

**OPENING OF COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Yaeger opened the remote and in person council meeting at 7:00pm. The council members present were Eric Ottmar, Dennis Chamberlain, Jen Verhey, Jessica Quinn, Brooke Scheel, Ky Beck-Gmeiner, and Mike Schrag. Staff members in attendance were Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt, Deputy Clerk Treasurer II Michelle Asmussen (remote), Public Works Director Dave Breazeale, Chief of Police Mike Suniga (remote), and Community Development Director Tom Reese. City Fire Chief Joel Bell and City Attorney John Kragt were excused. Also present were Linda Schrag, Brian Bothun, Rick from the Cheney Free Press, Rod Larse, Corey Bartlett, and Hannah Kerr.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Yaeger asked if there were any corrections or additions to the consent agenda. Council Member Mike Schrag made a motion to accept the consent agenda for April 7th, 2026, with payables in the amount of \$82,160.61 and Payroll in the amount of \$135,196.47. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**PUBLIC REQUESTS AND COMMENTS**

Mayor Yaeger asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to comment. Rod Larse spoke regarding Ritzville being a sanctuary city and encouraged the council not to discard state funding related to the Keep Washington Working Act.

**PROCLAMATION**

**A. Arbor Day – April 24<sup>th</sup>:** Mayor Yaeger read a proclamation declaring April 24<sup>th</sup> as Arbor Day in Ritzville, recognizing the importance of trees and encouraging community participation in tree planting and care.

**ACTION AGENDA**

**A. Pop-Up Market Street Closure Request – Chamber of Commerce:** The council reviewed a request for a street closure for a Pop-Up Market scheduled for Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00am to 4:00pm, closing Main Avenue between Division and Adams. Council Member Jessica Quinn made a motion to approve the street closure request. Council Member Brooke Scheel seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**B. Bronco Day/Machines on Main Street Closure Request – Ritzville United:** The council reviewed a request for Bronco Day scheduled for Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> from 7:00am to 4:00pm, closing Main Street from Adams to Division and Washington Street from Main to Railroad. Council Member Brooke Scheel made a motion to approve the street closure request. Council Member Jennifer Verhey seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**C. 4th of July Community Event – Ritzville United:** The council reviewed a revised 4th of July community event to be held July 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12:00pm to 8:00pm at the park, with a parade at 9:00pm and fireworks at 10:00pm. The event will include vendors, music, free food, games, and a Salute to Heroes 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary All-American Hometown Parade honoring veterans and first responders. The council discussed safety measures, including placement of fire trucks, and insurance requirements. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to approve the event and associated \$25,000 in 110 funding. Council Member Brooke Scheel seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**D. Community Heart & Soul Project Coordinator Services Agreement:** The council reviewed the professional services agreement for the Community Heart and Soul Project Coordinator. Concerns were raised regarding procurement policies. The agreement was amended to include language stating that professional services procurement will follow the current city procurement policy. Council Member Eric

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Ottmar made a motion to approve the agreement as amended. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**E. Establishing Fund No. 107 Community Initiatives – Ordinance No. 2207:** The council reviewed Ordinance No. 2207 establishing Fund No. 107 for Community Initiatives to manage grant funds, including those from the Community Heart and Soul program. Council Member Jessica Quinn made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2207. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**F. Golf Greens Mower Special Market Purchase – Resolution No. 2026-02:** The council reviewed a request for a special market purchase exemption for a used greens mower. Council Member Brooke Scheel made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-02. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

### DISCUSSION AGENDA

#### A. 6th Police Officer

Council Member Mike Schrag made a motion to rescind the previous council meeting's motion to postpone discussion regarding a sixth police officer to tonight's meeting. By rescinding the motion, it will allow more consideration during the May council workshop. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

### CORRESPONDENCE

No items.

**MAYOR UPDATES-** Mayor Yaeger stated he is working four ten-hour days at his job so he will be coming into City Hall on Fridays.

### COUNCIL COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- License, Rules, and Permits – No report.
- Finance and Employee Benefits – No report, everything was already discussed on the agenda.
- Health and Wellness – No report. Committee meeting scheduled Friday at 3:00pm.
- Public Safety – No report.
- Public Works – No report.
- Parks and Recreation – Committee meeting scheduled Thursday.
- Personnel Committee – Mayor Yaeger reported that a personnel handbooks survey is expected from Associated Industries.

### DEPARTMENT UPDATES

**A. City Attorney** – No report (excused).

**B. Public Works** – Director Dave Breazeale reported on ongoing projects, including plans to help DataPro with the fiber cage in City Hall for new server equipment, upcoming yard dumpsters, and appliance pickup day scheduled for April 24th, as well as continued work gathering information on city properties.

**C. Police Department** – Police Chief Mike Suniga reported on department operations and noted coordination with the Civil Service Commission regarding candidate validation for the Sergeant position.

**D. Fire** – Chief Joel Bell excused.

**E. Clerk-Treasurer** – Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt reported on administrative items, including upcoming 2024 audit exit interview scheduling with council members.

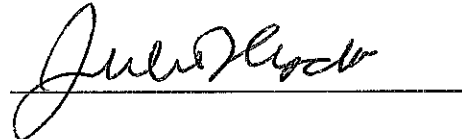
**F. Community Development** – Community Development Director Tom Reese reported on progress related to the Community Heart and Soul program, coordination with EWU for comprehensive plan support, updates to the urban forestry grant RFQ, and plans to present the comprehensive plan periodic update and public participation plan at a future meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further comments or business to come before the council, Mayor Yaeger adjourned the remote and in person meeting at 8:05pm.



Michelle Asmussen, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer



Julie Flyckt, Clerk-Treasurer