

Regular Council Meeting of January 6, 2026

Present were: Mayor Naillon, Councilmembers Shaw, Marthaller, Werner, Hart and Moser.
Absent: None.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Naillon. Pledge of Allegiance given.
Copies of the December 16th council meeting minutes were read and approved.
Due to the disruption of the meeting through the call-in service, disconnection of the call was necessary.

Motion by Werner and second by Marthaller the 12/25–Open Period–1 vouchers, \$57,646.06, #36102-36120 (void #36101), be paid and the December 31, 2025 payroll of \$108,740.52, #36057-36100, Direct Deposit Run, EFT #202548-202550, be approved; motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Naillon made the following Department Head Appointments for 2026:

City Attorney: Mick Howe
City Clerk-Treasurer: JoAnn Denney
City Superintendent: Steve Thompson
Fire Chief: Bruce Rawley
Police Chief: Gary Hirst

As there are no anticipated contractual changes, the following will remain the same:

Planning and Development: Kurt Danison
Building Official: Bryan Forbus

Motion by Werner, second by Shaw that the appointments be confirmed; motion carried unanimously.

2026 Committee Appointments announced by Mayor Naillon; appointments were as follows:

Aviation: Shaw / Moser
Emergency Aid Board: Naillon / Werner / Moser / Denney
Facilities: Werner / Hart
Finance: Shaw / Marthaller
Fire Board: Naillon / Fire Chief Rawley / Hart / Denney
Health: Moser / Shaw
Parks: Moser / Marthaller
Personnel: Shaw / Werner
Police: Hart / Marthaller
Sewer: Werner / Hart
Solid Waste: Moser / Shaw
Street / Weed Control: Marthaller / Werner
Water: Hart / Marthaller
Mayor Pro-Tempore; 2026 rotation will be:
January – March 2026: Shaw
April – June 2026: Hart
July – September 2026: Marthaller
October – December 2026: Moser
(January – March 2027: Werner)

Councilmember Shaw explained the AWC (Association of Washington Cities) Center for Quality Communities (CQC) scholarship to the public in attendance; the scholarship program supports high school seniors who are active in leadership in their city government, community or school and plan to pursue higher education. Each year, all of Washington's 281 cities and towns can recruit scholarship applicants. Each city can nominate one graduating high school senior. The CQC will award up to four \$3,000 scholarships in 2026. Shaw stated that one application has been received; submitted by Crystal Nemecio. Motion by Moser, second by Werner to accept the application and authorize Councilmember Shaw to proceed with the submittal to AWC; motion carried unanimously.

Interlocal Agreement between Okanogan County and the City for 2026 Building Inspector Services explained by Mayor Naillon; agreement is a backup to the City's contract with the City of Okanogan in the event that the County needs to fill in for Building Official Forbus. Motion by Shaw, second by Marthaller that Mayor Naillon be authorized to sign the agreement; motion carried unanimously.

Department Head Updates

Superintendent Thompson updated the Council with the list of surplus items; resolution to be presented during the next Council meeting. Thompson stated that the Rural Fire District will also have a fire truck to be surplusd at the same time.

Public Comment Period

A large group of residents was present to discuss how to address crime in the area. Mayor Naillon requested that those speaking provide their name and limit their comments to 5 minutes to allow for all residents to provide their comments. Councilmember Werner encouraged those in attendance to keep their comments positive.

Jon Neal, Okanogan County Commissioner, stated that he and Mayor Naillon had recently had a discussion on how to address crime in the area. Neal stated that RCW 13.2, which pertains to juveniles, ties the hands of law enforcement and how they deal with juveniles and it becomes a catch and release situation. Neal stated that he is working to organize a meeting between himself, law enforcement representatives and communities in Okanogan County to work on a plan to address the issues faced by all communities and the County.

John Reed questioned accountability for parents if juveniles are not being held responsible for their actions; examples of other cases provided by Chief Hirst.

Peggy Zarembo-Born discussed the same concern that parents should be held accountable.

Dusti Giroux questioned if civil lawsuits could be filed; also questioned patrol coverage. Chief Hirst discussed the current coverage for Oroville.

Nick Perez questioned if the Border Patrol could assist Oroville; Chief Hirst discussed how the law enforcement agencies all work together.

Andros Moore questioned citizens' rights; explanation given by Chief Hirst.

Dale Harvey questioned what is allowed for personal/property defense; explanation given by Chief Hirst. Jon Neal discussed the fine line on the realities for personal/property defense.

Kim Beyers questioned if the recent robberies, arson and firearm discharge are connected and how does the local citizen get accurate information. Chief Hirst addressed the question. Councilmember Moser expressed the importance of filing police reports and that social media is not the best place to get facts on the issues. Chief Hirst further explained the reporting process.

Jamie Portwood questioned the follow-up for police reports; Chief Hirst discussed the actions taken in her particular report.

Heather Marthaller questioned how filing reports help when it was stated that the law enforcement's hands are tied when dealing with juveniles. Councilmember Moser explained that each time a report is filed, it is added to that individuals file and will be taken into consideration at some point. Moser also discussed the importance of neighbors watching out for each other.

Chief Hirst stressed the importance of filing police reports and that each report does help.

Paul Bouchard stated that he would like to see a business watch group set up and questioned how to create one.

Peggy Zarembo-Born feels that social media can help keep people informed. Chief Hirst stated that the Police Department has a Facebook page and people are welcome to comment on it, however, further stressed the importance of actually reporting incidents.

Gregorio Amaro stated that the community could either tolerate the situation or do something about it; discussed community awareness and wondered about getting tips from other communities on how they deal with crime.

Mayor Naillon stated that education for the community is vital; the National Neighborhood Watch (NNW) organization has great information that helps citizens know what to do.

Jamie Portwood stated that 2 way communication is needed, those filing incident reports need to be aware that their issue is being addressed.

Traci Neal encouraged the creation of a neighborhood/business watch group so that individuals can meet in person to be involved and have accurate information; discussed that the group could work with local law enforcement.

Mayor Naillon discussed the importance of how the group proceeds; research is needed and the NNW is a great resource to help them form their group correctly.

Councilmember Shaw encouraged the group to research RCW 9A.16.020, Use of Force, to educate themselves.

Allan Freed further questioned reporting incidents to the police department; discussed that RCW 13.2 ties the hands of how juveniles are dealt with, however, the reports are needed.

Jon Neal discussed the importance of voting; votes do count and change is needed for our State.

Dusti Giroux questioned if there was a way that business security systems could alert the police department; discussed that those systems are usually tied to a company that would then notify the police department when an alarm is activated.

Alison Gronlund stated that she has dogs to alert her to potential issues and she is having complaints reported for her barking dogs; Chief Hirst explained how Gronlund could deal with her dogs and neighbors. Discussion on differences between dogs barking to bark and dogs barking to alert their owners of issues they need to be aware of.

Councilmember Marthaller discussed his experiences from living in other communities and importance of having activities / facilities for local youth.

Chief Hirst explained his plan for addressing the issues:

- Patrol plan was discussed
- Continued working relationship with other law enforcement agencies
- Reporting request to the public:
 - File a report each and every time there is an issue
 - File the report immediately
 - If a crime is found days after it occurred, still report the crime

Chief Hirst stated that victims of property crimes don't want to be victims, the police department cannot advise individuals how to address crime, but they need to be proactive and not be victims.

Superintendent Thompson stated that as a business owner that has been broken into 4 times, he supports the idea of a business neighborhood watch; stated that he was recently in the business after hours and appreciated that a private citizen saw him in the business and checked to make sure that he should be there.

Further discussion on importance of watching out for each other.

Paul Bouchard expressed his full support of the Police Department and thanked Chief Hirst and the other officers for their service to the community.

Kent Dillard commented on his concern for the direction the State of Washington has gone and feels that it is time for Eastern Washington to secede. Further discussion on the importance of voting.

Taze Henderson wondered how he could join the City's volunteer group; Mayor Naillon stated that the private citizens will need to form a community watch group, it wouldn't be run through the City.

Question on what the Okanogan County dispatch non-emergency phone number is; the number was provided by Chief Hirst.

John Boyle questioned if tribal officers would fall within the same laws as local law enforcement, could be an asset; Jon Neal stated that they would have to follow local laws.

Tove Mendez discussed police volunteer programs and wondered if one could be pursued in Oroville.

Kim Beyers wondered if Crime Watch Buttons could be printed and worn by citizens to help show that the community is sticking together; discussed that signage is recommended by the NNW organization. Councilmember Werner expressed the importance of getting back to neighbors watching out for each other.

Mayor and Council thanked the public in attendance for the discussion.

As there being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm by Mayor Naillon.

Minutes approved _____

Mayor

Clerk