

OPENING OF COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Yaeger opened the remote/in-person council meeting at 7:00pm. The council members present were Eric Ottmar, Jen Verhey, Jessica Quinn, Brooke Scheel, Ky Beck-Gmeiner, Dennis Chamberlain, 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. City Fire Chief Joel Bell was excused. Also present were Linda Schrag, Brian Bothun, Rick from the Cheney Free Press, Nicole Ziebell, 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 May 19th, 2026, with payables in the amount of \$93,313.14. 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. With no comments, he moved on.

ACTION AGENDA

- A. Eagles Beer Garden Request-May 22nd-23rd** - Council discussed the Eagles Beer Garden request, including the requested street closure of Washington Street to accommodate event setup and teardown. Washington Street will be closed at 1:00pm on Friday the 22nd until Sunday morning the 24th. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to approve the request as presented. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
- B. Pastime Beer Garden Request-May 22nd-23rd** - Council reviewed the Pastime Beer Garden request and related street closure request of Washington Street between Railroad Avenue and Main Avenue from 1:00 p.m. on May 22, 2026, through Sunday May 24th at 4:00pm to accommodate event setup, operations, and teardown activities. Council Member Eric Ottmar made a motion to approve the closure of Washington Street between Main and Railroad Ave between 1:00pm Friday May 22nd through 4:00pm Sunday May 24th. Council Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

- A. 2nd Quarter Council Workshop Agenda-May 29th, 1pm-3pm** - Council reviewed the draft agenda for the upcoming 2nd Quarter Council Workshop. Topics discussed for inclusion included the procurement policy update, public safety staffing, and potential downtown housing projects. Finance Committee Chair Mike Schrag reported the committee recommended treating the procurement policy as a living document and anticipated further discussion and possible action at the next regular council meeting. Council Member Scheel requested putting a time limit on the Public Safety Discussion. Council Member Jen Verhey stated Chief Suniga would like the discussion to focus on adding the 6th officer rather than the House Bill-related issues.
- B. City of Ritzville UTV Ordinance Review** - Council Member Dennis Chamberlain noted that this ordinance would normally go to the License & Rules Committee, but police input was needed before moving forward. He said the draft was intended to be straightforward. Council then reviewed the proposed UTV ordinance prepared to comply with Washington State RCW requirements. Mayor Yaeger asked whether the RCWs required the vehicles to be street legal. Council Member Quinn discussed her concerns about traffic concerns she feels aren't currently being met and the police officers having to deal with extra traffic concerns. Discussion covered licensing, insurance, and traffic enforcement provisions for wheeled all-terrain vehicles. Council also discussed placing the ordinance in Chapter 8.12, Traffic Regulations, and noted the golf cart

regulations and parking concerns would be addressed separately at a future meeting. City Attorney John Kragt agreed to review the draft, confirm its code placement, and prepare revisions for possible action at the next council meeting.

- C. **Existing 2000 Procurement Policy and Draft 2026 Procurement Policy** - Mayor Yaeger stated he focused a lot on updating the purchasing sections. Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt was directed to prepare and distribute a finalized draft copy with accepted revisions prior to the upcoming workshop for council review.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. **Pillars in the Park Program Guide**-Council acknowledged receipt of the Pillars in the Park Program Guide and correspondence related to community beautification and memorial projects.

REPORTS

- A. **Mayor Updates** - Mayor Yaeger stated he has been working on the procurement policy, and the downtown flowers were set out over the weekend.
- B. **Council Committee Updates**
- **License, Rules, and Permits** – No report.
 - **Finance and Employee Benefits** – Everything was already discussed on the agenda.
 - **Health and Wellness** – Council Member Jessica Quinn reported on the recent City Beautification Day and Cleanup Day events. Participation was strongest during Wednesday and Saturday dump days, with approximately 17 and 23 participants respectively. Appreciation was expressed to volunteers and community participants. A financial summary will be provided at a future meeting.
 - **Public Safety** – The Public Safety Committee discussed continued recruitment efforts for a fifth police officer position. Chief Suniga reported the national recruitment posting had received significant online views but limited applicant response. Discussion included possible recruitment incentives such as a \$5,000–\$10,000 signing bonus; and expanding the take-home vehicle radius to 80 miles. Council agreed to continue evaluating options and revisit the matter following the late June committee meeting.
 - **Public Works** – The committee will meet on May 26th at 4:00pm.
 - **Parks and Recreation** – There is a meeting this Thursday at 5:05pm.
 - **Personnel Committee** – No Report.
- C. **City Attorney** – John Kragt reported he continues reviewing the draft UTV ordinance and researching enforcement options related to nuisance and junk vehicle regulations. He stated he would review code placement for the proposed ordinance revisions and prepare updates for possible action at a future council meeting.
- D. **Public Works** – Director Dave Breazeale reported the Public Works Committee will meet on June 26th at 4:00 PM to review updated TIF data and finalize closeout items related to the SS4A grant. The crew are also getting everything ready for Memorial Day weekend, mowing the cemetery, finishing the painting of the lines downtown, and sweeping. Crew Member Kevin is putting up street signs and that project is about 40% completed. Breazeale met with city residents today regarding the sewer lines and hook-up plans, including the location of their services. He spent about two hours this morning loading up the grader as it sold for \$5,800 at auction. Breazeale also received a letter of resignation from one of the public works crew members as he is going to pursue a different career.
- E. **Police** – Police Chief Mike Suniga stated they have been dealing with a lot of felonies. One case consumed about 18 hours of investigation including calling out additional officers. The recruitment efforts for the department’s vacant officer position continue to be a priority. He stated the national recruitment posting has generated online interest but limited applicant response. Chief Suniga also discussed possible recruitment incentives, including a signing bonus

and expanded take-home vehicle eligibility, which will continue to be evaluated by the Public Safety Committee.

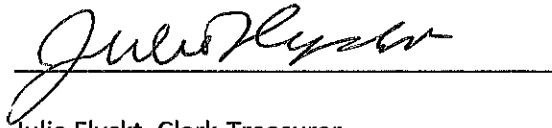
- F. **Fire** – Chief Joel Bell was excused.
- G. **Clerk-Treasurer** – Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt reported she has been working on putting together documents for the workshop. The annual financial report is also due next week. Deputy Clerk Treasurer I Renee is working on water reports with the Public Works crew for the water efficiency report. Deputy Clerk Treasurer II Michelle has been working on the cemetery map data ensuring it is accurate. She is also working on the requested IRS documentation and W-9 verification requirements for the grant a committee is working on.
- H. **Community Development** – Community Development Director Tom Reese reported working on the community forestry efforts and coordination of the Community Forestry RFQ process. The RFQ will be published tomorrow. Additional updates were provided regarding downtown development and related planning activities.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further comments or business to come before the council, Mayor Yaeger adjourned the remote and in person meeting at 8:09pm.



Michelle Asmussen, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer



Julie Flyckt, Clerk-Treasurer