



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday August 28, 2018**

Present: Council Members Mark Gourneau, Arturo De La Fuente, Diana Castaneda, Vera Zavala, Mayor Laura Vazquez, City Attorney Representative David Therian-Powers, City Clerk Sylvia Sanchez, City Treasurer Michelle Coronado

Absent: Council Member Sophia Sotelo, Fire Chief Luke Cussins

1. Call to Order Time: 7:03pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence and Roll Call

Council Member Sotelo was excused from the meeting because she was out of town and let everyone know in advance that she was going to be gone.

3. Vote on the Meeting Agenda

There was a motion by Mark and a second by Arturo to approve the Meeting Agenda. Approved

4-0

4. Visitor Comments (At the discretion of the presiding Chair, Visitor Comments may be accepted on individual business items only and will be limited to 2 to 5 minutes.)

Rachel Ruelas of 309 Maple St. came in to question the current water bill policy. Why there was a change and to say that her opinion was that people should not be without water if they did not have any notice of the change. She also came in to say that if the mayor could not pay her bill then she should have her water off also. The mayor responded and explained that she paid

her bill this is the reason that her water was not shut off and that the issue with the timing for the change was already addressed during the executive session of the study session.

Janice Alaniz of 202 Jefferson wanted to add that she felt the timing of the change was unfair as well because she had a payment plan and this change caught her off guard.

Vanessa Moreno of 405 Washington St. came in to ask what is being done about the water bill. She said that is too expensive and wants to know when the price is going down. It was explained that the price of the water bill is set by the cost of loans, improvements etc. and that the cost would not go down because that money was needed to pay them off.

Duran Rivera and Adan Nonato are public works employees and they stood up to say that they were unhappy with Laura's job as the mayor. Duran stated that he avoided her as much as possible not because he doesn't like her but because he doesn't trust her. Adan stated that she does things without asking like trying to sell the one truck that works for two smaller ones when it is the only truck that works. The main concern was that she is less than honest and saying one thing to council and telling employees another which is the reason that they came to the council meeting where everyone is together to explain themselves. The city attorney advised council to hear the employees concerns but not to respond on record to what they had to say. Council Member Zavala did ask the Teamsters Representative Rick Salinas if it was legal and allowable for council to be present during employee meetings to hear what was happening and what was going on. Mr. Salinas explained that this was fine but that council was not allowed to direct employees. Officer Cox made the suggestion that after the meeting it may be a good idea to set up time when council and the mayor could talk with the employees and have

this conversation. Council thanked the employees for their time and input and said they would get back to them.

Alberto Vazquez 613 South St. wanted to say that everyone is complaining about the price of the water bills but before all of these changes took place they had a meeting in the little school for everyone to have an opinion and no one showed up to the meeting or had anything to say.

He also stated that if the employees were so unhappy then they should find other jobs.

Rachel Ruelas 309 Maple St. stood up to comment again and said that if everyone is this unhappy with the mayors performance that she feels it appropriate that she resign and that she would be starting a petition for that.

**5. Consent Agenda** (The following will be enacted by one motion. There will be no discussion separate of these items unless a Council Member requests separate discussion. The item will be removed from the Consent agenda and added to New Business.)

A. Approve Study Session Minutes for Tuesday August 14, 2018

B. Approve City Council Meeting Minutes for Tuesday August 14, 2018

C. Approve Payroll Warrant Register Number #9743 To #9747 & Direct Deposit in the amount of \$5,486.75 in the amount of \$16,215.86

D. Approve Claim Voucher/Payment Number #9707 to #97025 in the amount of \$99,686.37 Note: check #9753 To #9775 were voided due to printing error.

E. Approve Final Progress Estimate No. 5 Well No. 6 Emergency Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$47,025.30

F. Approve Progress Estimate No. 6 Well No. 6 Emergency Rehabilitation Project Release of Retainage

There was a motion by Mark and a second by Vera to approve the Consent Agenda. Approved  
4-0

## 6. New Business

### A. Approval of Change Order No.8 Reservoir No. 2 and Water System Improvements Project in the amount of \$8485.00

There was a motion by Mark and a second by Arturo to approve Change Order No. 8. Approved  
4-0

## 7. Staff Reports

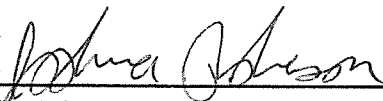
Sylvia stated that she had training coming up.

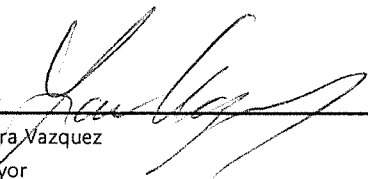
Jamin said that they will be setting the lights on water tower on Thursday from 7pm-7:30pm  
and he needs a couple council members to come and help to make sure they look like they  
should.

## 8. Mayor's Report

Mayor stated that she would need to be excused from the next meeting to attend the Mayor's  
Exchange in Walla Walla.

9. Adjournment: Time: 7:47pm

X   
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Joshua Roberson  
Deputy City Clerk

X   
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Laura Vazquez  
Mayor