



**NAPAVINE CITY COUNCIL**  
**January 17, 2017 ~ 6:00 p.m.**  
**City Hall 407 Birch Ave SW, Napavine**

---

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Sayers called the regular meeting of the City Council to order at 6:00 pm. and led the flag salute.

**ROLL CALL:** Councilmembers present were Slemp, Sullivan and Wheeler

**INTERVIEW COUNCIL CANDIDATES:** Three (3) individuals submitted letters of interest for council positions: Shawn O’Neill, Larry Stafford and Sandy Wiediger. O’Neill and Wiediger were interviewed. Mr. Stafford was not in attendance.

**OUT OF REGULAR SESSION:** Mayor Sayers stated that at this point the council would go into executive session to discuss candidates for council, and closed the meeting at 6:12 pm.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor Sayers stated at 6:12 pm the council was in executive session to discuss council candidates and would return within 10-15 minutes.

Council returned to chambers at 6:25 pm.

**IN REGULAR SESSION:** Mayor Sayers reconvened the regular meeting at 6:25 pm stating that no decisions were made during executive session. Councilor Sullivan stated that the council would hold off on an appointment for one (1) month to give Mr. Stafford an opportunity to appear and be heard, and thanked the other candidates for their interest.

**PUBLISHED AGENDA:** *Councilor Slemp moved to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Councilor Sullivan, motion passed unanimously.*

**CITIZENS BUSINESS:** Jim Haslett, 222 Maple Ave. SW, Napavine – Mr. Haslett spoke from a prepared document he’d brought first stating that his wife, LaVerne Haslett had received criticism from Napavine administration. He went on in length to speak of his wife’s work history with the County and the City of Napavine, and elaborated on her ups and down during her tenure. He also talked about his

*“This institution in an equal opportunity provider, and employer.”*

accomplishments as a councilmember. Mr. Haslett concluded that his wife resigned from city council recently because of how badly she'd been treated and that she couldn't take it anymore, and that her 34 years of service had been blatantly disregarded. Mr. Haslett requested a hand of applause from the audience.

Kevin Lee, 303 Vine St. W., Napavine – 1) Mr. Lee stated that the council annexed Woodard Road in 2015, and that the city has done nothing to it since. It is worse than Mill Road. Council should take a look at it and try to get it fixed. 2) Mr. Lee stated that after the last council meeting the Mayor made a statement that steps were being taken to replace Steve Ashley's position. He wanted to know what steps were being taken as nothing has been done for two (2) years.

Mike Hamilton, 4206 NE 26<sup>th</sup>(?), Camas – Mr. Hamilton requested that council do not approve the water treatment plan at this point. He stated that Mayor Sayers and Steve Ashley and didn't know who else called them "the damn Hamilton's", stating that the city annexed them. They didn't ask to be annexed and would prefer not to be part of Napavine, and asked that Napavine "let them escape and get back to the County, that would be much nicer". He also said that the Mayor has taken no advice other than that of Steve Ashley, and that the Mayor should call a well driller to find out what it really takes to drill a well. The crux of this he said is the well, it's a bad well, and if you continue with wanting to provide water to the businesses at exit 72 that the Ribeye and possibly other businesses will shut down. He stated that this was consistent with a personal conversation he'd had with Steve Ashley where Ashley that this is exactly why Bede's shut down, because of bad water. He then went on to state to Councilors Slemph and Wheeler that they needed to perform to higher standards that he was not seeing that their performance was as sterling as it should be.

Deborah Graham, 295 Kirkland Rd., Chehalis – Ms. Graham stated that she is a taxpayer in Napavine, and finds it hard to believe that citizens, taxpayers have one three (3) minutes to bring their issues and frustrations to the council, no chance of dialog or to get answers to their questions, and to tell their side of the story. She went on to say that in 2000 when the "damn Hamilton's" 60 acres was annexed she thought Napavine would be glad to have the potential tax revenue from businesses, and in the 17 years since that happened none of the above and working with the community development department has happened. So, if the community development department was actually working the city would have increased tax revenue from businesses. She stated that not once has

the Mayor or councilmembers asked them what happened with the hotel and gotten their story, and it seems that council is only listening to one side of the story. Is it because you don't care or want to hear what businesses and tax payers have to say? Ms. Graham thanked council.

(At this point Mr. Webster made blurted comments from the audience. When the Mayor asked him to refrain, he blurted obscenities to the Mayor, and the Mayor asked Chief Salyers to remove him from the session). Other comments were made from the audience that was inaudible.

Cecilia Kolano, 178 Haight Rd., Chehalis – Ms. Kolano stated that her family had been part of Napavine for years, and that her concern is the decision-making process that's creating the "kerfuffle" in Napavine. She stated that having Steve Ashley as the community development director wasn't the issue, but the issue is who is making the decisions? She stated that in a Chronicle issue the Mayor stated that Cris Dodd would most likely be placed in the position of community development director. She said that if that's the case, then why isn't she in that position now. She wanted to know why the job description for the community development director did not have qualifications listed. I did check and a community development director could be hired at under \$100,000, maybe it would be wise to partner with another city such as Winlock. How are decisions being made with no process? Are you the Mayor just randomly making decisions? She asked that the Mayor and council listen to input from community and not disregard their comments. (Mike Hamilton blurted out that Bryan Morris had a degree in community development). Mayor Sayers asked others that were blurring out comments to refrain from side talk.

Stan Wood, 426 Stadium Court, Napavine – Mr. Wood stated that his questions were geared to the treasurer's position, and that back in August she was required to do a time study to justify her going to 40 hours, which she did. However, in the 2017 budget her hours were back to 32, so obviously someone killed that, but yet two (2) other employees time a time bump and a pay raise. Were they required to do a time study? It would appear that you (directed at council) have forgotten that you work for us, not us for you. Changes have to be made. If we're not growing we're dying. That's business 101.

Jerry Graham, 295 Kirkland Rd., Chehalis – Mr. Graham stated that The Chronicle said that regarding their hotel, that they hadn't

presented permits to the city. He said they were holding off until they got prices for the water. He said that what held it up was you telling Steve Ashley to come up with pricing and he came back with \$438,384 for our 85 room hotel. Your direction to Ashley was to go out and get pricing and process from a larger project, this isn't a large project. Elma put their Microtel water in there for under a \$100,000. We knocked our rooms down to 52 and you still wanted over \$278,000, your water ain't worth that. He brought up Cummins and brought up that they leased to them. He asked where you got your information that he asked for help with their leases? We followed through on our plan over 20 years, which was to lease out that space and then we sold it, we followed through on that. And, we've brought no permits to the city, none since the hotel. Mr. Ashley killed everything that we put forward based on his pricing. His pricing he gave for hotel must have been based on L.A., Seattle, etc. pricing. What would you have hooked us up to, Well #6? I don't think so. We put the one water line in down there to bring business to Napavine and the city has pretty much killed that, except for us to sell and get out. I think I want to do something different and buy a house in Lake Havasu and retire. Every time I try to say something about Steve Ashley to Cris Dodd she tries to have me arrested or cited. Your attorney sent me a letter threatening me based on what she'd said or tries to get me for harassment. I have five (5) of the best witnesses around, and if she wants to take it further than this, I am prepared.

LaVerne Haslett, 222 Maple Ave., NW, Napavine – Waived her opportunity to speak and gave her time to Jerry Graham.

Larry Hamilton, 122 Colerd(sp?), PeEll – Part owner in Napavine, I don't appreciate being cursed by the employees of Napavine, and it very much upsets me to be called "damn Hamilton". In a Chronicle issue Mr. Ashley is quoted as saying that the Hamilton's don't follow policies, that is not true and I take affront to that. I'm against the well with bad water. I encourage you to not accept that bid tonight.

Scott Hamilton, 287 Parkside Loop, Napavine – Mr. Hamilton stated that he wanted to congratulate two of the council members, and Mr. Wheeler if he could stay awake, and to potentially two others that may be appointed. He reminded them that they were appointees only, and not elected, and asked if they supported the Mayor or the citizens? He stated that he was offended at another council meeting when the Mayor asked who in the audience were citizens, that offended me, because representative in this room tonight we have two individuals in this audience tonight that

represent 15% of the tax base as business or property owners, and I'm not out of line when I state that one individual pays \$84,000 a year in property taxes to Napavine.

Another concern I've had since I served on the council is that when the community development director was leaving in 2014 I asked the Mayor was he was going to do about that, and behind the scenes I kept asking you the Mayor, what are we going to do, and even in to 2015 you said I'm taking care of it, I'm working on a plan. Even when my term ran out at the end of 2015 I asked you again what are you doing and you said I'm taking care of that. A full year later, what have you done? Before I left council we'd had discussions on a managerial form operations, and you made a campaign promise to look in to that, yet nothing has happened. He said that no action, is inaction and this meeting tonight is inaction on the part of the Mayor and brought us to this. My final announcement is this: Shortly your entire council will be appointees only, except for Jen Slempp, and we'll be out here watching to see if you represent the Mayor's wishes and desires or those of the citizens and taxpayers of Napavine. And, my final comment will be Mr. Wheeler, integrity is everything, and I spent a whole year listening to you campaign as to why the Mayor is unfit to be the Mayor of Napavine, and yet you accepted his appointment to council to complete his budget requirement, and with that I will be filing at the next general election to run for Mr. Wheeler's position.

**STAFF/COUNCIL  
REPORTS:**

Mayor Sayers stated that research and recruitment for the community development director position will start now by staff with posting of the position to follow when done. Mike Hamilton tried to interject comments; however, the Mayor asked him to not interrupt.

**MINUTES OF 12-13-16:**

*Councilor Slempp moved to approve the minutes of December 13, 2016 as written, seconded by Councilor Sullivan, motion passed unanimously.*

**MINUTES OF 12-20-16  
SPECIAL MEETING:**

*Councilor Slempp moved to approve the minutes of December 20, 2016 as written, seconded by Councilor Sullivan, motion passed unanimously.*

**MINUTES OF 12-27-16**

**SPECIAL MEETING:**

*Councilor Slep moved to approve the minutes of December 27, 2016 as written, seconded by Councilor Sullivan, motion passed unanimously.*

**VOUCHER:**

*Councilor Slep moved to approve the vouchers for January 17, 2017; Voucher payments #33681/337527 for \$73,533.94; Payroll Vouchers #33679/33680 for \$955.50; Electronic Payments for \$43,381.65; ACH Deposits for \$45,638.12; Voided Check #33717 replaced with #33745 and 33734; total distribution of \$163,509.21, seconded by Councilor Sullivan, Councilor Wheeler abstained, motion passed by majority vote.*

**PROCUREMENT**

**CONTRACT:**

Cris Dodd stated that all information pertaining to this agreement for the ozone treatment was in their packets, and it included information and history from the engineers on well #6. Scott Hamilton from the audience asked if bids had been made public and posted. *Councilor Slep moved to approve the Procurement Contract with Gray & Osborne for ozone treatment of well #6, seconded by Councilor Sullivan, motion passed unanimously.*

**DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT**

**STUDY:**

Cris explained that the documents before council were regarding a study for drainage on Kirkland Rd, through a grant from RCO with Gray & Osborne conducting the study. Councilor Slep made comment that she, Flood Authority and Commissioners will be meeting on this soon as well. *Councilor Sullivan moved to have Gray & Osborne move forward with the study, seconded by Councilor Slep, motion passed unanimously.*

**PLANNING**

**COMMISSION:**

Mayor Sayers stated that there are two (2) positions open on the Planning Commission, noting that interested individuals did not have to reside within city limits, but within the UGA.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Jim Haslett made the comments that he wished to apologize to folks down at Exit 72 for being part of the council at the time that annexed them into Napavine to produce tax revenue for the city, and that they've been getting treated badly ever since. (At this point others from the audience began yelling and shouting out comments and profanities that were inaudible to hear back in the recording).

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*Councilor Sullivan moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Slemph, motion passed unanimously. Mayor Sayers adjourned the meeting at 7:23 pm*

Respectfully submitted,

---

John Sayers  
Mayor

---

Councilmember

---

Penny Jo Haney  
City Clerk

DRAFT