

City of Grand Coulee
Regular Meeting of the City Council
January 18, 2022

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Townsend called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00pm.

ROLL CALL:

The following were:

Present: Mayor Townsend, Tammara Byers, Mike Horne, Alan Cain, Mr. Poplawski, Mr. Carriere attended via ZOOM

Also Present: Clerk Lorna Pearce, Ryan Fish, Fire Chief, Dennis Francis, City Superintendent, Jacob Wagner Star Newspaper, Travis Irwin, Ruth Dalton, Mike and Anita Eylar and Kimberly Christensen and Leroy White

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

2. VISITOR INPUT:

Leroy White, 58178 View Place, is interested in creating a community center. He has spoke with Rural Resources and they would also like to see a community center. He would lime to find a building that would work within Grand Coulee. Mr. White would set the community center up under 501c non-profit. Mr. White has background in substance abuse and is also interested in assisting in the areas of drug abuse and homelessness in our area.

Kimberly Christensen, 500 Roosevelt Dr., voiced her concerns regarding feral cats and dog running loose. Ms. Christensen asked why tickets are not being written for dogs at large and parking. She is also concerned about council actions outside of city hall. Mr. Poplawski responded to Ms. Christensen telling her the judicial system is currently undergoing a change and at this time the city is trying to get voluntary compliance rather than issuing a citation.

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Chief Fish reported that the ambulance had responded to 555 calls in 2021 which was a significant increase over 2020. He again stated that the city may have to look into paying ambulance attendees a standby fee. The fire dept. responded to 71 calls in 2021. This number is a little lower than previously reported due to some of the fire calls being ambulance calls. The fire dept. has responded to three fires already this year. One of the fire trucks in for repairs. Braun Northwest contacted Mr. Fish and asked to have the old ambulance to them the first part of February to start on the conversion. Braun is estimating a 60 day turn around for the ambulance.

Dennis Francis, City Superintendent reported that the crew has been working hard to the snow cleared. He informed council that there is break in the main sewer line between the TeePee and Loep's that needs to be replaced as soon as possible. Mr. Francis has spoken with Wisdom Earthworks and is waiting to hear back on cost to dig up the line and replace. Mr. Francis informed council that there are several sections of sewer main that need to be replaced and they will be included in the wastewater facilities plan that Gray & Osborne are working on.

Ms. Pearce informed council that a little over \$10,074.00 in delinquent utility charges had been turned to collections. Some of the charges were due to COVID-19 others were due to be turned when the state mandate was handed down. There is currently \$13,103 in delinquent utility charges. These accounts have deferred pay agreements in place. Ms. Pearce stated

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that Kris Thiesfeld wanted council to know the website is ready to go live. Ms. Pearce let council know that they all need to take/re-take the public records training and asked that once they complete the training to print a copy of their completion certificate and bring her a copy.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

5. AGENDA REVISIONS:

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 6.1** Motion to approve Regular Council meeting minutes of December 21, 2021.
- 6.2** Motion to approve for Payment Vouchers, dated December 31, 2021, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and expense reimbursement claims, dated December 31, 2021, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.090, voucher numbers 41963 through 41965 and EFT items in the amount of \$42,166.73.
- 6.3** Motion to approve for Payment Vouchers, dated January 18, 2022, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and expense reimbursement claims, dated December 31, 2021, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.090, voucher numbers 41966 through 41987 and EFT items in the amount of \$42,646.46.
- 6.4** Motion to approve Payroll Vouchers, dated December 30, 2021, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, vouchers numbered 41915 through 41935 and Direct Deposit and EFTs (no sequenced numbers) as listed on the Payroll register in the total amount of \$147,643.23.

Mr. Cain motioned to approve the consent agenda, Mr. Horne second, motion carried.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

7.1 Water/Sewer Connection Fees: Ms. Pearce informed council that she did not have a new resolution for the fees that were discussed in December, her reason is that council had not given guidance on the fee to re-connect residences who had willing given up their connection to avoid paying the monthly vacant fee. Mr. Poplawski feels that a re-connect should be charged in the same manner as a new customer. Mr. Carriere asked if the meter is actually being removed, response from Mr. Francis, yes. Mr. Cain feels that a conscious decision was made to remove the meter and should pay the full cost to re-connect. Ms. Pearce asked council to set a dollar amount. Mr. Poplawski motioned to charge \$1200.00 plus time and materials for all connections new and re-connections, Mr. Cain second, motion carried.

7.2 Resolution 22-01 Opposition to Local Income Tax: Ms. Byers motioned to adopt Resolution 22-01, Mr. Carriere second, motion carried.

7.3 Parking Enforcement: Mr. Poplawski noted that there is currently nothing in Sector to allow officers to issue parking infractions. There was no further comment or action.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Appointment to Council Position #1: Mayor Townsend noted that there had been four letters of interest submitted, unfortunately one resides outside the city limits. Mr. Poplawski asked the two eligible candidates that were present if they would be running for election in two years to maintain the position, both Ms. Dalton and Ms. Eylar replied

yes. Mr. Poplawski then asked what their governmental experience was. Ms. Dalton said she had none but has lived and worked in the community for many years. Ms. Eylar said that she had been employed by the City of Liberty Lake, was on their planning commission, Ms. Eylar also attended council meetings and assisted with the sound equipment. Mr. Cain asked if either of them had an agenda, both replied no. Mr. Poplawski motioned to appoint Ms. Eylar to Council Position #1 for the two-year term, Mr. Horne second, motion carried with 4 voting yes and Ms. Byers voting no. Mayor Townsend took this opportunity to thank Ms. Byers for her years of service. Ms. Eylar was then sworn in and took her seat with the council.

8.2 Agreement for Court Services: Mayor Townsend wanted council to know under the new agreement all infractions would be heard in Ephrata at the courthouse. Mr. Poplawski said the alternative would be for the city to form a municipal court and hire an attorney to hear cases. He feels this may be cost prohibitive. Ms. Pearce said that her understanding is that the city will need to draft an ordinance(s) that would allow speeding infractions to be written into the municipal court, currently the officers write them under an RCW. Mr. Cain motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement for court services, Mr. Carriere second, motion carried with 4 yes votes and Mr. Poplawski voting no.

8.3 Agreement for Water Delivery USBR: Ms. Pearce said that she reached out to the contracting agent to have language added regarding the payment of the vacant fee when the meters are off but had not received the revised agreement. Mr. Poplawski motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement once the revision was made, Mr. Horne second, motion carried.

8.4 Resolution 22-02 Transfer Station Tipping Fees: Mr. Cain motioned to adopt Resolution 22-02, Mr. Horne second, motion carried.

8.5 Resolution 22-03 Declaring Surplus Property: Mr. Carriere motioned to approve Resolution 22-03, Mr. Cain second, motion carried.

8.6 Ordinance 1082 Adopting Section 17.60.170 Regulating Short Term Rentals: Mr. Cain motioned to adopt Ordinance 1082, Mr. Carriere second, motion carried.

8.7 Request to Reinstate Deferred Pay Agreement: Ms. Pearce explained that the customer had entered into a deferred pay agreement, defaulted, the water was turned off and the customer made payment the next day. The water has been off since Jan. 14th, Mr. Cain motioned to reinstate the deferred payment, Mr. Carriere second, motion carried.

Ms. Pearce asked that council review draft Ordinance 1083 Signs that she had sent out and to please email her any comments so that she may respond to the attorney's questions noted in the margins of the document. Ms. Pearce let council know that both the short-term rental ordinance and the sign ordinance need to go through a Dept. of Commerce review which requires a public hearing on the ordinances. Council had held the public hearing for the short-term rentals but not the sign code. Ms. Pearce asked council to set a date for the public hearing. By consensus the public hearing is set for February 15, 2022, at 6:00pm prior to the regular council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no objection, the mayor adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:15pm.

Paul A. Townsend, Mayor

Lorna Pearce, Clerk/Treasurer

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