

OPENING OF COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Kadlec opened the remote and in person council meeting at 7:00pm. Council members present were Michelle Plumb, Marsha Smith, Mike Schrag, Dennis Chamberlain, Dede Boyer, Scott Yaeger, and Debbie Chapman. Staff members in attendance were Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt, Deputy Clerk Treasurer II Michelle Asmussen, City Police Chief Dave McCormick, City Attorney John Kragt, and Public Works Director Dave Breazeale. City Fire Chief Joel Bell was excused. Also present were Barry Boyer, Jessica Quinn, Linda Schrag, Jennifer Verhey, Kellen Hays, and Dale Brown from the Cheney Free Press.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Kadlec asked if there were any corrections or additions to the consent agenda. Council Member Mike Schrag made a motion to approve the agenda for September 19th, 2023. Council Member Dede Boyer seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND COMMENTS- Mayor Kadlec read a letter that was received from Errol Kramer in regard to the proposed roundabouts that are to be placed up by Love's on the off ramps of I-90. He feels these take up a lot of space, are quite expensive, somewhat inconvenient and tie up traffic. Would it not be better to add another turn off lane (east side of Hwy 261) or a 25mph speed zone from Love's north to Smitty's Blvd. He wondered who had the final jurisdiction the city, county state or federal. He asked if traffic signs or lights would be a better and/or cheaper option rather than the proposed roundabouts. Mayor Kadlec moved onto other comments. Barry Boyer from 308 E. Alder stated he would like to comment on the landscaping that leads out of town to the east. He said it has been improving over the years and it is absolutely gorgeous. Whomever the people are that are responsible for it deserves a gold star. Kellen Hays from 305 E. 3rd stated he had a letter from the Chamber. The Chamber is going to try to expand the trick or treat program in October. They are looking at doing a trunk or treat. They would like to close down a section of downtown on Main from Division to Adams on the 31st from 1:00-5:00pm. They felt it was in the best effort and safety for the children than having them go to business, hop out of a car, run into a business, and run back out. They will open it up for businesses to come downtown and set up a trunk or treat in an enclosed area where kids could run around and have fun in a safe place. The Chamber is asking for permission and help from the city to facilitate the need to shut down a piece of Main Ave on the 31st from 1-5. Businesses who cannot participate in the downtown, can still have the signs to place in the windows and provide trick or treat from their business location. Council Member Dede Boyer made a motion to allow the Chamber to close Main Ave from Division to Adams Street on October 31st from 1:00-5:00pm for the Trunk or Treat. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

ACTION AGENDA

- A. Show Cause Hearings:** Mayor Kadlec opened the Ritzville Show Cause Hearing at 7:11pm. The purpose of the hearing was for the City Council to hear and consider the pertinent facts relating to show cause why a resolution should not be adopted, ordering the nuisance be abated by the city or its designee with the costs of said abatement being charged against the said landowner.

- **104 W. Birch-** Property owner's name is James Payseno. Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated on August 3rd the first round of photos were taken and the conditions that constitute the nuisance were the overgrown plants and possible noxious weeds which are a fire hazard. A letter was mailed to the property owner on August 8th to clean up the property, with a show cause date of today. The condition as of August 15th is no change to the property. It is the city's current understanding that the property owner is deceased, and the property has gone back to the bank. City Attorney John Kragt stated the bank has a requirement to update the ownership of the property with the county. If you contact the county and confirm who it is, that is legal notice. There were no comments provided by the property owners. Mayor Kadlec stated the Council can choose to either (1) authorize the city clerk to proceed with the administrative abatement procedures to abate the public nuisance violation, which shall include the passing of a resolution or (2) the city council shall direct the city clerk to not proceed if they find that there is no public nuisance violation, or the city has not proceeded according to the nuisance chapter. Council Member Michelle Plumb made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2023-15 declaring 104 W. Birch Ave a nuisance violation. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
- **501 W. 3rd Ave-**Property owners' names are Chris Curtis and Jenny Reinhardt. Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated on July 6th the first photos were taken. There was a nuisance of a cluttered yard/littered dwelling, debris/material accumulation, abandoned vehicles, abandoned material, overgrown grass, and possible noxious weeds, all making it a fire hazard. A letter was mailed to the property owner on July 6th to clean up the property, with a show cause date of today listed. Recent photos taken on September 15th show more accumulation of debris/material in the front of the house. Chief McCormick stated he has taken pictures of this property for years and turned it over to city hall. Letters have been sent for years and nothing has ever been done. He has not taken pictures or requested the City Clerk to send letters on this recently because of the new procedure the city uses. Flyckt stated the city is getting close to having an agreement ready to come in front of the council to have a contractor clean up the nuisance properties or have the public works crew do it. The Clerk Department is also working on procedures with the land use attorney to notify the property owner before the city or its contractor goes onto the property for abatement clean up. There were no comments from property owners. Council Member Dede Boyer made a motion to proceed with the abatement and pass Resolution No 2023-16. Council Member Michelle Plumb seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. The Show cause hearings were closed by Mayor Kadlec at 7:23pm.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

- A. 2024 Draft Budget-** Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated the draft budget is the first of many versions the council will see between now and December. The purpose of this draft budget is to start showing the council budget numbers to prepare for the budget workshop, which is scheduled for Friday, October 6th from 9am-1pm in the wheat grower's community room. Flyckt will provide a memo at each meeting letting the council know what has changed. Mayor Kadlec and Flyckt have met with department heads to review each department's budget requests and the draft budget reflects those requests. There is a request to have 5% COLA for the Clerk and Public Works Departments. There is a \$500 per step increase for the Police Department. The Police PT Records Clerk role is currently being reviewed as there are more requirements in the position moving forward. Insurance Rates are estimated to increase 12%. Flyckt is working on updating the Capital Improvement Plan. For the 500 ER&R fund, there is a request from department heads to increase the replacement value because inflation has gone up. After meeting with the city's finance consultant Tara Dunford, Flyckt now has direction on the best way to update that plan to reflect the increased inflation. Once the plan is updated, ER&R service charges will be updated in the budget.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Gritman Senior Center and Adams County Development Council 2024 budget requests were provided in the city council packets.

MAYOR UPDATES: There were no mayor updates.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- A. City Attorney-** John Kragt stated he is working on a couple small things with Flyckt as she got a little push back from some people on the letter that went out in the utility bills this month regarding the indebtedness fee. There are some concerns and confusion from citizens that the city cannot send them a bill for something the city has not sent them a bill for in the past. As Kragt has explained multiple times, the city can charge the fee now as it is an approved ordinance to do so.
- B. Public Works-**Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated the water distribution project continues and he has received a lot of calls from citizens about their water being cloudy and oily. The city has a well system that is lubricated by vegetable oil and that's how the bearings are lubricated. It's food grade vegetable oil that is in the water and the crew generally blows the water off really well to where it is not in the water as bad but for the lines that have been sitting for a while, the oil gets cold and hard the solidifies. When the hydrants are turned on and blown off, the flow of water breaks the oil in the pipes free then it goes to everyone's house. The new well will not have that system as it will have a water injection system and no need for the vegetable oil. The city is going to try and convert well #9 to water injection as well. It is not hazardous to people's health, but it just looks bad. POW is almost done with the flats for replacing valves for the water distribution project and will move to the hill next week. They will probably start digging holes on Thursday as they don't work on Friday. The courthouse was off today for the majority of the day and a ghost line was discovered that will need to be vacated. The crew continues to work on the Division & Weber entrance project. Grass seed was spread today and hopefully the grass will start to come up in a week or two. Breazeale

talked to Quality Paving about the EV charging station paving project. They told him they are getting closer to getting the project done, but they told me that two months ago. Breazeale provided an update on searching for a service truck and how the cost for the truck has increased. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain asked if the council wanted to give Dave a little more money to purchase a new service truck as currently there is \$50,000 budgeted. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to allow Dave Breazeale to purchase a new service truck from auction up to \$75,000 from the ER&R fund. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

C. Police Department-Chief Dave McCormick stated they received a request from the Sheriff's office to assist the State Patrol and the Sherriff's Office with firearms call in Washtucna. There was a subject that was wanted in Yakima for a stabbing, and he ended up in Washtucna. He fired a gun at somebody supposedly in a silver car. He then tried to car jack two trucks according to someone from the DOT. He actually went in the yard, held them at gunpoint and stole a DOT truck that was half full of hot oil. The Ritzville police department received a request to block traffic South bound on 261 and to not let anyone go South. The truck went around two or three different sets of spike strips on its way north. The request came out for Officer Dew who was just south of Ritzville to attempt to spike the truck. He set up at Heinemann Rd, where there was a large embankment to get behind. The state patrol dispatcher punched out that the suspect driving the truck had a gun out the window and everybody needed to take cover. As soon as the truck got close Rob, he was able to pull the spikes, and he believes he got both front tires. Ritzville police were not actively involved in the pursuit. The truck ended up going east on I-90, both front tires had blown out and it was down to the rims throwing a bunch of sparks. It was about milepost 225 the vehicle came to a stop in the middle of eastbound I-90 and erupted into flames. The suspect was eventually taken into custody. The suspect had been stabbed in the shoulder and Chief McCormick could see blood on his shirt. Also, the State Patrol requested the school be locked down as the suspect got closer to town. Chief McCormick called the schools and put them in lockdown. When that occurs everyone that has a kid there gets a text message or a phone call so there were a lot of people very concerned. The kids were never in any danger. They just didn't know where he was going to go, so it was a precaution. Now, the department has a set of spike strips that are completely destroyed.

D. Clerk/Treasurer- Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated the city's 2022 financial audit started yesterday. This audit is for financial, accountability and federal. The Marshall/Schumann alley vacation application went to the planning commission for review. John Marshall is wanting to get the alley vacated as he is working with a surveyor to dedicate the flag area and the street that runs in front of his business to the city. There is a public hearing set for the alley vacation at the next council meeting on October 3rd. Flyckt is also working on two lot line adjustments and a manufactured home permit. There was a letter that went out in utility billing to let customers know about the indebtedness fee. We have been getting phone calls but mainly from current customers asking if they are going to be charged more money.

ADJOURNMENT-With no further comments or business to come before the council, Mayor Kadlec adjourned the remote and in person meeting at 8:01pm.



Michelle Asmussen, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer II