

**CITY OF WAPATO**  
**Special Council Meeting – Council Chambers**  
**Minutes of July 12, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Guzmán called the special Council meeting of Tuesday, July 12, 2016 to order at 5:30 pm. He requested a five minute recess to allow others to make it to the meeting. The meeting was opened at 5:35 pm.

**ROLL CALL:** Those in attendance included Mayor Tony Guzmán, Councilmembers Frank Jaime, Roberto Reyna and Keith Workman.

**ABSENT:** Councilmembers Rita Alvarado, Carlos Fernandez, Rick Foss, and Steve Diaz are excused.

**CITY STAFF:** City Attorney (CA) Kellen Holgate, Clerk-Treasurer (CT) Susan Pearson, and Police Chief (PC) Richard Needham.

**CITY STAFF ABSENT:** None

**SPECIAL MEETING BUSINESS:** Mayor Guzmán explained this was a special meeting and the only topic to discuss is the Draft Alcohol Ordinance WMC 5.20 with stakeholders. There will be no decision making at this meeting. Mayor Guzmán asked if the stakeholders had a chance to meet as was discussed in the previous meeting. They did not.

Greg Sybot, owner of Roadrunner: He explained he purchased the Roadrunner approximately nine years ago. He said this last year thanks to Police Chief Needham and the department, the issues with panhandling and disruptive customers are way better. He is concerned that the Council wants to penalize the business owners for the few abusive chronic alcoholics in our community.

Ibrahim Wail, owner of Wapato Xpress Mart: He said if the issues are related to the abusive chronic alcoholics, why are the businesses being penalized? He has complied with all requests to not sell certain beers and enhanced alcohols.

Mayor Guzmán: He stated that when he was a Councilmember, a few of the Council took a voluntary agreement around to have the businesses sign indicating they wouldn't sell alcohol before 10:00 am in the morning. This was to prevent harassment and panhandling of children going to school. The chronic alcoholics then started walking to Donald Rd Store across I-82 and going to Allen's Market across I-97 causing serious safety issues.

Councilmember Workman: He stated he is unsure how the ordinance would be enforced.

Leo Orozco, owner of La Barata: He stated that things are getting better for him since he quit selling cheap beer. Customers feel safer coming into his store. However, his profits are down. He said he can't stop selling beer because he would go out of business.

CA Holgate: He clarified what alcohol is proposed to be restricted and for what timeframes.

Councilmember Workman: Kudos to PC Needham for the improvements in the community over the last year. A difference could really be seen.

Leo Orozco: He explained previous to this year, it would take a long time for police to arrive. Now it is worth it to call the Police because they are there in a few minutes. Maybe more Officers are needed to help police the problem.

Councilmember Jaime: He asked if Noah's Ark had been invited to this meeting. They have not.

There was discussion and a consensus that the chronic alcoholics that abuse the system need help and care.

Ibrahim Wail: Is there a way for the Police to take pictures of the chronic alcoholics and abusers? He would tell his staff not to sell to them.

CA Holgate: This request will be reviewed on whether it is legal or not.

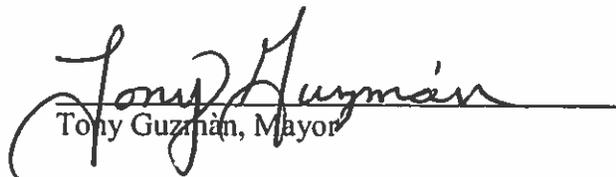
Leo Orozco: He wondered if the Yakama Nation could be more help in this situation.

There was discussion about funding sources and other ways to help care for the individuals that are struggling.

Mayor Guzmán: He asked if there should be another meeting. The consensus is yes and it was set for July 26, 2016 at 5:30 pm. The Yakama Nation and Noah's Ark will be invited to the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Councilmember Jaime, seconded by Councilmember Reyna, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

  
Tony Guzmán, Mayor

  
Susan P. Pearson, Clerk-Treasurer