

**City of Zillah**  
**Study Session Minutes**  
***Hybrid Meeting***  
**July 17, 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 6:08 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The following were:

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

**Also Present:** City Administrator Michael Grayum, Community Development Director Ardele Steele, Police Chief Tim Quantrell, and Fire Chief Paul Stonemetz

**Absent:** Public Works Director John Simmons

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Review minutes of the Study Session Meeting dated July 3, 2023.
- B. Review minutes of the Council Meeting dated July 3, 2023.
- C. Review claim voucher numbers 57101 to 57190 dated July 17, 2023, in the amount of \$127,271.57.
- D. Review payroll voucher numbers, 34712 to 34718 dated July 14, 2023, in the amount of \$85,285.44.
- E. Review Liquor License for Dollar General
- F. Review Voided Check No's. 57024 and 57084.
- G. Review Monthly Close-Out dated June 30, 2023.

**PRESENTATION**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Discussion Fire Works Regulations** – Council discussed feedback from residents and removing July 3<sup>rd</sup> from the regulations to allow fireworks to be set off, with a permit, only on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Council discussed holding a public hearing on August 7<sup>th</sup> and the one-year waiting period/effective date to adopt a local ordinance more restrictive than state law, per RCW 70.77.395 and RCW 70.77.250(4)
- B. Review Resolution No. 2023-23, Downtown Revitalization** - The professional engineering and landscape architectural services for the downtown revitalization planning project was recently completed, along with the final brochure to apply for grants to implement the design concepts, and it is necessary to officially close out the project.
- C. Review Ordinance No. 1559, Zillah Municipal Code** – New laws have changed in the State of Washington regarding specific drug possession crimes because of the Blake Court Decision. This ordinance is a housekeeping measure proposed by the Prosecutor to provide additional clarity regarding the latest laws because State RCWs are automatically incorporated into by the Zillah Municipal Code by reference.
- D. Review Ordinance No 1560, Hotel Excise Tax** – Council discussed the previous intent to create a hotel-motel tax, Ordinance No. 825 several years ago and the recent discovery by City staff that the tax was not actually being collected by any overnight establishments in the City because it was not properly established. Ordinance No. 1560 effectively establishes the full extent of the tax as authorized by the Washington State Legislature. Council and staff discussed how these funds could be used to create new amenities that could be enjoyed by residents and tourists, like community events, recreation amenities, and concert venues, while also reducing impacts to the city revenue to cover costs for impacts from outside visitors. The hotel owners are supported because it would not have a financial impact on them and it would be a cost paid by visitors to the hotels. Mr. Argo expressed he does not believe the City should support or be in the business of tourism, or support this funding mechanism for constructing amenities that would promote entertainment, recreation, and other forms of tourism.
- E. Review Ordinance No. 156, Lodging Tax Advisory Council** – Council discussed the establishment of a Council, the effective date of January 1, 2024, and reviewed the goals, priorities, and process for administering these funds to promote tourism and raised funds in a manner that would be paid for by visitors to our community and not businesses that would support our hotel, tourism, and local business economy.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

## MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Carmack spoke to the reasons why the City is not spraying for mosquitos and invited anyone who would like to discuss it to meet with him or Council, or attend a council meeting.

## COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS

The Planning Department received development plans for a parcel recently purchased along Vintage Valley Parkway. The City continues to work collaboratively with the property owner to support their vision and help them navigate the State building codes and permitting process. The Zillah Municipal Court will add a second hearing date each month to the court calendar to address mitigation cases and prevent our night court session from running late into the evening. The City Administrator and Fire Chief will attend a meeting with other Fire Departments and jurisdictions to explore options as the City of Zillah contemplates the "future of fire" with a retiring part time fire chief and diminishing number of volunteer fire fighters. Ty Purdy was highlighted as the newest city employee in the Public Works Department. August 4<sup>th</sup> was announced for the movie in the park for Zillah's National Night Out.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

## ADJOURNMENT

*The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.*



Michael Grayum, City Administrator



Dr. Scott Carmack, Mayor

**City of Zillah**  
**City Council Minutes**  
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**July 17, 2023**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Scott Carmack called the meeting to order at 6:53 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, Brian Williams, and Doug Stewart

Also Present: City Administrator Michael Grayum, Community Development Director Ardele Steele, Police Chief Tim Quantrell, and Fire Chief Paul Stonemetz

Absent: Public Works Director John Simmons

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*Mr. Argo moved, seconded by Mr. Williams, to approve the Consent Agenda, items A through G as follows:*

- A. Approve minutes of the Study Session Meeting dated July 3, 2023.
- B. Approve minutes of the Council Meeting dated July 3, 2023.
- C. Approve claim voucher numbers 57101 to 57190 dated July 17, 2023, in the amount of \$127,271.57.
- D. Approve payroll voucher numbers, 34712 to 34718 dated July 14, 2023, in the amount of \$85,285.44.
- E. Approve Liquor License for Dollar General
- F. Approve Voided Check No's. 57024 and 57084.
- G. Approve Monthly Close-Out dated June 30, 2023.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

**PUBLIC HEARING**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Vote on Resolution No. 2023-23, Downtown Revitalization** – *Mr. Williams moved, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez, for City Council to approve Resolution No. 2023-23 Accepting the Downtown Revitalization Planning Project as Complete. The motion passed unanimously.*
- B. **Vote on Ordinance No. 1559, Zillah Municipal Code** – *Ms. Gonzales moved, seconded by Ms. Husted, for City Council to approve Ordinance No. 1559 related to Public Safety and amend the Zillah Municipal Code to list specific drug possession crimes. The motion passed unanimously.*
- C. **Vote on Ordinance No 1560, Hotel Excise Tax** – *Ms. Husted moved, seconded by Mr. Stewart, for City Council approve Ordinance No. 1560 Hotel Motel Excise Tax. The motion passed 4-1, with Mr. Argo voting against.*
- D. **Vote on Ordinance No. 1561, Lodging Tax Advisory Council** – *Mr. Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Williams, for City Council approve Ordinance No. 1561 establishing a Lodging Tax Advisory Council. The motion passed 4-1, with Mr. Argo voting against.*

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.*

  
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Michael Grayum, City Administrator

  
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Dr. Scott Carmack, Mayor