

**CITY OF OKANOGAN
COUNCIL MINUTES**

July 7, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Okanogan City Council was called to order by Mayor Turner at 7:00 p.m. and those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were:

Present: Mayor Turner Councilmembers: Greg Oyler, Steve Streeter, John Lyles, Eric Lind, Denise Varner, Lisa Bauer and Robert Gillespie.

Also Present: City Clerk Treasurer Jessica Blake, Utilities Clerk Laura Divis and Fire Chief Brad Armstrong.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Turner asked if there were any alterations to the Agenda or Consent Agenda. Varner moved, seconded by Bauer 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 June 17, 2026 were approved with passage of the Consent Agenda.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Claims Vouchers numbered 57533 through 57583 dated July 7, 2026 in the amount of \$226,914.78, and Payroll Checks numbered 57463 through 57477 and 57518 through 57532 in the amount of \$174,790.26 for June 2026, a Debit Card Transaction dated May 29, 2026 in the amount of \$542.65 and a Debit Card Transaction dated June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$579.82 were approved with the Consent Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Director of Public Works Davisson submitted a written report to council and was excused from the meeting.

Building Official/Permit Administrator Bryan Forbus submitted a written report to council and was excused from the meeting.

Code Enforcement/Assistant Permit Administrator Craig Caswell submitted a written report to council and was excused from the meeting.

Fire Chief Brad Armstrong submitted a written report to council and announced:

- No firework activity over the 4th of July holiday.

City Clerk Treasurer Jessica Blake submitted a written report to council and announced:

- New website training Thursday, July 9th.
- The airport hangar project has been delayed.

Sheriff's Office submitted a written report but was not present at the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Lisa Bauer reported that the Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste Committee met following the June 16th City Council. Those present were Committee Chair Lisa Bauer, Councilmembers Greg Oyler and John Lyles, Mayor Wayne Turner, Clerk Treasurer Jessica Blake, and Public Works Director Shawn Davisson.

The committee reviewed the request of a resident who was charged \$350 for turning the water on at the meter after it had been shut off by the city for irrigation repairs at the request of the owner's contractor. The owner acknowledged that their contractor turned the water on after hours when he couldn't reach the city. The property owners were at their primary home on the coast when the contractor was making repairs to their irrigation system and this location serves as their second home where the water is used mainly for irrigation. The committee was unanimous in their decision to deny the request for the fee waiver based on the information provided.

The committee heard a request to update the water ordinance to adjust water shut off days due to non-payment to Thursday if the shut off would occur on a Friday. This will allow more time for residents to pay the balance due prior to the weekend and avoid potentially being without water for multiple days. The ordinance will be presented for approval at the July 21st meeting.

On June 30th, the committee reviewed and responded to a request for a water bill reduction via email. The owners have not lived in the residence since

March and reported that they had requested the water be shut off at that time. City records show that the owners were contacted in April and May to inform them their water would be shut off due to non-payment, and both times they paid the amount to avoid shut off and did not request that the water be turned off. The water to the property is now shut off per their June 22nd request and they will be charged the \$25 availability fee beginning in July. The committee was unanimous in their decision to deny the request to lower the amounts due for May and June based on the information provided.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business on the Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Okanogan Librarian Introduction

Okanogan/Omak Librarian Alyssa introduced herself, gave an update on the Okanogan Library programs and answered councilmembers questions.

WSDOT Street Striping Agreement JB0108

Mayor Turner introduced WSDOT Street Striping Agreement JB0108.

Gillespie moved, seconded by Lyles to authorize Mayor Turner sign the 2026 Maintenance Agreement, JB0108 with the Washington State Department of Transportation for street striping services.

There was a brief discussion.

Vote on the motion.

Ayes: Lind, Bauer, Streeter, Varner, Gillespie, Lyles and Oyler

Noes: None

Motion Carried: 7 Ayes: 0 Noes

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

COUNCILMEMBER'S COMMENT

Councilmember Lind announced that he would not be in attendance at the next council meeting on July 21, 2026.

Councilmember Streeter announced that he would not be in attendance at the next council meeting on July 21, 2026.

Councilmember Lyles announced that he would not be in attendance at the next council meeting on July 21, 2026.

Councilmember Varner announced that she would not be in attendance at the next council meeting on July 21, 2026 but will try to attend through zoom.

Councilmember Bauer announced:

- Attended the AWC Conference and presented scholarship to Finlay.
- Reading book "13 Ways to Kill Your Community", the author of which was keynote speaker at the conference.
- Okanogan County hosting Poverty simulation, location to be determined.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Turner announced:

- He was a speaker at the AWC Conference and received multiple compliments on the way our city council runs after his presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes taken and prepared by Utilities Clerk Laura Divis

APPROVED:

Wayne L Turner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jessica Blake, City Clerk Treasurer