

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 (remote), Brooke Scheel, 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, Community Development Director Tom Reese, and Chief of Police Mike Suniga. City Fire Chief Joel Bell, City Attorney John Kragt, and Council Member Ky Beck-Gmeiner were excused. Also present were Linda Schrag, Brian Bothun, Rick from the Cheney Free Press, 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 June 16th, 2026, with payables in the amount of \$99,029.05. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

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. **Hometown Heroes Parade Street Closure Request-Ritzville United-** Mayor Yaeger explained there was a request to close Main St. from Jefferson to Columbia (Adams/Division) and Broadway from Division to Adams Street on July 3rd from 8pm until 10pm. The concern was there would not be enough lights for a night parade downtown. Council Member Brooke Scheel stated she felt the lights should be something they could purchase themselves with the budget they have. Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated he had some lights, he just didn't know how many. Council Member Brooke Scheel moved to approve the July 3 street closure from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Main St. between Jefferson and Columbia, with Adams and Division remaining open until shortly before the parade, followed by closure of Broadway from Division to Adams Street for parade check in. Council Member Jen Verhey seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
- B. **Planning Commission Appointment, RCC 1.44.020-John Rankin and Andy Powell-** Mayor Yaeger stated there are currently two vacancies on the Planning Commission board. He has received two letters, one from John Rankin requesting to be reinstated and one from Andy Powell who is an experienced council member and commission member from Eatonville, WA. The City Council discussed appointments with the Planning Commission. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to reinstate John Rankin and appoint Andy Powell to the Planning Commission. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion. Council Member Brooke Scheel raised her concerns regarding the value of adding new members to provide fresh perspectives and support ongoing downtown development and community growth initiatives in regard to reinstating Mr. Rankin and if that was in the best interest of our community at this time. Council Member Scheel also emphasized the importance of maintaining open and ongoing communication with the Planning Commission to ensure consistency with City codes, policies, and established processes. There was an amendment made to the original motion by Council Member Jessica Quinn moved to amend the motion by considering the two appointments separately. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the amendment. Motion passed 6-0. Council Member Brooke Scheel made a motion to appoint Andy Powell to the Planning Commission. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to reappoint John Rankin to the Planning Commission. Council Member Eric Ottmar seconded the motion. Mayor Yaeger called for a vote by roll call. Council Members Eric Ottmar and Dennis Chamberlain approved. Council Members Brooke Scheel, Mike

Schrag, and Jessica Quinn opposed. Council Member Jen Verhey abstained. Motion failed 2-3 and 1 abstention.

- C. **U.S. Treasury Bond Reinvestment Options**-The Council discussed the Treasury bond reinvestment options. Following consideration of investment terms and the balance between conservative financial management and maximizing interest earnings, Council Member Brooke Scheel made a motion to approve reinvesting \$1,038,000 into a 2-year U.S. Treasury bond and investing an additional \$1,000,000 from the money market account into a 1-year U.S. Treasury bond. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

- A. **Draft City of Ritzville Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP)**-Mayor Yaeger stated he contacted the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) to see what is available for complete streets funding and there will be further discussion with Public Works Director Dave Breazeale and Ardurra. Mayor Yaeger explained several projects will be reorganized under the Complete Streets initiative and recommended scheduling a public hearing for July 21. He also discussed pavement maintenance options and expressed concerns that previous maintenance efforts had not adequately addressed underlying pavement deterioration. Council Member Brooke made a motion to establish a public hearing for the 2027-2032 Six Year Transportation Improvement Program for July 21st, 2026. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
- B. **6th Officer Funding Options-Public Safety Committee and Police Chief**-Police Chief Mike Suniga at the public safety committee meeting there was further discussion on how to make the 6th officer position sustainable in a way that all the council members can agree on. Chief Suniga reported the committee is working on a revised draft ordinance modeled after the City of Renton's approach, explaining that it was designed to comply with state law while avoiding direct references to specific RCW statutes. Discussion followed regarding the proposed ordinance and potential funding options. Mayor Yaeger requested council consensus for the public safety committee and police chief to proceed with drafting an ordinance modeled after the City of Renton for future council consideration. Council consensus was to proceed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. **2024 State Auditor's Financial Audited Report**

REPORTS

- A. **Mayor Updates** – No report.
- 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 stated total clean up days cost was just under \$1,500 with the dumpsters and the transfer station fees. The committee will be discussing a plan for fall clean up with what is left in the budget.
 - **Public Safety** – No report.
 - **Public Works** – Mayor Yaeger stated working on getting some clarification from Ardurra for the Traffic Impact Fee.
 - **Parks and Recreation** – There is a meeting this coming Thursday.
 - **Personnel Committee** – No Report.
- C. **City Attorney** – John Kragt was excused.
- D. **Public Works** – Director Dave Breazeale reported starting the 1st Ave trees project. The trench was dug and conduit installed. The trees should be planted by Thursday. He is receiving applications for the Maintenance Works position. Breazeale finished the consumer confidence

report and submitted it to the Department of Health. The report also went out in the utility bill this month. The crew dug up the plaza irrigation last Thursday and it is bad. The tree roots have grown around the plastic pipes. The tree lights for the plaza are ordered along with the custom brackets.

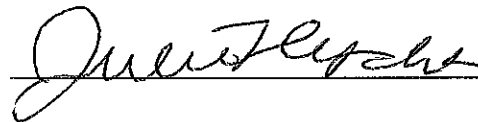
- E. **Police** – Police Chief Mike Suniga reported the beginning of June has been very busy with mandatory trainings that have been out of the area. One officer is going on six weeks of leave. They also had some training on the new ticket writing system that is in Spokane. Chief Suniga also reported the department continues evaluating long-term staffing needs, including consideration of a sixth officer.
- F. **Fire** – Chief Joel Bell was excused.
- G. **Clerk-Treasurer** – Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt reported while she was on vacation the city's financial consultant Tara Dunford reviewed the 2025 financial annual report. Flyckt will be going through her comments this week, finalizing the report and then provide it to the City Council. She is also starting the budgeting process.
- H. **Community Development** – Director Tom Reese reported his primary focus has been on the Community Forestry Grant. He received the SOQs back that were sent out. Reese attended a Federal Grant writing workshop last week in Airway Heights and he is working with SCJ Alliance on periodic update deliverables. Thomas Hammer has announced they will be moving into the old Starbucks building.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further comments or business to come before the council, Mayor Yaeger adjourned the remote and in person meeting at 8:12 p.m.



Michelle Asmussen, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer



Julie Flyckt, Clerk-Treasurer