

City of Grand Coulee
Regular Meeting of the City Council
February 15, 2022

MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING: Ordinance 1083 Updating Sign Code: Mayor Townsend opened the public hearing at approximately 6:00pm. As there were no public comment or council comments the public hearing was closed at approximately 6:03pm

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Townsend called the meeting to order at approximately 6:04pm.

ROLL CALL:

The following were:

Present: Mayor Townsend, Anita Eylar, 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, and Brad Tower

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

2. VISITOR INPUT:

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mr. Fish told council that the “old” ambulance had been taken to Braun Northwest to begin the installation of the new box. Braun told him it would be approximately 45 days for the installation. To date there have been 64 ambulance calls and 7 fire calls. Mr. Fish also informed council planning has begun for the upgrades to the fire station for the installation of a washer and dryer.

Mr. Francis reported that the repairs to the sewer line on Main St. are complete and the total cost will be approximately \$18,500.00. The crew has been busy with snow removal, vehicle maintenance, several sewer plugs and working with the Bureau and the engineers in preparation for the Federal Ave. street project and waterline replacement, these items were among a long list of other projects.

Ms. Pearce informed council that she has started the annual report process for 2021. The advertisement for bids on the Federal Ave. project will be in the paper on Feb. 16th and Feb. 23 with the bid opening to be March 8, 2022 at 2pm at city hall. Ms. Pearce informed council that the WWTF had, once again, received as award for outstanding performance for 2020.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mr. Cain stated that the planning committee had approved the sign code revisions and is recommending that council adopt the ordinance.

5. AGENDA REVISIONS:

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6. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 6.1** Motion to approve Regular Council meeting minutes of January 18, 2022.
- 6.2** Motion to approve for Payment Vouchers, dated February 15, 2022, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and expense reimbursement claims, dated February 15, 2022 certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.090, voucher numbers 42008 through 42056 and EFT items in the amount of \$125,355.29.
- 6.3** Motion to approve Payroll Vouchers, dated January 31, 2022, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, vouchers numbered 41988 through 42007 and Direct Deposit and EFTs (no sequenced numbers) as listed on the Payroll register in the total amount of \$158,880.19.

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

7. OLD BUSINESS:

7.1 Water/Sewer Connection Fees: Mr. Poplawski is still leaning toward charging the full amount of a service connection for a reconnect. Mayor Townsend feels that there should be a separate fee involved for a reconnect. Essentially the meter is just being put back in the meter box. Ms. Eylar agrees that the city should not be charging the cost of a new connection if there is not a new connection and service line installed. Mayor Townsend said that four years of vacant fees, \$15.00 per month, is \$720.00, he feels this would be a reasonable fee to reconnect the water service. Mr. Poplawski said if the water line is poly or copper this fee would be sufficient, if the water line is galvanized pipe a new connection should be made. Mr. Poplawski would like the sewer lines that have not been in service to be inspected prior to being services starting. There should be a fee for the inspection. Mr. Francis said there is a fee schedule in place for using the sewer camera to inspect the sewer lines. Mr. Carrier motioned to set the fee for a new water connection, up to 30' from the main, with a concrete meter box, at \$2500.00, a new water connection, with a poly meter box at \$2700.00, a water reconnect fee, with existing poly or copper lines, at \$700.00, if the existing line is galvanized a new connection will be required. Fees for a new sewer connection, up 30" from the main, would be \$1300.00, a reconnect to the sewer line would require an inspection of the current sewer line, an inspection fee will be required. If the existing sewer line is not viable the customer would pay for a new sewer connection. Mr. Horne second, motion carried.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Ordinance 1083 Repealing Chapter 14.28 and amending Chapter 17.60 of the GCMC: Mr. Cain motioned to adopt Ordinance 1083, Mr. Horne second, motion carried.

8.2 Appointment of Mayor Pro Tempore for 2022: Mr. Cain motioned to appoint Mr. Poplawski, Mr. Horne second, motion carried.

8.3 2022 Committee Assignments: Mayor Townsend read off the committee appointments.

8.4 Request for Reimbursement of Charges for Sewer Plug: The resident at 409 Partello St. is requesting to be reimbursed for plumbing charges for a sewer plug that originated in the city sewer main. Mr. Francis informed council that this was indeed caused by a plug in the sewer main. Mr. Cain motioned to reimburse the property owner \$365.00, Mr. Horne second, motion carried.

8.5 Request for Relief of Penalty Fees on NCWU Utility Tax: Ms. Pearce informed council that NCWU has not paid the utility tax on their gross receipt since November of 2019. City code allows the city to impose a 12% per annum penalty on the unpaid balances. Without seeing NCWU receipts for December 2019 through December 2021, Ms. Pearce is unable to give council an amount for forgiveness. Mr. Poplawski, Ms. Eylar, and Mr. Cain do not feel council should grant forgiveness. Mr. Carriere would like NCWU to provide accounting of receipts to the clerk's office to allow council to review

the amount due before making a decision. Ms. Eylar suggested, council agreed, that a request for receipts be sent and to bring the issue back to council in March.

Ms. Pearce reminded the WWTF committee there was a joint board meeting on Wednesday, February 16th at 6pm. Ms. Pearce also reminded everyone there was a first aid class Thursday, February 17 beginning at 12pm.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Paul A. Townsend, Mayor

Lorna Pearce, Clerk/Treasurer