



**Winlock City Council Meeting**  
**February 24, 2025**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Svenson called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Brandon Svenson, Mayor, Present; Jess Bowers, Councilor #1; Present; Chuck Camps, Councilor #2 Present; Jodie Curtis, Councilor #3, Present; Jeramy Allman, Councilor #4/Mayor Pro Tem, Present; Lindsey Alvord, Councilor #5. Present.

**CITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mindi Baird, Assistant Clerk.

**FLAG SALUTE:** Mayor Svenson led the flag salute.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA -** *Council Member, Jeramy Allman motioned to amend the agenda as removing Executive Session, seconded by Council Member Jodie Curtis. Motion carried unanimously.*

**OLD BUISSINESS:** Mayor Svenson said we do have the handicap parking spot on the agenda. Council Member Allman asked if Robert was still working on the property North of us. Council Member Allman asked if there is an update for the crosswalk signs. Mayor Svenson said we got the equipment in, but it needs proper footing to anchor the post down. To do that the sidewalk will have to be redone in front of the IGA. Mayor Svenson said Kenny and himself discussed getting cheaper ones that we can hook onto the existing sign for the time being. We would have to revise the concrete, come up into the parking lot and revise the ADU ramp. We will have to talk to Raleigh to see if he will be okay with that. Mayor Svenson said this summer we would like to do that project and use the smaller ones elsewhere.

**MAYOR COMMENTS:** Mayor Svenson congratulated the high school boys' basketball team for fighting hard this year. They are a young team that is really growing. They made it to districts and won the first game against Onalaska by one point, lost the second game by one point and their last game went into overtime, losing by one point. Mayor Svenson said he can see them doing very well next year. Mayor Svenson also congratulated the high school wrestling team for making it to state. Every kid on the wrestling team made it to State this year.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Council member, Curtis asked if we could get a crosswalk painted in front of the liquidation Store and the Plaza parking lot area. People are frequently parking there, and it will cause an accident. Mayor Svenson said he will speak with Kenny and Robert about looking into it.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance:** Council Member Allman said we had our finance meeting last Friday. We are still in the first quarter. Higher expenses, like insurance, come out in the first quarter. We are negative thirty-five thousand eight hundred sixty-four dollars and thirty-seven cents (\$35,864.37) in our current fund. We will pull out of this. Council Member Curtis said we are still the lowest in the County as far as the negative balance.

**Grants:** Mayor Svenson said Amy buzzard should be here March 10<sup>th</sup>

**REPORTS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Marty Poirrier asked the Council if they have an update about the water/sewer condition for his family's house that burnt down. Mayor Svenson said the Council has for the first time been presented with an ordinance draft. Mayor Svenson said it is written well. A form has been made up, but this is not something we will pass tonight. This ordinance is an emergency suspension of service for fire, flood, wind damage things of that nature. It allows a year and at that time could be reevaluated. Mayor Svenson briefly expressed their appreciation for bringing the matter to

Kathy Chastain, via zoom: Kathy said she hopes that 2025 is a better year than last. Kathy thanked everyone for doing a great job.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of Vouchers for February 24, 2025, for one hundred eight thousand four hundred eight-eight dollars and seventy-six cents (\$108,488.76) and Approval of Minutes from February 24, 2025. *Council Member Jodie Curtis motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Jeramy Allman. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### **AGENDA**

- a. **Handicap Parking Spot Fee** – Mayor Svenson said the original cost was going to be six hundred three dollars and four cents (\$603.04) that included labor and admin fees. We decided we would charge a fee for a sign and add the fee to our fee schedule. Mayor Svenson moved to say he is concerned that the sign is a city sign on a public street. He feels it's not fair to the citizen purchasing the sign to not have ownership. The Council briefly discussed a few of their ideas. Mayor Svenson said he will talk with Robert and Marissa to see what they can do. *Council Member Jodie Curtis Motioned to table the Handicap Parking Spot Fee. Second by Council Member Lindsey Alvord. The Motion carried unanimously.*
- b. **Cascade Community Health Center Comments, Mike Lowery** – Mike came to speak about the Cascade Community Health Outpatient Substance Center. Mike said he feels it is a fancy way of saying methadone clinic. Mike read the City of Winlock mission statement. He wonders how a meth clinic is going to enrich the city and further the mission statement. Mike said one thing that comes to mind is money. Clinic service needs have been going elsewhere to this point. Why is there a need in Winlock? If it wasn't in the paper, as it seems a concerned citizen put it in there, Mike feels as though it could have quietly passed. Fortunately, it was brought up. It could go passing but will not go quietly. Mike said he loves the constitution of the United States and the power it gives the people. Mike especially loves redressing his

grievance and protesting to government employees when called for. Mike moved to Winlock for a small town feeling and to get away from places like Portland where they have decriminalized all the drugs. Mike moved on to express his concerns that Winlock is in the middle of nowhere and are people going to be driving while on a bender, making it unsafe. Mike said he doesn't feel having a methadone clinic is the right way to help. Mike pointed out his thoughts about land use and asked if the building is up to code. Mike stated to the Council to take a deep look and feels that the City of Winlock is not prepared.

Mayor Svenson said the reason it wasn't discussed at the prior council meeting is because this is not even close to coming in to be discussed. The process must go through a conditional use. In this situation a building owner had an idea to lease their building for something that doesn't meet normal usage. In this case an outpatient clinic falls under a C1 use and not conditional use. To meet the criteria, one would have to come in and file the proper paperwork; that has not been done. To request conditional use, you must meet certain criteria under conditional use guidelines. This has not been met as they have not applied. It would then go before a hearing examiner and at that time a public notice would go out giving the public a chance to speak on the matter. After that it would then be presented to the Council. Mayor Svenson moved onto say Cascade received federal funding to go into rural areas and offer these services; to offer an alternative and support to get off street drugs. The whole idea was to come into rural areas because of transportation and to make access easier. When looking into neighboring cities, no one was willing to lease to them and someone in Winlock was, but they have not done the proper steps currently. Regardless, this problem exists in this community. Mayor Svenson moved on to say methadone is not one of the medications they use. They use suboxone as well as others, but they do want to get away from medication currency. Counseling would be a benefit in these conditions. Mayor Svenson thanked Mike for coming to the Council and speaking on the matter. Mayor Svenson encourages the newspaper editor to please come in, ask questions, be a part of the community, but not to divide the community. Please come to the meetings so you can ask questions and operate on truth. The Council briefly expressed thanks to Mike for voicing his opinion and would appreciate it if more citizens from the community would attend council meetings to be heard.

Kathy Hampton commented on the matter. Kathy works at Centralia hospital and sees the impact caused by drug addiction. Her daughter works for the Winlock School District and sees the children suffering. Our community is heavily affected. We need to help support the community.

**ADJOURNMENT - Council Member Chuck Camps motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Jeramy Allman. Motion carried unanimously.** Mayor Svenson adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.



Mayor Svenson

Attest:

  
Mindi Baird, Assistant Clerk