300 South Elliott, Unit 22, Wenatchee, spoke in opposition to the code change.

Dan Druva, Outfront Media, echoed the sentiment of his colleague David Carpman and provided information about digital billboards.

With no further public comment, the Mayor asked the Council for their questions and comments. The Council asked questions and commented. It was the consensus of the Council that all City Councilmembers should be present to consider this item, and additional education for new Councilmembers to help them better understand the code adopted in 2019, and for additional public input.

Action Requested: *Motion for City Council to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-20, amending Wenatchee City Code Chapter 10.50 and Chapter 10.72 relating to digital billboards.*

Councilmember Keith Huffaker made a motion to table Ordinance 2024-20 to the next regular City Council meeting on September 26, 2024. Councilmember Top Rojanasthien seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

After input from the City Attorney Danielle Marchant to continue the public hearing, the following motion was made:

Councilmember Keith Huffaker made a motion to continue the public hearing to the next regular City Council meeting of September 26, 2024. Councilmember Top Rojanasthien seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

7. Reports

a. Mayor's Report.

- (1) He reported that Project Engineer Nicole Brockwell has been accepted to the APWA Emerging Leaders Academy and that Engineering Services Manager Ryan Harmon recently presented "AI in Public Works" at an Emerging Leader event.

- (2) He attended the State Auditor's exit conference this week, and Finance Director Brad Posenjak said that the auditors were impressed when auditing the federal grant for city's design-build procurement process and handling of federal funds, which is the first one in the state that they have audited, and were impressed with the engineering team's work. The State Auditor's Office found no findings. The final audit report is expected September 16.
- (3) City Engineer Jake Lewing announced that all INFRA grant funds are in process of being obligated (due September 30).
- (4) Public Works Director Tom Wachholder announced that the city has received an additional \$7 million from the Federal Highway Administration for Confluence Parkway.

b. Reports/New Business of Council Committees

Councilmember Jose Cuevas reported that he helped clean up garbage in an area of South Mission Street with business owners to make a difference, and he asked City Councilmembers to consider volunteering their time.

Councilmember Chelsea Ewer reported that she sat in on the State Auditor's exit interview which was very informative and positive.

Councilmember Top Rojanasthien reported that the Community Action Council continues to do great things and the food pantry is doing well, and they are looking for new board members.

8. Announcements. None.

9. Close of Meeting.

Councilmember Keith Huffaker made a motion to close the meeting. Councilmember Charlie Atkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

The meeting ended at 7:10 p.m.

Mike Poirier

Mike Poirier, Mayor

Tammy L. McCord

Tammy L. McCord, City Clerk