

City of Grand Coulee
Regular Meeting of the City Council
August 23, 2022

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

ROLL CALL:

The following were:

Present: Mayor Townsend, Council Members Anita Eylar, Tom Poplawski, Alan Cain, and Gary Carriere

Excused: Councilman Mike Horne – Mr. Carriere motioned, Ms. Eylar second, motion carried.

Also Present: Clerk Lorna Pearce, Ryan Fish, Fire Chief, Nic Alexander, Asst. Fire Chief, Andrea Schumaker, Deputy Clerk, Travis Irwin and Kimberly Christensen attending via ZOOM were Jacob Wagner, Star Newspaper

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

- 2. VISITOR INPUT:** Kimberly Christensen, 500 Roosevelt Dr., requested additional time to speak as there were no others wishing to speak, Mayor Townsend allowed her five minutes. Ms. Christensen began with a question to the Mayor about not returning her phone call. Mr. Poplawski informed Ms. Christensen that the visitor time was not to point fingers and ask questions but was for her to address her concerns. Ms. Christensen, said that she was surprised that the council had unanimously voted not to implement an ordinance against parking vehicles in yards, and asked council to re-consider implementing such an ordinance. Ms. Christensen went on to say that 60% of the council members were in violation of city code, if leaders do not follow the ordinances, how can we expect the citizens to comply.

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Chief Fish reported that the ambulance had 60 calls and the fire dept. had 9 calls for service in July. The ice machine at the fire station quit, the district has paid to replace it. There will need to be repairs to the wall behind the ice machine and sink, the drywall had gotten wet and is moldy. Chief Fish then stated that the city really needs to look at how to fund having on-call ambulance attendants. The number of attendants responding has dropped, and the hope is by offering on-call pay it may encourage better involvement. Chief Fish turned the discussion over to Asst. Chief Alexander. Mr. Alexander gave council written documentation on his proposal. The document discusses the possibility of forming an EMS District. There were estimated costs for staffing and potential revenue sources. Mayor Townsend asked if there would be the possibility of including the fire dept. within the EMS district. Chief Fish said he thought that if fire authority was formed it could encompass both fire and EMS. Mr. Alexander offered to reach out the surrounding communities for their thoughts on creating either an EMS district or a fire authority. Creating a fire authority may be more challenging, as the individual fire districts would need to approve. There is obviously more research needed but the department is hoping that this will be a start to moving forward. Mr. Poplawski feels that the city needs to find a way to fund on call staff as soon as possible. It was

City of Grand Coulee, Washington
Regular Council Meeting
August 23, 2022

suggested to start charging for the calls for assistance. Mr. Alexander said he would look further into the possibility of utilizing the Public Safety Tax that cities and towns in Grant County receive. Clerk Pearce told council that three TIB grant applications had been submitted last week for street work on Federal Ave., James Saunders Way, Fortuyn and seal coating of various sections of street throughout town. Ms. Pearce said that she has begun the budget preparations for 2023.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Labor Committee – Update on Job Descriptions: Mr. Poplawski stated progress is being made on the job descriptions.

5. AGENDA REVISIONS:

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 6.1** Motion to approve Regular Council meeting minutes of July 19, 2022.
- 6.2** Motion to approve for Payment Vouchers, dated August 16 2022, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and expense reimbursement claims, dated August 16, 2022 certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.090, voucher numbers 42381 through 42419 and EFT items in the amount of \$508,240.60
- 6.3** Motion to approve Payroll Vouchers, dated July 29, 2022, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, vouchers numbered 42360 through 42380 5and Direct Deposit and EFTs (no sequenced numbers) as listed on the Payroll register in the total amount of \$157,812.94.

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

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- 7.1 Revised Garbage Ordinance Concerns:** Mayor Townsend stated that the new code makes it difficult for billing purposes. Allowing people to stop and start garbage at will is hard to track. The Sunrise contract states that garbage service may be discontinued for a minimum of one month, the city should incorporate this requirement into the code. Ms. Schumaker said that there are several owners that have multiple accounts, some of which are fire lines. With the new ordinance these customers would have to fill out request to discontinue service form every year. Ms. Schumaker is not concerned with the extra work this creates, but does have concerns with the burden to the customer. The Mayor asked that the committee review the code.
- 7.2 Sidewalk Ordinance Revisions:** Mayor Townsend said that he had read Davenports sidewalk ordinance and it appears to put all the cost of repairs onto the abutting property. The issue with expecting the property owner to fix/replace is requiring them to meet city specification, which can become costly. It was suggested that perhaps the city should look at implementing a sidewalk plan. Consensus was that if the adjacent property contributed to the sidewalk failure there should be some cost sharing. The drainage from the roof of the property adjacent to Morrison St. probably was a contributing factor to the deterioration of that sidewalk. Mr. Poplawski suggested removing the sidewalk to reduce the liability risk. Ms. Eylar asked if the section of sidewalk on Midway should also be removed. Mayor Townsend will ask the City Superintendent to review the damage and present council with an estimate to remove and repair/replace the Morrison St. sidewalk at the September council meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

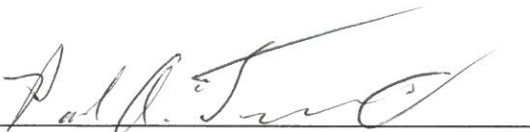
City of Grand Coulee, Washington
Regular Council Meeting
August 23, 2022

- 8.1 **Introduction of New Librarian:** Ms. Percy was unable to attend the meeting and has been rescheduled for the September council meeting.
- 8.2 **Discussion of Spring Canyon Cemetery:** Mr. Poplawski informed council that the cemetery is owned and operated by the local Lions club. The cemetery currently brings enough funding to operate, the Lions membership is aging and decreasing and it is becoming more difficult for them to maintain and manage the cemetery. They are just exploring their options for the future. Grand Coulee would not be able to annex the cemetery property into the city limits as it is outside the Urban Growth Area. The Lions may need to look into forming a cemetery district for continued operation.
- 8.3 **Authorize Mayor's Signature on PUD Agreement Extension:** Mr. Poplawski motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement, Mr. Carriere second, motion carried.
- 8.4 **Authorize Mayor's Signature on 365Labs Agreement:** Ms. Eylar motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement, Mr. Carriere second, motion carried.
- 8.5 **Request for Relief of Late Fee on Account 1614.0:** Ms. Eylar motioned to grant the request, Mr. Carriere second, motion carried.


Mayor Townsend noted that he and the council had been invited to attend the dedication of the new Coulee Corrido Kiosk that was placed in North Dam Park. The dedication will take place September 17, 2022 at 1:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no objection, the mayor adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:30pm.



Paul A. Townsend, Mayor



Lorna Pearce, Clerk