

Waitsburg City Council Meeting – November 17, 2021

Mayor Dunn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

City Clerk Randy Hinchliffe called the roll. The following were present:

Mayor: Marty Dunn

Council Members: Kevin House, Karen Gregutt, Jim Romine, Karl Newell and Jillian Henze

Others: on file at City Hall

Agenda Approval

With no changes, agenda was approved and passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – October 20, 2021 Regular Meeting

With no corrections, minutes were approved and passed unanimously

Public Comment

Joy Smith thanked the outgoing Council members for dedication to the City.

New Business

a. Public Hearing – Property Taxes

City staff presented the proposed tax levy and levy amount for the 2022 fiscal period. After a short question and answer period with the City Council, Mayor Dunn opened the hearing to the public and with no public comment submitted, Mayor Dunn closed the hearing at 7:07pm.

b. Resolution 2021-7738

Resolution setting the City's property tax levy for 2021 property taxes collected in 2022. With no more discussion, Council Member Newell moved to approve with Council Member Gregutt seconding. Motion to approve the levy amounts were approved and passed unanimously.

c. Public Hearing – 2022 City Budget

City Staff presented the 2022 City Budget as a part of the first of two public hearings on the matter. City Staff took questions from the Council before Mayor Dunn opened the public hearing to the public, with no comments submitted, Mayor Dunn closed the hearing at 7:15pm.

d. Weller Public Library

Marie Gagnon representing the Library Board of Trustees updated the City Council the recent work done to the rear area of the library.

e. Resolution 2021-739

Resolution surplusizing the former City Hall building at 147 Main Street. Citing concerns over how to decide what criteria to use when considering the best use of the structure by potential bidder, City Council decided to table the resolution until they had a chance to review the City's policy governing the surplus and sale of City owned property.

f. Application for Payment #2

Application for payment related to the bulk of construction work on the Millrace Grade improvement project. Staff took questions regarding the status of the project and overall opinion of how the project went. With no more questions, Council member Romine moved to approve the pay application with Council member Newell seconding. Motion to approve payment was approved and passed unanimously.

g. Resolution 2021-740

Resolution reauthorizing the City's Transportation Benefit District and requesting the Walla Walla County Commissioners place the item on the February 8th Special Election. City Staff

briefed the Council members on the City's TBD and what it has been used for over the preceding 10 years. With no more discussion, Council member Romine moved to approve with Council member Gregutt seconding. Motion to approve the Resolution was approved and passed unanimously.

h. Ordinance 2021-1074

Ordinance amending the 2021 City Budget to account for various increase is funding mainly related to pandemic relief. City Staff presented the amendment and took questions from the Council. With no more discussion, Council member Henze moved to approve with Council member Romine seconding. Motion to approve was approved and passed unanimously.

i. Flood Response Plan Review

City Council reviewed the City's flood response plan in preparation for the 2022 Flood season.

Unfinished Business

a. Vacant lot surplus bid award

Bid award for the vacant lot at 124 Main Street owned by the City. Council members discussed the bids and whether they had to take the highest bid or if they could consider other factors in their decision. With advice from the City Attorney regarding the City's Real Estate Surplus policy and it applies to the current issue, City Council member House moved to reject all bids and resurplus the lot after the Council had a chance to review and update its policy related to the same issue. Council member Romine seconded and the motion reject was approve and passed unanimously.

b. Touchet River Levee Rehab Project

After a short update from City Staff regarding the project and lack of full property owner support and potential liability issues, City Council decided to table the agenda item until further information could be obtained.

Mayor's Report

No report.

Council Reports

Council Members Gregutt reported on activities involving the Planning Commission
Council Member Romine asked about replacing the American Flag at the Hardware and street sweeping

Council Member Henze reported on committee work; thanking former Council member Hockersmith for her leadership on the Community Protection committee.

Council member House thanked the City crew for getting the street cut on Garden Street paved

City Clerk Report

City Clerk Randy Hinchliffe reported on a variety of day to day operational items; specifically an update regarding the City's budget for the second and third quarters of the 2021.

Approval of Bills

With no questions related to the City's obligations, Council Member Romine moved to approve with Council House seconding. Motion to approve the bills was approved and passed unanimously.

October Payroll Clearing (Warrants 24156 – 24162)	\$18,454.06
-Includes direct deposit run on 10/28/2021 for \$9,364.45	
November Payroll Clearing (Warrants 24163 - 24169)	\$16,367.01

-Includes direct deposit run on 11/10/2021 for \$8,548.18
Claims Clearing Vouchers (Warrants 24170 – 24199)
-Includes project payments

\$382,919.02

Total \$417,740.09

Adjournment of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was then adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Approved: 12/15/2021 Attest:

Mayor

City Clerk