

OPENING OF COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Yaeger opened the remote/in person council meeting at 7:00 p.m. The council members present were Eric Ottmar, Jessica Quinn, Brooke Scheel, Jen Verhey, Dennis Chamberlain, 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, City Attorney John Kragt, and Community Development Director Tom Reese (remote). City Fire Chief Joel Bell was excused. Also present were Brian Bothun, Rick Haverinen from the Cheney Free Press, Michelle Plumb, and Rod Larse.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Yaeger asked if there were any corrections or additions to the consent agenda. Council Member Mike Schrag moved to accept the consent agenda for September 15, 2026, with payables in the amount of \$256,418.36. 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 at 209 E. Olive provided comments regarding the proposed chicken permit regulations. Larse stated that he supported the permit requirement but recommended clarifying the definition of a rooster, noting that male chickens are generally considered roosters at approximately one year of age. He also discussed the administrative process for reviewing and enforcing the permit requirements. Michelle Plumb at 308 E. 2nd Ave expressed support for the permit option but questioned the removal of a neighbor's approval requirement for keeping chickens. Discussion included whether concerns regarding neighboring properties could be addressed through the permit review process. She also recommended further consideration of how permits are tracked.

ACTION AGENDA

- A. Adding Section 1.58.60 to Authorize an Additional One Tenth of One Percent Sales and Use Tax for Criminal Justice Purposes-Ordinance 2209-Set Public Hearing** - The council discussed the proposed Ordinance 2209, which would add Section 1.58.60 and authorize an additional one-tenth of one percent sales and use tax for criminal justice purposes. There was discussion regarding the additional compliance requirements identified in the Sales and Use Tax Board Verification document. The requirements appeared to go beyond the language contained in the original ordinance, and the council discussed the need for further legal review. The council discussed the documents associated with the proposed sales and use tax and the need for City Attorney John Kragt to review the documents and provide guidance before proceeding with the public hearing process. Council Member Brooke Scheel stated she just wanted to make sure the council fully understands what the council is agreeing to in the Ordinance. Council Member Mike Schrag made a motion to postpone the public hearing date until the council sets a hearing date for the public. Council Member Brooke Scheel seconded the motion. Council Member Eric Ottmar asked to set a specific date to revisit setting the public meeting. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain moved to amend the motion for council to revisit setting a public hearing at the next council meeting on October 6th. Council Member Eric Ottmar seconded the amendment. Council Member Brooke Scheel opposed. The motion as amended passed 6-1. The original motion to postpone setting the public hearing date, moved by Council Member Mike Schrag and seconded by Council Member Brooke Scheel passed 7-0.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

- A. Keeping Animals Chapter 5.12 Amendment, Draft Ordinance 2210** - The council continued discussion regarding amendments to the City's Keeping Animals ordinance related to the keeping of chickens. The council discussed the proposed chicken permit process, including whether a

separate administrative permit should be established so that residents could apply for a chicken permit through City Hall rather than appearing before the City Council. The proposed process would include a one-time administrative permit fee per address. The council discussed the proposed 10-foot setback requirement between chicken coops and adjacent dwellings. Discussion included whether the measurement should be taken from property lines or from neighboring dwellings. It was clarified that a deck attached to a house would be considered part of the dwelling for purposes of the setback requirement. The council discussed adding definitions for "rooster" and "cockerel" to provide greater clarity in the ordinance. The council also discussed the distinction between permanent structures and structures regulated under the proposed animal-keeping ordinance. Permanent structures would continue to be subject to applicable building permit requirements. The council discussed changing the language in the ordinance from "size restrictions" to "structure restrictions." The council discussed whether ducks and other bird species should be included in the ordinance. Members discussed additional requirements that could apply to ducks, including water access and other considerations. No final decision was made regarding the addition of other bird species. The council also discussed enforcement procedures, including the need to educate residents regarding existing requirements and potentially provide a grace period for compliance before enforcement action is taken. Discussion included the appropriate roles of the council, mayor, and City staff in enforcement matters. The council discussed the need to reinstate violation penalties for domestic fowl at large, which had been removed from the proposed ordinance. Public health considerations were also discussed, including rodent-proof feed containers and appropriate waste disposal. Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt and Community Development Director Tom Reese will work together on the proposed chicken permit application and related forms. Reese will provide examples of chicken permit applications used in Spokane to assist with development of the City's application. The revised documents will be brought back to the appropriate committee for review.

CORRESPONDENCE – No correspondence.

REPORTS

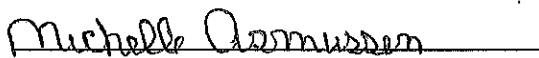
- A. **Mayor Updates** – The Mayor is working on the golf course roof bid process with Public Works Director Dave Breazeale.
- B. **Council Committees Updates:**
 - **License, Rules, and Permits** - Committee-related matters regarding the Keeping Animals ordinance and chicken permit process were discussed on the agenda.
 - **Finance and Employee Benefits** – Reviewed the draft budget in preparation for its presentation to the council at the next meeting.
 - **Health and Wellness** - There were 29 trips to the dumpsters during the beautification effort.
 - **Public Safety** – Discussion included county jail overcrowding and alternative inmate housing options.
 - **Public Works** – Updates were provided regarding the SS4A Plan and ongoing public works projects.
 - **Parks and Recreation** – No report.
 - **Personnel Committee** – Mayor Yaeger and Clerk-Treasurer Flyckt are working to address questions concerning the Personnel Handbook.
- C. **City Attorney** – John Kragt discussed the need for legal review of the documents associated with Ordinance 2209, including the Sales and Use Tax Board Verification document and additional compliance requirements identified during the review. Kragt will review the documents and provide legal guidance to the council prior to further consideration of the ordinance and

scheduling of the public hearing. Kragt will also work with Flyckt on the proposed amendments to the Keeping Animals Ordinance.

- D. **Public Works** – Director Dave Breazeale provided updates on ongoing public works projects and City infrastructure matters. The airport crack sealing project will begin next week. There is a preconstruction meeting scheduled for the snaky sewer project. Department of Health will be onsite October 5th as part of the sanitary water survey. Annual backflow testing process was conducted last week. There is a light pole damaged on the corner of Main and Palouse and it has been reported. There was a water break on 10th and Washington, which is now patched. The council discussed the need to obtain quotes for the golf course roof replacement, with staff planning to request quotes from at least three contractors and requesting that quotes be submitted by the end of September. The council also discussed the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Plan and the need for additional committee discussion regarding the plan.
- E. **Police** – Police Chief Mike Suniga reported the National Night Out was a huge success, with 240 slices of pizza served, 84 bowling games played, 60 buckets of popcorn provided, and 16 veterans connected to services. He thanked the Columbia Bank and Big Bend Electric for their donations. Chief Suniga stated he received notification about jail overcrowding, and they are only taking mandatory arrests and may need to consider other jail housing options. An employment offer has been signed for a Reserve Officer.
- F. **Fire** – Chief Joel Bell was excused.
- G. **Clerk-Treasurer** – Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt and Mayor Yaeger attended the entrance conference with the state auditors for the fiscal year 2025 audit. Flyckt provided an update on scheduling demo meetings with communication platforms and working with the committee members' schedules.
- H. **Community Development** – Director Tom Reese provided updates on work with site selectors and requests for lot line adjustments. The Planning Commission will discuss a work plan for 2027 projects. He is also working on the forestry project contract.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further comments or business to come before the council, Mayor Yaeger adjourned the remote and in-person meeting at 8:25 p.m.



Michelle Asmussen, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer



Julie Flyckt, Clerk-Treasurer