



**CITY OF HOQUIAM  
Council Meeting Minutes**

**January 10, 2024**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Winkelman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Davis led the flag salute.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Finance Director Corri Schmid issued the oath of office to Mayor Ben Winkelman after which Mayor Winkelman issued the oath of office to re-elected Councilmembers Pauley, Brooks, Larsen, Carlstrom, Hinchin and newly elected Councilmember Mary Thornton. Councilmember Puvogel who was unable to attend the meeting was issued his oath of office at City Hall at an earlier date.

**ROLL CALL**

Those in attendance were Mayor Winkelman and Councilmembers Brooks, Carlstrom, Davis, Hinchin, Larsen, Pauley, Puvogel, Reid, Smith and Thornton. Councilmember Anderson entered meeting at 7:33 p.m., and Councilmember Nelson was absent from the meeting.

Staff in attendance were Police Chief Joe Strong, Fire Chief Matt Miller, City Attorney Steve Johnson, City Administrator Brian Shay, Finance Director Corri Schmid and Council Secretary Tracy Wood.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Brooks made a motion to accept items a and b under the consent agenda and his motion was seconded. Those items appearing on the consent agenda were as follows:

- The City Council Minutes of December 11, 2023;
- A Notice of Completion of Work and Request for Approval of Acceptance and Release of Retainage to Coastline Roofing for work completed on the Olympic Stadium Project.

The motion for approval passed by voice vote.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

Purchase of Gurney Power Loader

The Hoquiam Fire Department requested Council authorization to purchase a Stryker Gurney Power Load System in the amount of \$31,523.03. Councilmember Pauley moved to approve the report and staff recommendation. His motion was seconded. Councilmember Smith asked what funds would be used for this purchase and Ms. Schmid explained that we would use ARPA funds. Chief Miller stated he could answer any questions. Councilmember Davis stated that he researched these items and this is a good price. Councilmember Brooks



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asked what the weight allowance is and Chief Miller stated 700 lbs. The motion passed by voice vote.

**MAYOR REPORTS**

**Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

Mayor Winkelman stated that he will be making 2024 appointments to several Boards and Commissions. If there are any interested citizens who would like to serve on these boards please contact him or the Council Secretary. There are vacancies on the Urban Forestry Board as well as several others.

Mayor Winkelman made the following appointments for 2024.

Civil Service Board – reappointment of Gary Morgan, Ray Pumphrey, and Roger Smith.

Planning Commission – Jack Brodhead to serve a 4 yr. term.

911 Board – Councilmember Brooks.

Council of Governments (COG) – Councilmember Pauley.

Cowlitz COG – Highway Project Representative - City Administrator Brian Shay.

Again the Mayor reminded those in attendance that if there is any interest in the Building Code Council, the Library Board, Urban Forestry or the Historic Preservation please get in touch.

Mayor Winkelman thanked those in attendance at the meeting and reminded them and the Councilmembers that the Public Comment period is intended to allow the public an opportunity to speak and is not a question and answer period. People will be given 5 minutes to speak before the Council and will be asked to provide their name and address for the record.

He welcomed everyone to 2024 and stated he is excited about what Hoquiam has to offer in future years. He thanked everyone for being at the meeting and stated that we are here to serve our community.

**LEGAL BUSINESS**

**Resolutions**

**Department of Ecology  
Financial Assistance**

A Resolution authorizing the City of Hoquiam to accept a loan in the amount of \$375,000.00 and authorizing City



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Administrator Brian Shay to sign the Water Quality Combined Financial Assistance Agreement between the State of Washington Department of Ecology and the City of Hoquiam. Councilmember Brooks moved to accept the resolution and his motion was seconded. Mr. Shay stated that Council already authorized the grant, the project is 50% loan and 50% grant. This is a requirement by the Department of Ecology to adopt the resolution to accept the loan which will cover the full cost of design. Most of the pump stations come in at around \$2.5 M and this project looks good for funding through the Chehalis Basin Flood Authority. Following no further discussion the motion to approve the Resolution passed by voice vote.

**OTHER LEGAL**

Landfill Monitoring and Reporting Contract - Parametrix

Included in the packet was a proposed Scope of Work and Estimate for environmental monitoring requirements of the 2024 Solid Waste Closure Permit for the Hoquiam Landfill with Parametrix. Councilmember Brooks moved to authorize signature of the contract and his motion was seconded. Councilmember Reid asked if this is the same company that we have used in the past. Mr. Shay stated that it was and with the insurance claim that was filed, roughly 80% of this contract should be covered by the insurance payment. Following no further discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

Amendment – Sunset Memorial Park Grant – Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Staff requested that Council approve an amendment to the current Sunset Memorial Grant Contract with DAHP to adjust the scope of work for the current project. Councilmember Brooks moved to sign the amendment to the contract and his motion was seconded. Councilmember Smith asked for some background on the grant. Mr. Shay explained that we had remaining funds from the original grant that we received to replace the gate for added security and DAHP has authorized us to use those remaining funds. We will be replacing the roll up doors at Cemetery shops. The motion passed by voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Appointments

Councilmember Brooks moved to accept the appointments made by the Mayor earlier in the meeting. His motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

2024 Council President

Nominations were opened for election of the Council President for 2024. Mayor Winkelman explained the duties of the Council President. Councilmember Larson nominated Councilmember Brooks; Councilmember Carlstrom nominated



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Councilmember Puvogel. Following no further nominations a roll call vote was taken and Councilmember Brooks was elected as Council President for 2024 by a vote of 6 to 3.

Establish Committee on  
Committee's

The Committees on Committees consists of the current Council President, the past Council President and a member at large nominated by the Council. Councilmember Hinchin moved to appoint Councilmember Thornton to serve on the committee, his motion was seconded. No further nominations were made and the motion to appoint Councilmember Thornton to serve as the third member of the Committee on Committees passed by voice vote.

Public Safety Meeting

Councilmember Reid stated that a Public Safety Committee meeting will be held at 6:00 on February 12<sup>th</sup> in the city Council Chambers.

Updates to Website

Councilmember Smith stated that there are several things out of date on the new website. He asked if staff could get those corrected. It was also stated that we will need to get pictures of several of the newer Councilmembers to include on the new website and will take care of that at a future meeting.

Excuse Absent Members

Councilmember Thornton moved to excuse the absent members and her motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Revitalization Committee

Councilmember Reid reminded the Mayor that Council had previously discussed an ad hoc committee to work on Revitalization. Mayor Winkelman stated he will be appointment members to that Committee.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

North Shore Levee

Alma Cahill, 104 14<sup>th</sup> St., Hoquiam, spoke to the Council about the problems they have had with the City of Aberdeen regarding property liens for the North Shore Levee. Last February they received a form for taxes for property that was purchased from them. When they filed their taxes, their bookkeeper found out the form they received from Aberdeen was incorrect. They called Aberdeen several times and finally got ahold of the lady that was doing it. She said it was the correct form, so she sent in another form which was the incorrect form. They then received a letter from IRS stating they owe them \$47,800. It took them from February until



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October to get this fixed. Finally in November they received the correct forms and they received a letter from the IRS that they owed \$0. She hopes someone will look into this so it doesn't happen to others.

April Obi, Poor People's Campaign

April Obi representing the State Poor People's Campaign brought brochures to the Council explaining more about this Campaign. She attended a council meeting several months ago. She also invited the Council and Citizens to join with them at the Capital on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, at noon to show support for the campaign.

Utility/Ambulance Rates

Robbin Emery, 911 Broadway Avenue, Hoquiam, spoke to the Council regarding the rate increases and taxes recently imposed by the city. She stated it looks like the citizen's No on prop 1 did not wake up some members that citizens are serious about no More Taxes/Fees. In my opinion, every one of you that voted yes need to resign in disgrace. Let me state for the record that we respect and admire our firefighters, this is not about them, it's about having no more to give, we're tapped out and when you come to the end of a rope with nowhere to go, it's time to think of other ways. We need to think out of the box for answers, for example, would adding volunteer firefighters be feasible?

Since you plan on raising this fee yearly through 2026 I'm asking the council to redo the payment schedule and evenly divide the amount over the next 3 years making it more affordable for your citizens.

I would like to see monthly meetings posted on your official Facebook page, where it can be shared making it easier to remember and to give citizen reminders. I will be happy to repost them in our group.

Since we're being forced into paying these taxes can we agree to not raise any city salaries for the next 3 years, If you can't afford to not raise the fees then the City cannot afford raises for workers. As elected public officials, answering to the public in your wards is part of your job.

I have submitted to Tracy Wood a list of questions from members and admins of the Facebook group Hoquiam 98550,



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many of you are in fact members of this group, and with over 7000 members this should have been and should be one of your go-to's to announce any important votes coming up, reminders of meetings, and you can and could have set up a poll if you were curious as to how Hoquiam citizens are feeling about different issues. Its 2024, Social media is used all the time for information and our group is big enough to work with you to spread the word.

I will be posting the following questions that I have submitted to the council on the Hoquiam 98550 Facebook group. I will pin them at the top of our group for your convenience and to make it easier to find. Please direct your answers to Hoquiam 98550 on Facebook, if you need help or have questions please contact any admin, we will be happy to assist you.

1. Please explain why there is a deficit in the first place when you collect not only monthly ambulance fees but charge for using the service?
2. When was the last time the City of Hoquiam had an "outside" audit?
3. Did the city send out a notice of the rate increase with the city bill? If not, why not.
4. Please list the public outlets you utilized to post an announcement of rate increases to inform the public?
5. What, if any, cost-cutting measures or alternative plans were considered before adding on this rate hike?
6. Why the need for such an immediate drastic (over 100%) hike to this fee?

In closing, I would like each of you to think about this ... think about your grandma having to choose between paying the water bill or buying groceries. Now remember back a few years when elderly people who couldn't afford to buy food and started eating dog and cat food to survive. Do we really need to go back to this so we can pay the ambulance fee? Yet, this will be a reality for our elderly if you don't start making better decisions for your citizens instead of just raising taxes.

Utility/Ambulance Rates

Janet Byrd, 418 Chenault, Hoquiam, asked the council to look at any other alternatives to save money. Could there be a 10% reduction in staffing? Why is the ambulance billing being outsourced? How much are you paying for them to do the



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billing - are they charging a flat rate, etc. If there are financial difficulties why are you increasing salaries? She realizes there are union negotiated raises but administrative raises? If someone asked her if they should move here and asked about utility bills she would tell them no. Go somewhere else.

**ADJOURN**

Councilmember Brooks moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. His motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

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**BEN WINKELMAN – MAYOR**

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**TRACY WOOD – COUNCIL SECRETARY**