

TOWN OF CATHLAMET  
JANUARY 17, 2019  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

**CALL TO ORDER –**

The regular council meeting for the Town of Cathlamet was called to order by Mayor Dale Jacobson at 3:00 p.m. Thursday, January 17, 2019.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –** Mayor Jacobson

**ROLL CALL –** Acting Clerk/Treasurer Sylvia Costich

Present: Mayor Jacobson, Council Members Ryan Smith, Jean Burnham, Sue Cameron, and Laurel Waller. Councilmember Tanya Waller phoned in. Also present were Acting C/T Sylvia Costich, Town Attorney Fred Johnson, PW Supt. Duncan Cruickshank, Eagle Editor Rick Nelson and members of the public.

**COMMENTS BY MAYOR AND TOWN ATTORNEY**

Mayor Jacobsen announced that there would not be any public comments taken at this meeting. Also, the C/T would poll the individual councilmembers during voting.

Attorney Fred Johnson explained the recall petition process. The action is against individuals, not the Town. Therefore, he could not represent the Mayor and Councilmembers. Before a request by one of them is acted on, that person should recuse themselves. Therefore, the Mayor needs to pass the gavel to the Mayor Pro Tempore while his request is being acted on.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Item 1. Mayor Jacobson recused himself and passed the gavel to Mayor Pro Tempore Ryan Smith. *CM Cameron made the motion* to consider and Act upon the request of Dale Jacobson to have the Town pay the necessary expenses of defending him in a judicial hearing to determine the sufficiency of a recall charge or charges as provided for in RCW 4.96.041 (3). *CM Burnham seconded.* MPT Smith called for discussion. CM L. Waller asked what would be the maximum cost of the defense. CM Cameron replied somewhere between \$8,000 and \$10,000 for all four for the January 22<sup>nd</sup> hearing in superior court. CM T. Waller said, if it goes to appeal, that should be handled separately. TA Johnson said they could be separated. CM L. Waller *made a motion to amend the motion* to limit all requests today to the defense cost for the January 22<sup>nd</sup> hearing. CM Cameron said that was reasonable. MPT Smith called for the vote to amend – Aye: Smith, Burnham, Cameron, L Waller, T. Waller. Carried 5 Yes, 0 No.

Discussion on amended motion continues. CM Burnham noted that a recall ballot will be expensive for the Town. MPT Smith called for the vote on amended motion– Aye: Smith, Burnham, Cameron, L Waller. No T. Waller. Carried 4 Yes, 1 No. The gavel passed back to Mayor Jacobson.

Item 2. Councilmember Cameron recused herself. *CM Smith made the motion* to consider and Act upon the request of Sue Cameron, as amended, to have the Town pay the necessary expenses of defending her in a judicial hearing to determine the sufficiency of a recall charge or charges as provided for in RCW 4.96.041 (3). *CM Burnham seconded.* M Jacobson called for discussion. No discussion, M Jacobson called for the vote - Aye: Smith, Burnham, L. Waller. No T. Waller. Carried 3 Yes, 1 No

Item 3. Councilmember Smith recused himself. *CM Burnham made the motion* to consider and Act upon the request of Ryan Smith, as amended, to have the Town pay the necessary expenses of defending him in a judicial hearing to determine the sufficiency of a recall charge or charges as provided for in RCW 4.96.041 (3). *CM Cameron seconded.* M Jacobson called for discussion. No discussion, M Jacobson called for the vote - Aye: Burnham, Cameron, L. Waller. No T. Waller. Carried 3 Yes, 1 No

Item 4. Councilmember Burnham recused herself. *CM Cameron made the motion* to consider and Act upon the request of Jean Burnham, as amended, to have the Town pay the necessary expenses of defending her in a judicial hearing to determine the sufficiency of a recall charge or charges as provided for in RCW 4.96.041 (3). *CM Smith seconded.* M Jacobson called for discussion. No discussion, M Jacobson called for the vote - Aye: Smith, Cameron, L. Waller. No T. Waller. Carried 3 Yes, 1 No

**CONSENT OF TOWN ATTORNEY**

TA Johnson stated that the RCW requires the agreement of the Town Attorney. He explained the legal test for his decision – 1) a position can be established that the charges are not sufficient to support a recall. 2) The hearing requires legal representation and there should be proper representation on both sides. It is unrealistic to expect self-defense at the hearing. Therefore, he approves of the motions.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Jacobson adjourned the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

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Dale Jacobson, Mayor

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Sylvia Costich, Acting Clerk/Treasurer