

**CITY OF OKANOGAN
COUNCIL MINUTES
March 4, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Turner at 7:00 pm and those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were:

Present: Mayor Wayne L. Turner Councilmembers: Lisa Bauer, Rob Gillespie, Eric S. Lind, Sr., John Lyles, Greg Oyler, and Denise Varner.

Also Present: Clerk/Treasurer Jessica Blake, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Susan Stewart, Public Works Director Shawn Davisson, Fire Chief Brad Armstrong, Building Official/Permit Administrator Bryan Forbus, and Code Enforcement/Assistant Permit Administrator Craig Caswell.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Turner asked if there were any alterations to the Agenda and Consent Agenda. Bauer moved, seconded by Varner to approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda as presented. Mayor Turner asked if there were any objections to the motion. Seeing no objection raised, the motion passed without objection.

EXCUSE COUNCILMEMBERS

There were no pre-excused Councilmembers on the Agenda and Consent Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting of February 18, 2025 were approved with passage of the Consent Agenda.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Claims Vouchers numbered 55809 through 55859 dated March 04, 2025 in the amount of \$110,345.84, and Payroll Checks and Direct Deposit Runs for February in the amount of \$137,202.16 were approved with the Consent Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Turner opened the floor and invited Public Comment. There being no Public Comment, Public Comment was closed.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Public Works Director Davisson submitted a written report. In addition, he announced the following:

- ❖ Water Manager Barry Featherly submitted the Water Use Efficiency report to Washington State Department of Health (WA DOH)
- ❖ Performed replacing the pump and motor at the Murray Street Booster Pump Station
- ❖ Continued monitoring the backup generator project
- ❖ Attended an airport meeting to discuss the construction of a new airport hangar and pilots lounge
- ❖ Elmway Watermain project could start as early as the week of March 10th
- ❖ Currently advertising for 2025 Seasonal Maintenance positions

Code Enforcement/Assistant Permit Administrator Caswell submitted a written report, reviewed the information in his report, and answered questions. In addition, he announced he will be attending the Animal Control Officer Academy March 10th - March 21st, 2025.

Fire Chief Armstrong submitted a written report. In addition, he announced the following:

- ❖ Department stats are currently at 44 calls
- ❖ March 1st, 2025, was the first wildland fire in the City of Okanogan, it occurred on Sunrise Heights which started at ¼ acre and grew to ½ acre
- ❖ April – July the Fire Department will be working with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to do Visual Risk Assessments on defensible space around homes within the city. There are 218 homes that will have a visual assessment done, this will be done by volunteer firefighters.
- ❖ Participated in a conference call with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to discuss the projected forecast for 2025 which indicates higher spring precipitation and Mid July high temperatures, which will make for light flashy fuels and greater fire potential in summer months.

Clerk/Treasurer Blake submitted a written report, in addition she announced the following:

- ❖ Met with Department of Ecology regarding Air Quality Grant which will end in June, received authorization to purchase a Conex container to store additional paper bags for yard waste clean-up events. The City is increasing the number of paper bags provided to residents to 20, which will be available for pick up at City Hall beginning March 24th. A letter with details will be sent to residents this week.
- ❖ Councilmember Chilcote's resignation was effective February 28th. The position is being advertised and a scheduled review by Council will be March 18th during the regular council meeting.

- ❖ An informational flyer regarding business licenses will be sent out this week.

Building Official Forbus submitted a written report, reviewed the information in his report and answered questions.

Okanogan County Sheriff's Office submitted a written report and were not present at the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports on the Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business on the Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 1242

Clerk Treasurer Blake introduced Ordinance No. 1242.

Varner moved, seconded by Bauer to adopt Ordinance No. 1242.

There was a brief discussion.

Ayes: Lind, Sr., Bauer, Varner, Gillespie, Lyles, and Oyler

Noes: None

Motion carried: 6 Ayes: 0 Noes

Public Works Board Pre-Construction Loan Award Acceptance – Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements

Clerk Treasurer Blake introduced Public Works Board Pre-Construction Loan Award Acceptance – Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements.

Lyles moved, seconded by Varner to approve the Public Works Board Pre Construction Loan award for Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements and authorize Mayor Turner to sign the necessary contract documents.

There was a brief discussion.

Ayes: Lind, Sr., Bauer, Varner, Gillespie, Lyles, and Oyler

Noes: None

Motion carried: 6 Ayes: 0 Noes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Turner opened the floor and invited Public Comment. Seeing none offered, Public Comment was closed.

COUNCILMEMBER'S COMMENT

Bauer provided a recap of the recent Economic Alliance Meeting discussion items, some of which included:

- ❖ Small Businesses
- ❖ Broadband project progress
- ❖ BAT meeting

Bauer reported on her recent AWC City Action Days conference where she met with representative Engle and discussed the following:

- ❖ Infrastructure
- ❖ Housing needs
- ❖ Public Safety

Varner reported on the following:

- ❖ Food Truck Festival April 26, 2025 from 4:00pm – 9:00pm
- ❖ High School Business week at the Okanogan County Agri-Plex is the week of March 3-7, 2025
- ❖ The Business & Tourism Committee needs to meet and discuss how to deal with the empty storefronts and buildings in the downtown core to get businesses to either open or encourage the owners to sell them at a reasonable price
- ❖ The Public Health Department meeting she recently attended as the City of Okanogan representative included a discussion of the overwhelming number of overdoses in Okanogan County and how individuals can gain access to Narcan and training on how to administer it in the event they encounter someone overdosing

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Turner had nothing further to report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Minutes taken and prepared by Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Susan Stewart

APPROVED:

Wayne L. Turner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jessica Blake, Clerk-Treasurer