

**City of Zillah**  
**Study Session Minutes**  
***Hybrid Meeting***  
**July 3, 2023**

This meeting was available to be attended via ZOOM meeting upon request.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Scott Carmack called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The following were:

**Present:** Mayor Scott Carmack, Councilmembers Wes Argo, Janice Gonzales, Beth Husted, and Doug Stewart

**Also Present:** City Administrator Michael Grayum, Community Development Director Ardele Steele, Public Works Director John Simmons, and Fire Chief Paul Stonemetz

**Absent:** Councilmember Brian Williams and Police Chief Tim Quantrell

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Review minutes of the Study Session Meeting dated June 20, 2023.
- B. Review minutes of the Council Meeting dated June 20, 2023.
- C. Review claim voucher numbers 57047 to 57098 dated July 3, 2023, in the amount of \$30,965.40
- D. Review payroll voucher numbers, 34706 to 34711 dated June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$140,569.36.

**PRESENTATION**

- A. **Public Hospital District No. 1, Proposition No. 1 regarding the establishment of a lower valley public hospital district and the election of its commissioners.** State law allows an elected local government body to vote to express collective support or opposition to a ballot proposition if the required notice of the meeting includes the title and number of the ballot proposition. Members of the elected body and members of the public are given an approximately equal opportunity to express an opposing view ([RCW 42.17A.555](#)). Mr. Matthew Ellsworth, Dr. Jordann Loehr, and Nurse Gabriela Guel provided information on the purpose, functions, and facts of Public Hospital Districts, which according to state law has the power and responsibility to own and operate hospitals and other health care facilities and to provide hospital services and other health care services for the residents of such districts and other persons. They explained there are a range of resources and services a district could bring to a community, beyond a hospital, despite the name of the proposed district. Public hospital district comes with a strict set of guidelines that must be followed to determine community needs first. One of the first responsibilities of a hospital district

is to conduct a district survey or community health assessment to better understand the health care needs of the residents living within its boundaries. Most revenue for hospital districts comes from payments for medical treatment, as well as from private insurers, self-paying patients, or the state and federal governments through programs like Medicaid. The hospital district legal manual states patient revenue makes up about 95% of a district's total budget with tax revenues making up the rest. The boundaries of the district were discussed and the cities that would be included in the boundaries, as well as the Yakama Nation. Councilmember Gonzales clarified and emphasized a Public Hospital District is not a replacement or threat to any existing medical service providers in the lower valley; it is not a new tax; and is a question about whether a district should be established as a transparent and publicly involved mechanism to identify unmet healthcare needs in our community and develop a plan to address those needs.

### NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Review Temporary Road Closure Vintage Valley Parkway** – The Mayor discussed how fireworks can be perilous in any circumstance, especially in dry weather conditions and extreme heat. To prevent brush fires and protect the homes on the bluff, we recommend closing Vintage Valley Parkway during the holiday and assigning additional Police Officers overtime to actively monitor this and other high priority areas throughout the City of Zillah.
- B. **Review John Hill Deferral Request** – Councilmember Gonzales requested grammar changes be made in the staff briefing memo: “Since a sewer main run through the properties and can be reached without cutting the roadway, staff recommends granting the deferral of the sewer connections under new construction on each property as it takes place Council discussed the merits of Mr. Hill being allowed to delay making connections on 2 parcels approved for him to short plat.
- C. **Review Resolution No. 2023-21 / SRO Agreement Zillah School District -** Councilmember Gonzales requested grammar changes be made in the contract regarding the use of abbreviation regarding the School Resource Officer (SRO) and “hereinafter.” The Mayor informed Council the current contract with Zillah School District for School Resource Officer is about to expire and this updated agreement includes revised costs and the dates of applicability.
- D. **Review Resolution No. 2023-22 / Supporting Public Hospital District No. 1, Proposition No. 1 regarding the establishment of a lower valley public hospital district and the election of its commissioners.** The council and members of the public followed up the presentation providing various views.

### COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS

None

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. John Hill requested financial assistance for the cost of complying with the Public Right of Ways Excavation requirements passed the previous year by Council in July 2022, Ordinance, No.1544. The Mayor and Council discussed the reasoning behind changing the ordinance to ensure smoother roadways. Staff highlighted the dates of the application, passage of the ordinance, and numerous conversations with the contractors. City Administrator Grayum committed to reviewing the timeline of events and following up with Mr. Hill and the Council.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

None

## **COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS**

The Fire and Public Works Departments highlighted preparations for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities, and the Planning Department conveyed appreciation for the property owners who managed weeds in advance of the holiday. Public Works announced the hire of Ty Purdy. City Administrator Grayum summarized the schedule of events and the number of permittees for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, as well as upcoming events and the latest City Newsletter mailed out to every resident.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.*



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Michael Grayum, City Administrator



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Dr. Scott Carmack, Mayor

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**City Council Minutes**  
***Hybrid Meeting***  
**July 3, 2023**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Scott Carmack called the meeting to order at 6:52 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Carmack led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The following were:

Present: Mayor Scott Carmack, Councilmembers Wes Argo, Janice Gonzales, Beth Husted, and Doug Stewart

Also Present: City Administrator Michael Grayum, Community Development Director Ardele Steele, Public Works Director John Simmons, and Fire Chief Paul Stonemetz

Absent: Councilmember Brian Williams and Police Chief Tim Quantrell

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*Mr. Argo moved, seconded by Ms. Gonzales, to approve the Consent Agenda, items A through D as follows:*

- A. Approve minutes of the Study Session Meeting dated June 20, 2023.
- B. Approve minutes of the Council Meeting dated June 20, 2023.
- C. Approve claim voucher numbers 57047 to 57098 dated July 3, 2023, in the amount of \$30,965.40.
- D. Approve payroll voucher numbers, 34706 to 34711 dated June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$140,569.36.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

**PUBLIC HEARING**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

## NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Vote on Temporary Road Closure Vintage Valley Parkway** - Ms. Gonzales moved, seconded by Ms. Husted, for the City Council to approve a temporary road closure of Vintage Valley Parkway from 6pm on Monday, July 3 through 1 am on Tuesday, July 4, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.
- B. **Vote on John Hill Deferral Request** – Ms. Husted moved, seconded by Mr. Stewart, for the City Council to approve granting the deferral for John Hill of sewer connections under new construction of each property as it takes place. Upon application for a new structure, the property owner will be required to connect. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. **Vote on Resolution No. 2023-21 / SRO Agreement Zillah School District** – Mr. Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Argo, for City Council to approve Resolution No. 2023-21 Approving an Agreement between Zillah School District and City of Zillah for a School Resource Officer. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. **Vote on Resolution No. 2023-22 / Supporting Public Hospital District No. 1, Proposition No. 1 regarding the establishment of a lower valley public hospital district and the election of its commissioners** - Mr. Argo moved, seconded by Ms. Gonzales, City Council supports Public Hospital District No. 1, Proposition No. 1, regarding the establishment of a lower valley public hospital district and the election of its commissioners. Councilmembers expressed different views. The motion carried 4-1.

## COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS

Mr. Stewart highlighted the student going to the national rodeo and requested an update on a police incident.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.



Michael Grayum, City Administrator



Dr. Scott Carmack, Mayor