

TOWN OF NACHES COUNCIL MINUTES

October 9, 2023

Present: Mayor Williams
Councilman Weekes
Councilwoman Schneider
Councilwoman Hawver
Councilwoman Williams
Councilman Hawver

Absent:

Others in Attendance: Admin. Ranger , Attorney Shinn, Clerk/Treasurer Birrueta

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Mayor Williams. Councilmember present Councilman Weekes, Councilwoman Schneider, Councilwoman Hawver, Councilwoman and Councilman Hawver. Mayor Williams led the Council/Audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Honors & Recognition None

Additions to the Agenda None

Approve Agenda Councilman Weekes moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Hawver. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda Councilwoman Hawver moved to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilwoman Schneider. Motion carried unanimously. The consent agenda includes

- a) Approve Study Minutes of 9/11/2023.
- b) Approve minutes of 9/11/2023 Regular Council Meeting.
- c) Approve Claim checks, Second Payment September 21, 2023 claim check No. 21986 through 21996, 1 manual check# 5530 2 ACH payments Dep. of Revenue and Banner Bank Total of \$115,384.01 Claim checks dated October 9, 2023 check# 22004 through 22035 1 manual check#5531, and 1 ACH

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- payment Banner Bank-Fuel, Total of \$58,210.68 check#5529 was voided
- d) Approve those Payroll Checks dated September 29, 2023 in the amount of \$42,126.64 Check #21997 through 22003, 3 ACH payments to Aflac, DRS, and IRS.

REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Planning Commission	None
Sheriff's Report/	Lt. Hendrickson attended the meeting. The report shows 33 calls for the month of September 2023. Lt. Hendrickson discussed some of the calls.
YVCOG	Councilman Weekes included a brief summary of the YVCOG meeting held September 20, 2023. At the meeting Barbara Harrer Mayor of Harrah was honored for her many years as elected Mayor she served 11 terms.
Lion's Club	Ryan Lambert President of the Naches Lions Club spoke regarding the Naches Lions Club setting up corn stalks around town for fall. He also stated that the club is planning to serve hot cocoa and hot dogs for Halloween.
Sportsman's Days Association	Lesley Downing asked about the Christmas Night in Naches event. She was asked to contact Gail Welch who represents the Naches Depot Advisory Committee about the planning of the event.
Naches Depot Advisory Committee	None
Addition to the Agenda	None
Public Hearing	a) A Public Hearing was opened at 6:37 p.m. to receive comments regarding the proposed 1% increase of Ad Valorem Tax Revenues for the Town of Naches 2024 Budget. There was one comment from Andrew Matala he asked what percentage of that increase will go the Town attorney. 60% of the property tax go to the General Fund and 40% go to the Street fund. No other

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testimony was received the public hearing closed at 6:39 p.m. the regular Council meeting concluded.

Presentation None

Unfinished Business

- a) Mobility Grant Application (DOT) Park & Ride. Staff received all the releases and the retainage on this project is included in the vouchers.
- b) USDA Rural Development Grant/Loan for Phase II of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. No further discussion was desired.
- c) Yakima County Fire District No. 3: the annexation process. No further discussion.
- d) WSDOT/ Naches US Hwy 12 Study Corridor.
- e) Warehouse Demolition- TAP Funding. No further discussion.
- f) Flood Damage Prevention Update. Updating the Town of Naches Municipal Code as required by Washington State Department of Ecology.
- g) Local Parks Maintenance application grant funding (RCO).
- h) TIB application resurfacing 4th Street from the Old Naches Hwy to Naches Avenue.
- i) 2024 Budget Schedule
- j) Town of Naches Code Text Amendment request Chapter 17.54 Short-Term Rentals.

New Business

- a) Yakima County 2024 Property Tax Levy Calculations.
- b) 2024 Preliminary Budget- during Study Session.
- c) Yakima County Sheriff notice of law enforcement agreement for 2024 services.
- d) Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Naches and Yakima County regarding Kel Lowry Road.
- e) Yakima County Department of Corrections 2024 inter-local corrections/detention agreement. Attorney Shinn advise that a few changes need to be made to the agreement before is approved. Council can approve the agreement make sure

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changes are made or Council can table the agreement and revisit next month.

- f) Progress Estimate No. 06 for work performed by Pacific Civil & Infrastructure, Inc., for work performed through September 20, 2023 the total due the contractor of \$621,485.04 is net after retainage, per contract documents. Councilwoman Hawver moved to approve progress estimate No. 07. Seconded by Councilman Weekes. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions & Ordinance

- a) Proposed Resolution No. 2023-16: A resolution of the Town of Naches, Washington, authorizing the Mayor to sign the law enforcement agreement for fiscal year 2024 between Yakima County Sheriff's Office and the Town of Naches. Councilwoman Hawver moved to approve resolution No. 2023-16. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams. Motion carried unanimously.
- b) Proposed Resolution No. 2023-17 a resolution of the Town of Naches, Washington, authorizing the Mayor to sign the 2024 inter-local corrections/detention agreement with Yakima County. Councilman Weekes moved to table resolution No. 2023-17. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams. Until the agreement has been revised to meet the town attorney advisement.
- c) Proposed Resolution No. 2023-18: A resolution of the Town of Naches, Washington, authorizing the Mayor to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Town of Naches and Yakima County regarding Kel Lowry Road. Councilman Weekes move to approve resolution 2023-18. Seconded by Councilman Hawver. Motion carried unanimously.
- d) Proposed Ordinance No. 785: An ordinance of the Town of Naches, Washington, amending Naches Municipal Code Title 15.12 Flood Damage Prevention, to incorporate text amendments recommended by Department of Ecology. Councilwoman Hawver moved to approve ordinance No. 785. Seconded by

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Councilman Hawver. Motion carried unanimously.

- e) Proposed Ordinance No. 786: An ordinance of the Town of Naches Washington, amending the Naches Municipal Code Title 17.54 Short-Term Rentals, to incorporate text amendment request. Councilwoman Williams move to approve ordinance No. 786. Seconded by Councilwoman Schneider. Motion carried unanimously.
- f) Proposed Ordinance No. 787: An ordinance fixing the estimated amount of Ad Valorem taxes to be levied to meet the financial requirements of the Town of Naches, Washington for the fiscal year 2024. Councilman Hawver move to approve ordinance No. 787. Seconded by Councilman Weekes. Motion carried unanimously.

Audience Participation

Elliott Baker 9351 S Naches Road Mr. Baker addressed the Mayor with him having a heated conversation with Mayor Williams during Sportsman's Days about his building which he has been renovating for the past year, at that time the Lions club had been instructed that the building had no occupancy permit. Mr. Baker is accusing Admin. Ranger of calling Yakima County and asking if a permit was issued to the property in question. Admin. Ranger response was yes I did my job of inquiring to Yakima County permit department if the building had an occupancy permit after a concern citizen requested that information. Mr. Baker again stated that he has all required permits and the stop work order should not be in effect. Admin. Ranger answer to Mr. Baker that is incorrect the stop work order is still in effect and Mr. Baker you haven't told the truth yet. Mr. Baker you never had an occupancy permit, we have a response from Yakima County and you still don't have any permits. Mayor Williams stated that the County doesn't have an occupancy permit issued for this building. Mr. Baker stated that the building has never lost occupancy permits. Mayor Williams stated that the building is currently occupancy as a church not a gathering center. Mr. Baker asked if the Town Hall has a bathroom, if it has fire alarms or does it have fire extinguishers or if it's ADA compliant because that's what the County is requesting of him. Mayor Williams asked him if he wants to know how the building put

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together is not going to be productive. Mr. Baker stated that because of Admin. Ranger he has to comply with all these requirements for his building. Mr. Baker stated that because of all these requirements all administration and Mayor are getting replaced, he called Admin. Ranger and Mayor Williams cowards.

Mary Kinter 13801 Old Naches Hwy. wants to know why all the Council name plates are not pointing to the public. She wants to put names to the faces.

Shayne Downing 13733 Old Naches Hwy. Mr. Downing provided his version of civics and politics.. This current administration is being focused on some of these areas and have lost sight of others and certainly have lost sight of some of the organization that go above and beyond to ensure we are a community that are all can be proud of. One recent event was scheduled during our long standing event celebration of Sportsman's Days that event. Mayor Williams asked he was speaking for the Naches Lion's Club? Mr. Downing stated that he can because he is Lions Club member. That event is focus on different community organizations such as football, cheerleaders and band boosters and yes small community vendors sunshine and lions clubs to raise funds to support civic endeavors as well as those less fortunate on our community. The counter the Town event is in direct competition with not only with our community focus event but also local businesses associated with event promotion wedding venues, bars restaurants in my humble opinion is that the town has other efforts aside from promoting concert events and private events I understand where the funds are coming from and going to for this community events. But it seems like there's a lack of transparency as to the fund allocation and distribution. Fortunately there's RCW 42.56 public records request. Mr. Downing stated that the vast majority of the town were in opposition of the UGA.

Andrew Malata 104 E Second Street wants clarification on something he heard earlier regarding the 1% increase in property tax, yes that is correct is any part of that 1% going to the Town's attorney. Clerk Birrueta explained that 40% of those taxes go into the street fund 60% go to the general fund. Mr. Malata wanted to make sure there is an increase with representation.

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Dough Mac Neil 112 Apple Loop. was disgusted for what I'm hearing and have associated with almost everyone in this room I have spent over 80 years in this community I know that history of Naches. I would like to think that we are all positive but I know I was negative to some community member and it was out of character. I have been involved in this community through Sportsman's Days very active member of sportsman's days I have been involve longer that anyone here. Elliott Baker when you said this is the most important election in decades and it is the most important election that ever happen in this community, and we have never had this turmoil in this community, Bill Davis I told you some time ago we had 26 Mayors in our community and you are not qualified to be Mayor. Elliott Baker I'm talking to you, you are destroying this community, I'm just disgusted I hear Mayberry from you people all going to be taken out with the exception of Wayne and Kit.

Mary Kinter 13801 Old Naches Hwy last month when we were at the meeting when people were trying to speak directly to the attorney you Mr. Mayor directed them to speak directly to you I remember that and yet you didn't do that with him referring to Mr. Mac Neil, so I don't know what the unwritten law is. Mayor Williams answered with if the person speaking at the podium is trying to engage conversations with Council Members, I direct them to speak directly to me, I am the person in charge of the Council. If someone in the audience wants to talk to someone in the audience that's up to them if they want to address a Council member that's inappropriate because I'm the head of the Council if people want to engage in conversation with people out there with each other is up to them.

Councilmember Hawver, Stated that he has been a member of this Town for 46 years with the exception of maybe 2-3 years I was in Seattle, I have never seen a conflict like this since I've known Council a long time and we had other incidents when someone was trying to bring business into town, we had nails on our driveway and windows busted in front of our building, I feel like that's what's happening here and I'm not a person who gets up and talks I watch the news and look at the division on our country and what's really frightening is that is happening right here in this room and I question my son has been saying you need to sell your property

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in Naches and move out, my wife has been here all her life her family was in the same street building here on the corner, I'm just I'm shocked I don't know where the division is coming from I've never had anybody not tell me what I ask when I come into this town and into this building I can come here and ask anything and get the answers I don't need to say well prove it, maybe some of you feel like you don't know the people and you feel you can't trust them and I had doubts about Jeff and I've looked into and I've found that he is not what so many in this town think he is, he is an outstanding good man and I'm proud of him he has done a lot for this town, I don't see potholes in our streets, I don't see our wastewater treatment plant leaking raw sewage, I just don't get where this is coming from and I've put a lot into this community a lot into my home and I don't get it. I've told my wife there's something spreading out there like a virus I don't know that I want to be a part of the community, but we are not ready to give up yet, so thank you.

Kevin Sigler 9480 Old Naches Hwy. I don't know I've lived here about 16 years I moved here from Ellensburg, I don't know what the answer is but there's an election being held there's seems to be people offended that there's people running for council positions and to me that seems wrong, that there's issues there's actually going to be an election this year for seats on the council. I don't know of anyone running but I know Jeff Ranger's position that is not elected it is an appointed position. I agree I think there's a riff to me is the election.

Andrew Matala stated that he just want to address the Council and say this I sincerely hear you, but I want to ask you sincerely and honestly. Mayor Williams asked that if he wants to address the Council that is him. Mr. Matala requested again if he can address the Council and Mayor Williams responded yes through me I am the head of the Council. Mr. Matala wants to asked Council if they have looked inward and asked themselves the same questions, this group ask why is there a writ why is there a divide when I come and ask a question about sportsman's days as a member of this community who is invested now and cares the only thing you want to know is if I'm a Lions Club Member and if I'm not a Lions Club member you don't answer my question these are the kind of things that create rifts. When you have

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executive sessions that exclude the public when you were talking about things that are going to affect every person in this community and you don't divulge that information that's where rifts come in you need to look inward if you are going to ask that question you cannot be silent and okay.

Ryan Lambert- not as a Lion Club member the first meeting I attended it was only Ron and I at the Council meeting, for the Town to work people should be here all the time and be interested and at the same time council needs to work and make sure they are informing people maybe longer sessions with people and more public meetings I don't know I want to see passionate people. Mayor Williams responded let me point out to you is like the growth management took almost 3 years and nobody came in to talk about it and it was put out at every meeting. We put out the information and we hope people take it in and come back with good input but as far as going door to door is not practical. Mr. Lambert stated that he would like to see more proactive engagement with the community. Mayor Williams reiterated that all the people present for the meeting is absolutely great there's nothing worse than coming every month to the meeting and having empty chairs if anyone is telling you that we are not happy that you are here let me tell you I'm happy you're here this is your town if you don't come in and give us input we are making our best guess of what's going on feel free to come in. There's nothing worse than having council put all this studying energy and work and not have anyone from the community present to be informed. Mayor Williams invites everyone to come.

Shayne Downing, stated that there were good comments from Council Hawver and you can feel the passion on his voice. We are all part of this community what I mentioned is to bring the community together a little encounter to that I can give you, members of this community took a believe a Tuesday off to come down to the County for that UGA meeting there is your direction people didn't show up in the past but the passion came out and those rooms with written communication I can tell you I had front row seat you asked a Council member asked what the turning point was I can tell it was that UGA meetings. You have closed executive sessions when there's people here that would love to participate and engage and hear that.

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Mayor Williams address the executive session which is allowed to have the attorney's input on litigation matters. I don't know how it would affect you, but you don't sit down in a public setting and discuss strategy because you are not in the town limits so there's people here that are not part of the town that shouldn't have access to that information. Mr. Downing I don't live in town but I go to business in town and there's business people here that can attest to that I spend money here. Mayor Williams reiterated that he does not live in the town limits. Is it fair to the people the live in town to have people that don't live in town be the ones deciding what they can and cannot do.

Executive Session

None

Other Business

Councilwoman Hawver would like to extend a great thanks to Sherry Jefferson for all the flowers and fall decoration for the Town.

Council FYI Items

None

Continue meeting or adjourn: 7:23 pm.

With no other business to be discuss, Councilwoman Hawver moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Paul D Williams, Mayor

Elvira Birrueta, Clerk Treasurer