CITY OF OKANOGAN
COUNCIL MINUTES
January 20, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

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

The following were:

Present: Mayor Pro tem Lisa Bauer Councilmembers: Greg Oyler, Eric Lind Sr., John Lyles, Robert Gillespie, Steve Streeter, and Denise Varner. Mayor Wayne Turner through zoom.

Also Present: Clerk-Treasurer Jessica Blake, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Susan Stewart, Public Works Director Shawn Davisson, and Code Enforcement Officer Craig Caswell.

DRAFT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pro tem Bauer asked if there were any alterations to the Agenda or Consent Agenda. Varner moved, seconded by Lyles to approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda as presented. Mayor Pro tem Bauer 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 January 06, 2026 were approved with passage of the Consent Agenda.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Claims Vouchers numbered 56949 through 56962 dated December 31, 2025 in the amount of $ 164,269.91, and Claims Vouchers numbered 56963 through 56978 dated January 20, 2026 in the amount of $ 91,892.00, and Debit Transactions dated October 31, 2025 through January 09, 2026 in the amount of $2281.62 were approved with the Consent Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Pro tem Bauer opened the floor and invited Public Comment.
Angie Morgan Chilmonik of Epley Road inquired about the City of Okanogan's participation in the North Central Washington Narcotics Task Force in 2026.

Susan Brown of Mock Road spoke in support of Methow Arts setting up their satellite office in Okanogan.

Dan Brown of Mock Road and retired Okanogan High School Art Teacher voiced his support of Methow Arts, their mission and setting up their satellite office in Okanogan.

Jim Anderson of 1st Ave, South expressed his support of Methow Arts coming to Okanogan to set up a satellite office to service this area of the County.

Crystal Hamilton of 3rd Ave, North pointed out that the City of Okanogan had conducted a Revitalization Study in the past and would like to assist in the continuing support of pursuing how to revitalize Okanogan and creating more retail stores.

Megan Azzano of Crestview communicated her support of Methow Arts and how their presence in Okanogan could benefit the community.

Jessica Richardson of Crafted expressed her support of Methow Arts coming to Okanogan and the enrichment it would bring to the community.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Director of Public Works Davisson submitted a written report and had nothing further to add.

Fire Chief Armstrong submitted a written report and was excused from the meeting.

Code Enforcement/Assistant Permit Administrator Craig Caswell submitted a written report, reviewed the information in his report, and answered questions.

Building Official Bryan Forbus did not submit a written report and was excused from the meeting.

Clerk's Office submitted a written report and had nothing additional to share.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CQC Scholarship Committee

Varner announced the Scholarship Committee met and reviewed the 8 applications received and recommended Finlay Weston as the City of Okanogan's top applicant. Varner continued by saying Mr. Weston has been accepted by Gonzaga University and plans to pursue an Aerospace Engineering, specifically aeronautics degree.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business on the Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Methow Arts Alliance Presentation – Sarah Jo Lightner, Executive Director

Mayor Pro tem Bauer introduced Sarah Jo Lightner, Executive Director.

Ms. Lightner provided an overview of Methow Arts Alliance mission who have been enriching the community through the arts for 38 years. She continued by stating their expertise spans communications, operations, education, and event coordination to promote and integrate the arts in Okanogan County. In addition, they strive to oversee arts education programs to curate public art and manage performances and events.

Ms. Lightner expressed the Alliance's desire to expand their presence in the Okanogan/Omak area of the County through a satellite office in addition to the main office in Twisp.

Firefly Master Service Agreement

Clerk-Treasurer Blake introduced Firefly Master Service Agreement.

Gillespie moved, seconded by Lind, Sr. approve the Master Service Agreement with Firefly and authorize Mayor Turner sign the Firefly Master Service Agreement.

There was a brief discussion.

Vote on the motion.

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

Noes: None

Motion carried: 7 Ayes: 0 Noes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Pro tem Bauer opened the floor and invited Public Comment

Phoebe Swiss of Epley Road stated Methow Arts would benefit our children and the community.

COUNCILMEMBER'S COMMENT

Varner announced Wednesday, February 4th, 2026 will be the Okanogan Chamber Winter Warmer Awards Banquet and Auction at the Okanogan Grange Hall and will be catered by The Red Light Bar & Grill, Social Hour at 5:30 pm. In addition, she announced award recipients will be Greg Hamilton Citizen of the Year and Body Kneads Healing Center Business of the Year 2025.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Turner announced he is attending AWC City Action Days this week.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the Meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Minutes taken and prepared by Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Susan Stewart

APPROVED:

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Lisa Bauer, Mayor Pro tem

ATTEST:

_____
Jessica Blake, Clerk Treasurer