CITY OF OKANOGAN
COUNCIL MINUTES
November 4, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Okanogan City Council was called to order by Mayor Turner at 7:00 p.m.

OPEN RECORD PUBLIC HEARING: Ordinance No. 1251: 2026 Budget

Mayor Turner opened the 2026 Budget public hearing at 7:00 p.m. by stating the purpose of the hearing is to take relevant testimony on the City's proposed 2026 Budget.

Mayor Turner provided for any challenges to the Council's jurisdiction. There were none stated.

Mayor Turner provided the opportunity for the disclosure of any conflicts of interest or appearance of fairness issues or disclose any pertinent information. There were none stated.

Mayor Turner provided the opportunity for the disclosure of any ex-parte communication, such that everyone will have the benefit of the information. There were none stated.

Mayor Turner asked if there was anyone present who wished to challenge any of the Council, or himself as the Hearing Chairman, for conflicts of interest or appearance of fairness issues in conducting this hearing. There were none stated.

Mayor Turner opened the testimony portion of the hearing at 7:01 p.m.

Mayor Turner asked for Staff to provide a Staff Report. City Clerk Treasurer Jessica Blake provided the Staff Report and reviewed the information provided to council.

Mayor Turner provided for any Petitioners who desire to speak the opportunity, then those who signed in the opportunity to present testimony and then anyone present to present testimony, stating your name and address please. There were none stated.

Mayor Turner provided an opportunity for the Council to ask direct questions. There was none stated.

Mayor Turner provided the opportunity for the Petitioners and Staff to rebut. There was no rebuttal offered.

Mayor Turner provided the opportunity for discussion amongst the Council. There was none.

Mayor Turner closed the hearing portion of the meeting at 7:03 p.m. and stated that during the business portion of the meeting the Council may discuss the ordinance.

The following were:

Present: Mayor Turner Councilmembers: Greg Oyler, Eric Lind Sr., John Lyles, Steve Streeter and Robert Gillespie.

Also Present: City Clerk Treasurer Jessica Blake, Utilities Clerk Laura Divis, Public Works Director Shawn Davisson, Building Official/Permit Administrator Bryan Forbus, Fire Chief Brad Armstrong and Code Enforcement Craig Caswell.

Mayor Wayne Turner announced that Denise Varner would not be present tonight. Councilmember Lind moved, seconded by Councilmember Lyles, to excuse Denise Varner from tonight's meeting. Mayor Turner asked if there were any objections to the motion. Seeing no objections raised, the motion passed without objection.

Excused: Denise Varner

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Turner asked if there were any alterations to the Agenda or Consent Agenda. Oyler moved, seconded by Streeter 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

Councilmember Lisa Bauer was excused with passage of the Agenda and Consent Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting and Public Hearing of October 21, 2025 were approved with passage of the Consent Agenda.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Claims Vouchers numbered 56685 through 56716 dated November 4, 2025 in the amount of $375,997.15 and Payroll Checks numbered 56623 through 56638 and 56669 through 56684 in the amount of $127,994.42 for October 2025 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 Shawn Davisson submitted a written report and in addition announced the following:

- Performed annual fire hydrant maintenance.
- Completed the winterization process in parks.
- Performed mechanic interviews; new hire should start end of November or 1st of January.
- The Okanogan Conservation District completed wood chipping.
- Attended the Washington State Community Airports Association Conference.

Fire Chief Brad Armstrong submitted a written report. He reviewed his report and updated calls to 229 and the fire department potentially will have five new members.

Code Enforcement Craig Caswell submitted a written report and reviewed his report.

Sheriff's Department submitted a written report but did not attend the meeting.

Building Official/Permit Administrator Bryan Forbus did not submit a written report but announced at the meeting:

- Have completed 35 permits for the year.
- Issued Certificate of Occupancies for three new duplexes on 3rd South.

Clerk's Office submitted a written report and in addition announced the following:

- Completed Fall Cleanup; approximately 43 customers received bags from city hall.
- Budget preparation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business and Tourism Committee Report

Councilmember Streeter announced that the Business and Tourism committee met on Thursday, October 23rd at 3:15pm to discuss the recommended allocation of requested lodging tax funds. Those present were Committee Chair Denise Varner, Councilmembers John Lyles and Steve Streeter, Mayor Wayne Turner, and Clerk Treasurer Jessica Blake.
Requests received include:
$3,478 from The Chronicle for advertising in Vacationland, InfoBook, Snowmobile and ORV Guides.
$1,400 from The City of Okanogan for staff salary costs, including overtime, for event set up.
$15,000 from the Okanogan Chamber for special event advertising and operational expenses.
$3,500 from the Okanogan Grange for LED light replacement.

The committee is recommending full funding for all requests except for the Grange. Unfortunately, the Grange is not a 501 C3 or 501 C6 as required by RCW and is ineligible for these funds, and the State Grange Foundation is not able to act as a fiduciary due to their bylaw requirements.

The recommended amounts are included in the budget.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 1249 Ad Valorem 1% Property Tax Increase for 2026 – 2nd Reading

Mayor Turner introduced Ordinance No. 1249: Ad Valorem 1% Property Tax Increase for 2026 for a 2nd Reading.

Gillespie moved, seconded by Lyles to adopt Ordinance No. 1249.

There was no discussion.

Ayes: Lyles, Lind, Oyler, Streeter and Gillespie

Noes: None

Motion carried: 5 Ayes: 0 Noes

Ordinance No. 1250 2026 Fee Schedule – 2nd Reading

Mayor Turner introduced Ordinance No. 1250: 2026 Fee Schedule – 2nd Reading.

Streeter moved, seconded by Lind to adopt Ordinance No. 1250.

There was no discussion.

Ayes: Oyler, Gillespie, Streeter, Lyles and Lind

Noes: None

Motion carried: 5 Ayes: 0 Noes

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 1251 - 2026 Budget – 1st Reading

Mayor Turner asked City Clerk Treasurer Jessica Blake to introduce Ordinance No. 1251: 2026 Budget – 1st Reading.

Lind moved, seconded by Lyles to advance Ordinance No. 1251 to the November 18th, 2025 regular Council meeting for a second reading.

There was a brief discussion.

Mayor Turner asked if there were any objections to the motion. Seeing no objection, the motion carried.

Motion Advanced to November 18, 2025 Council Meeting.

Dept of Commerce Periodic Update Grant Award Acceptance

Mayor Turner asked City Clerk Treasurer Jessica Blake to introduce Department of Commerce Periodic Update Grant (PUG) Award Acceptance.

Lyles moved, seconded by Streeter to accept the PUG award and authorize Mayor Turner to sign the necessary contract documents.

There was a brief discussion.

Ayes: Lind, Lyles, Gillespie, Oyler and Streeter

Noes: None

Motion carried: 5 Ayes: 0 Noes

2026-2028 AFSCME Local 846-0 Public Works Union Contract Approval

Mayor Turner introduced 2026-2028 AFSCME Local 846-0 Public Works Union Contract Approval.

Gillespie moved, seconded by Lind to authorize Mayor Turner sign the 2026-2028 AFSCME Local 846-0: Public Works Union Contract.

There was a brief discussion

Ayes: Oyler, Streeter, Gillespie, Lyles and Lind

Noes: None

Motion carried: 5 Ayes: 0 Noes

Progress Estimate 5 – 3rd Ave Reconstruction & Utility Replacement – Pipkin Construction

Mayor Turner asked Public Works Director Shawn Davisson to introduce Progress Estimate 5 – 3rd Avenue Reconstruction & Utility Replacement Project.

Streeter moved, seconded by Oyler that the City issue payment to Pipkin Construction for Progress Estimate 5.

There was a brief discussion.

Ayes: Lyles, Oyler, Streeter, Gillespie and Lind

Noes: None

Motion carried: 5 Ayes: 0 Noes

Dept of Ecology Air Quality Grant Award Acceptance

Mayor Turner asked City Clerk Treasurer Jessica Blake to introduce the Department of Ecology Air Quality Grant Award.

Lyles moved, seconded by Lind to accept the DOE award and authorize Mayor Turner to sign the necessary contract documents.

There was a brief discussion.

Ayes: Gillespie, Lyles, Lind, Streeter and Oyler

Noes: None

Motion carried: 5 Ayes: 0 Noes

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

COUNCILMEMBER'S COMMENT

There were no Councilmember's comments.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Turner announced:

- Councilmembers Streeter, Gillespie, Lyles and myself will be attending AWC's Elected Officials Essentials in December.
- Attended WACELI zoom meeting.
- Asked staff to send a reminder to all customers that they are responsible for keeping the sidewalks in front of their property clean and free of snow.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Minutes taken and prepared by Utilities Clerk Laura Divis

APPROVED:

_____

Wayne L. Turner, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Jessica Blake, City Clerk Treasurer