

City of Selah
City Council Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2023

Call to Order: Mayor Raymond called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Councilmembers Present: Elizabeth Marquis, Michael Costello, Roger Bell, Russell Carlson, Jared Iverson, Kevin Wickenhagen, Clifford Peterson

Staff Present: Joe Henne, City Administrator; Rob Case, City Attorney; Daniel Christman, Police Chief; James Lange, Fire Chief; Rocky Wallace, Public Works Director; Dale Novobielski, City Clerk/Treasurer; Jeff Peters, Community Development Supervisor; Zack Schab, Recreation Director, and Treesa Morales, Executive Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance

Invocation

Pastor Tom Morris from Calvary provided prayer

Getting to know local businesses

Samantha Groth, owner to Broadway Bound spoke, thanking the community for their 23 years of business.

Comments from the public

Mayor Raymond announced to the audience that the rules for public comments are posted on the sign in table. No public comments were made.

Consent Agenda (all items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered part of the consent agenda and are enacted in one motion).

Mayor Raymond presented the stipulations of the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Carlson moved to remove item 13-E from the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Marquis seconded. Councilmember Wickenhagen moved to approve the consent agenda with the change. Councilmember Carlson seconded. Mayor Raymond restated the motion and asked council for discussion. Hearing none, Mayor Raymond requested a voice vote to approve the motion. By voice vote motion carries.

Mrs. Morales read the Consent Agenda:

- A. Treesa Morales Approval of Minutes: November 28, 2023 Council Meeting

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| B. | Dale
Novobielski | Approval of Claims and Payroll:
Payroll Checks No. 85937-85950 for a total of \$373,291.59
Claim Checks No. 180841-180897 for a total of \$193,304.50 |
| 13-A. | Rocky Wallace | Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Fifteen-Page Interagency Agreement with the Department of Commerce to Enable the City to Receive a Middle Housing Grant, and also Authorizing City Staff to Execute a Task Order Amending the City's Contract with Beckwith Consulting Group to be Consistent with the Middle Housing Grant |
| 13-B | Rob Case | Resolution Authorizing the Mayor of Selah to Sign a Six-Page Telecommunications Franchise Agreement with Consolidated Communications of Washington Company, LLC, that Grants a Nonexclusive Franchise for Telecommunications Facilities |
| 13-C | Rocky Wallace | Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Five-Page Washington State Transportation Improvements Board Fuel Tax Grant Agreement 8-4-182(008)-1, Pertaining to the City's East Goodlander Road/Lancaster Road Traffic Signal Project |
| 13-D | Rocky Wallace | Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer to Sign a One-Page Washington State Transportation Improvements Board Project Funding Status Form, Pertaining to the City's East Goodlander Road/Lancaster Road Traffic Signal Project |
| 14-D | Dale
Novobielski | Ordinance Amending the 2023 Budget for Miscellaneous Adjustments |

Public Hearing

11-A. Open-Record Public Hearing to Consider Amending Selah Municipal Code (SMC) Section 10.34.120 Regarding a Downtown Parking Exempt Area, and also Adopting a New SMC Section 10.34.125 Regarding Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.

Introduced by Mayor Raymond and presented by Community Development Supervisor, Jeff Peters. After presentation,

5:39 p.m – Mayor Raymond opened the public hearing

Councilmember Costello asked what the Planning Commission recommendations were on the parking area? Mr. Peters responded that they suggested to look at expanding the parking exempt area to include the entire downtown corridor.

Hearing no further questions, Mayor Raymond closed the public hearing.

5:41 p.m – Open record public hearing closed.

Ordinance 14.A. Ordinance Amending Section 10.34.120 of the Selah Municipal Code, Regarding a Downtown Parking Exempt Area; Adopting a New Section 10.34.125 of the Selah Municipal Code, Regarding Electric Vehicle Charging Stations; Providing for Severability; Authorizing Corrections; Directing Transmittal to the State; and Directing Publication and Establishing an Effective Date.

Introduced by Mayor Raymond and presented by Jeff Peters. After presentation, Councilmember Costello moved to approve the ordinance as presented. Councilmember Peterson seconded.

Mayor Raymond restated the motion and asked for discussion.

Councilmember Carlson asked about free versus charging for use of charging stations. Mr. Peters explained the regulations. Councilmember Carlson asked how the charging stations are regulated, and once installed, does the City reinspect or regulate them? Mr. Peters said to his knowledge, no.

Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Raymond requested roll call. Mrs. Morales called roll: Councilmember Marquis – yes; Councilmember Bell – yes; Councilmember Costello – yes; Councilmember Carlson – yes; Councilmember Iverson – yes; Councilmember Wickenhagen – yes; Councilmember Peterson – yes. Vote passes unanimously. Motion carries.

New Business

12.A.i) Recognition of Outgoing Council Members and Mayor Raymond.

Mayor Raymond presented the Apple awards to Councilmember Carlson and Councilmember Bell. Mayor Raymond thanked them for their service to the City. Then, Councilmember Bell presented the Apple award to Mayor Raymond.

12.A.ii) Retirement Recognition for Joe Henne after 34 years of service with the City of Selah.

Mayor Raymond presented the Apple awards to Joe Henne and thanked him for his 34 years of service with the City of Selah

12.A.iii) Retirement Recognition for Dale Novobielski after 27 years of service with the City of Selah.

Mayor Raymond presented the Apple award to Dale Novobielski and thanked him for his 27 years of service with the City of Selah.

12.A.iv) Swearing-in Ceremony for Newly Elected Councilmembers and Mayor Bell

Dale Novobielski provided a group swearing in ceremony for Councilmember Elect David Monaghan, William Longmire, and a renewal swearing in for re-elected Councilmember

Peterson and Councilmember Costello. After all four elected members recited the oath, Mr. Novobielski provided the oath of office with Mayor-Elect Roger Bell.

12.A.v) Retaining one or more replacement janitorial providers as of or near January 1, 2024.

Introduced by Mayor Raymond and presented by City Attorney, Rob Case.

After presentation, Councilmember Carlson asked if ABM was not performing properly? New City Administrator, Rich Huebner explained that to his understanding, there have been issues with the level of performance as required by the contract.

After discussion, council provided general consensus that staff could move forward with discussions of a replacement janitorial service and anticipate bringing a contract to council in January.

Resolutions

13.E. Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Brokerage Agreement with Central Washington Insurance Agency

Introduced by Mayor Raymond and presented by City Attorney Rob Case.

After presentation, Councilmember Carlson stated he feels that whenever council is renewing a contract staff should introduce personnel if possible, and stated the Jamie Morford is in the audience.

Councilmember Wickenhagen confirmed that Mr. Morford coordinates between the claim and the pool. Mr. Morford, after coming to the podium, confirmed and said he also attends the City Audits with WCIA, and if the City decided to switch from WCIA, he would help negotiate that transition.

Councilmember Marquis asked Mr. Morford if he has evaluated the City's ability to be self insured. Mr. Case stated that Mr. Henne requested for Mr. Morford to explore this options, but Selah is probably too small. Mr. Morford added that when looking at Cities in the risk pool, last year was good because there were minimal claims, other years not so much. Mr. Morford advised that Selah stay with WCIA for now.

Councilmember Wickenhagen moved to approve the resolution as presented. Councilmember Carlson seconded. Mayor Raymond restated the motion and asked council for any more discussion.

Councilmember Carlson provided praise to Mr. Morford and his work for the City.

Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Raymond requested roll call. Mrs. Morales called roll. Councilmember Marquis – yes; Councilmember Bell – yes; Councilmember Costello – yes;

Councilmember Carlson – yes; Councilmember Iverson – yes; Councilmember Wickenhagen – yes; Councilmember Peterson – yes. Vote passes unanimously. Motion carries.

13.F. Resolution Revising Rate for 2024 Sewer Utility Service.

Introduced by Mayor Raymond and presented by Dale Novobielski. After presentation,

Councilmember Carlson asked if there was a sunset on the large rate increase? Mr. Novobielski said the amount would be evaluated each year. Mr. Carlson asked if the high rate needs to continue into the future. Mr. Wallace came to the podium and stated that staff will bring a task order in January for HLA to do a study on this.

Councilmember Wickenhagen moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Councilmember Bell seconded. Mayor Raymond restated the motion and asked council for discussion.

Councilmember Wickenhagen said he feels the public should know that the reason for the large increase is because the City is going to need a new wastewater treatment facility that will cost an estimate \$55 million dollars.

Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Raymond requested roll call. Mrs. Morales called roll. Councilmember Marquis – yes; Councilmember Bell – yes; Councilmember Costello – yes; Councilmember Carlson – yes; Councilmember Iverson – yes; Councilmember Wickenhagen – yes; Councilmember Peterson – yes. Vote passes unanimously. Motion carries.

13.G. Resolution Revising Rate for 2024 Solid Waste Services.

Introduced by Mayor Raymond and presented by Dale Novobielski. After presentation,

Councilmember Carlson moved to approve the resolution as presented. Councilmember Peterson seconded. Mayor Raymond restated the motion and asked council for discussion.

Hearing no discussion, Mayor Raymond requested roll call. Mrs. Morales called roll. Councilmember Marquis – yes; Councilmember Bell – yes; Councilmember Costello – yes; Councilmember Carlson – yes; Councilmember Iverson – yes; Councilmember Wickenhagen – yes; Councilmember Peterson – yes. Vote passes unanimously. Motion carries.

13.H. Resolution Revising Rate for 2024 Water Utility Services.

Introduced by Mayor Raymond and presented by Dale Novobielski. After presentation,

Councilmember Carlson moved to approve the resolution as presented. Councilmember Wickenhagen seconded. Mayor Raymond restated the motion and asked council for discussion.

Hearing no discussion, Mayor Raymond requested roll call. Mrs. Morales called roll. Councilmember Marquis – yes; Councilmember Bell – yes; Councilmember Costello – yes; Councilmember Carlson – yes; Councilmember Iverson – yes; Councilmember Wickenhagen – yes; Councilmember Peterson – yes. Vote passes unanimously. Motion carries.

Ordinances

14.B. Ordinance Establishing the 2024 Base Salary and Wage Schedule for Unrepresented (a/k/a Non-Union) Positions

Introduced by Mayor Raymond and presented by City Attorney Rob Case. After presentation,

Councilmember Carlson referenced the last paragraph in the AIS regarding those who work out of the Civic Center, and asked for explanation. Mr. Case explained that the Recreation Staff and the Planning Staff would now report to Mr. Wallace based on the direction from City Administrator Joe Henne.

Councilmember Wickenhagen moved to approve the ordinance with one amendment being that the Police Chief be paid the same as the Fire Chief. Mr. Wickenhagen said doing so is consistent with others in Yakima County. Mr. Case clarified the Mr. Wickenhagen's motion included increasing both the minimum and maximum to be increased to match the Fire Chief's pay. Mr. Wickenhagen confirmed, yes. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion.

Mayor Raymond restated the motion and asked council for discussion.

Councilmember Costello said he believes this is an issue that needs to be addressed including an evaluation between the overall responsibility, and that there needs to be more of a gap between the Chief and the deputy chief as well. Mr. Case asked Mr. Costello what would he propose? Mr. Costello said he was not sure of a number but that it needed to be more than the current \$400 gap. Mr. Henne added that years ago, the Fire Chief, Police Chief, and Public Works Director were all paid the same. New City Administrator, Rich Huebner, approached the podium and explained to council his intent on doing a thorough comprehensive salary analysis and would bring back more in depth information for evaluation next year. Mr. Costello asked if that would take a whole year to do? Mr. Huebner said no, it should only take a month or two, but the findings could be incorporated into the 2025 ordinance.

Councilmember Bell expressed his frustrations that this conversation is being held now, when these questions were not asked during the budget study session meetings in November. Mr. Bell said if an adjustment is due, it should be done during the budget process, not right before approving the final budget. Mr. Bell also supported Mr. Huebner's intent on doing a salary survey and analyzing the impact on the overall budget. Fire Chief Lange approached the podium and said that council should evaluate the area of coverage and the City Police Department versus the County Fire Department. Councilmember Carlson said there are different risks with each.

Councilmember Marquis asked if Staff could provide an amendment in a few months? Mr. Case said, sure. Ms. Marquis stated her opinion that this issue is deserving of a bigger conversation. Mr. Case restate the original motion. Mayor Raymond restated the original motion as well, to approve the ordinance with an increased salary for the Police Chief. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Raymond requested roll call.

Mrs. Morales called roll. Councilmember Marquis – no; Councilmember Bell – no; Councilmember Costello – no; Councilmember Carlson – yes; Councilmember Iverson – no; Councilmember Wickenhagen – yes; Councilmember Peterson – no. Motion fails with five (5) no votes and two (2) yes votes.

Councilmember Peterson moved to approve the ordinance as originally presented. Councilmember Costello seconded. Mayor Raymond restated the original motion and asked Council for discussion. Hearing none, Mayor Raymond asked for roll to be called. Mrs. Morales called roll. Councilmember Marquis – yes; Councilmember Bell – yes; Councilmember Costello – yes; Councilmember Carlson – no; Councilmember Iverson – yes; Councilmember Wickenhagen – no; Councilmember Peterson – yes. Motion passes with five (5) yes votes and two (2) no votes.

14.C. Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Selah Washington for the Year Ending December 31, 2024

Introduced by Mayor Raymond and presented by Dale Novobielski. After presentation,

Councilmember Carlson moved to approve the ordinance as presented. Councilmember Wickenhagen seconded. Mayor Raymond restated the motion and asked council for discussion. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Raymond requested roll call. Mrs. Morales called roll. Councilmember Marquis – yes; Councilmember Bell – yes; Councilmember Costello – yes; Councilmember Carlson – yes; Councilmember Iverson – yes; Councilmember Wickenhagen – no; Councilmember Peterson – yes. Vote was unanimously yes. Motion carries.

Reports/Announcements

Departments. The following staff provided a department update to council:

Rich Huebner
Zack Schab
Jeff Peters
Rocky Wallace
Dale Novobielski

Councilmembers. The following Councilmembers provided an update on their attendance at their local meetings.

Councilmember Carlson
Councilmember Iverson
Councilmember Peterson

City Attorney Case provided department update.

City Administrator Joe Henne gave his goodbye's and thank you for everything.

Executive Session

Mayor Raymond said the Council would take a short break and then go into executive session regarding RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) regarding the acquisition of real estate.

7:03 p.m – Council went into executive session

7:35 pm. – Council returned to the record. Mayor Raymond said no votes were taken no decisions were made.

Adjournment

Councilmember Carlson moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Peterson seconded. By voice vote, motion carries.

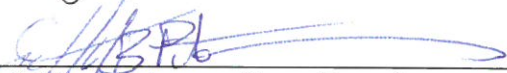
Meeting ended at 7:36 p.m.




Roger Bell, Councilmember



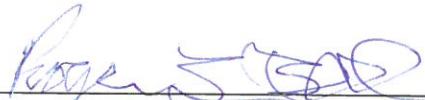
Jared Iverson, Councilmember



Clifford Peterson, Councilmember



Michael Costello, Councilmember

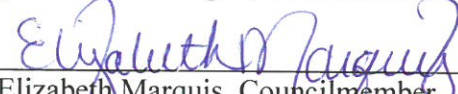


~~Sherry Raymond, Mayor~~ ROGER BELL, NEW
MAYOR

Russell Carlson, Councilmember



Kevin Wickenhagen, Councilmember



Elizabeth Marquis, Councilmember

ATTEST:


Dale Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer

KIMBERLY GRIMM