

City of Grand Coulee
Regular Meeting of the City Council
May 17, 2022

MINUTES

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, Mike Horne, Alan Cain and Gary Carriere (via ZOOM),

Excused:

Also Present: Clerk Lorna Pearce, Fire Chief Ryan Fish, Police Chief Tufts, Dennis Francis, City Superintendent, Sgt. Holland, Officer Gilbert, Officer Ponusky, Police Clerk Kris Theisfeld, Peggy Nevsimal, Electric City Clerk, David Koehler, Trina Riley, attending via ZOOM were Travis Irwin and Jacob Wagner, Star Newspaper

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

2. VISITOR INPUT:

Trina Riley, 432 Grand Coulee Ave. E, she received the letter from the city regarding garbage service, there is rarely anyone at the residence and does not feel garbage should be required. When she stays in Grand Coulee, she takes her garbage home to Green Acres for disposal.

David Koehler, 506 Roosevelt Dr. received the letter regarding garbage service and feels that the city may be losing money by forcing garbage service on property owners who are only at the residence a couple of times a month through the summer. Currently when he is in town, he bags up his garbage and takes it home.

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Chief Fish did not have any call volume information for the month. The structure trucks were pump tested and passed; this annual testing helps keep the city fire rating down. Wildland training is almost complete and there is one EMT in training at this time.

Chief Tufts provided council with a report on the 62 calls for service in the month. Colorama was quiet, the parade was not very long and there were no calls for service at the rodeo grounds during the rodeo.

Superintendent Francis said the Federal Ave. street/water project is underway; his crew has started removing the old playground equipment from city park in preparation for the upgrades.

Clerk Pearce let the council know that the Chamber has arranged for Culpepper and Meriweather Circus to come to town, they will be performing June 2 on the football field at the middle school. There has been some progress made on the court, there was a meeting with staff, City Attorney, Grant County staff and the Administrator of Courts. Still some kinks to be worked out. Ms. Pearce said that the contractor on the street/water project has a projected completion date of July 7, 2022.

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4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Solid Waste Committee: Mr. Cain said that most cities have mandatory garbage service. Mr. Cain liked Ephrata's; Ephrata has request form that allows residents to stop garbage service for a period of time. The form is signed under penalty of perjury that the property will remain unoccupied for the period of time the garbage service is suspended. Ms. Eylar added that Ephrata's code has a civil infraction attached if a resident violates the vacancy clause during the period of time service is suspended.

Zoning Committee: Mr. Cain said that the only cities that had code regarding parking in yards were larger cities; New York or HOA's. Mr. Carriere said that Seattle was another larger city that had similar code, smaller entities did not. Mr. Cain stated he is not an advocate of telling people they can't park in their yard. Consensus was to take no further action.

5. AGENDA REVISIONS: Mr. Poplawski asked that the hiring of an additional police officer be added to the agenda as item 8.7.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 6.1** Motion to approve Regular Council meeting minutes of April 19, 2022.
- 6.2** Motion to approve for Payment Vouchers, dated May 17, 2022, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and expense reimbursement claims, dated May 17, 2022, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.090, voucher numbers 42200 through 42238 and EFT items in the amount of \$141,529.08.
- 6.3** Motion to approve Payroll Vouchers, dated April 30, 2022, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, vouchers numbered 42182 through 42199 and Direct Deposit and EFTs (no sequenced numbers) as listed on the Payroll register in the total amount of \$146,602.03.

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

7. OLD BUSINESS:

7.1 Garbage Charges: Ms. Eylar and Mr. Cain are recommending that the city adopt language similar to Ephrata's regarding suspension of garbage service. Ms. Riley commented that there is no one at the residence to return the garbage cart to the yard after pick up. Mayor Townsend asked if there was a neighbor she could ask. She thought did. Mr. Koehler said they are only here a couple weeks a year, they have been coming to town for twenty years and have never had garbage service. Mr. Koehler asked when the mandatory garbage service began. Ms. Pearce stated mandatory garbage service began when the transfer station was constructed. Mr. Poplawski would like the committee to draft an ordinance with the language changes for council to review in June. Mr. Cain and Ms. Eylar will provide council with the draft ordinance for the June council meeting.

7.2 RBOM ILA: Mr. Poplawski feels that the 15% administrative fee that is being paid to Electric City should be covering the secretarial duties, as well as, administrative overhead, does not feel it is right that there are additional charges for office staff. Peggy Nevsimal, Electric City Clerk, said that the ILA separates out the secretarial rate and the 15% is for the administration. Since 2012 Electric City has been charging between 7% and 20% of one of Electric City's office staff wages to the transfer station. Ms. Nevsimal said that the 15% admin fee for 2022 would be approximately \$60,000. For 2022 the budgeted amount for the 15% administrative fee is \$75,676.00. Ms. Nevsimal said the estimated portion of the deputy clerk's wages that will be paid by the transfer station in 2022 is \$3,600 or approximately 7% of the deputy clerks wages. Mr. Poplawski feels that paying the deputy clerk wages is double dipping, the secretary is administrative not a transfer station employee. Ms. Nevsimal stated that if the ILA is not signed the RBOM is in danger of defaulting on a loan that is due in June.

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The new ILA changes the percentage that each city contributes to the operations fund by 5%, Ms. Nevsimal said that without that additional 5% the transfer station cannot pay the loan. Mayor Townsend commented that he is upset that gate fees keep increasing but the transfer station is still unable to pay the bills. Mayor Townsend is concerned that in the past there has been no control over what percentage of the office staff wages were being charged to the transfer station and feels that if paying the secretary is going to continue the ILA should state at what rate. Ms. Nevsimal stated that when she started with Electric City, 20% of the deputy clerks wage was being paid by the transfer station, that has been reduced to 7%. Ms. Eylar commended Ms. Nevsimal for reducing the percentage. Mr. Cain is concerned about the clarity of the ILA and he is uncomfortable with signing the ILA as written. Ms. Eylar feels that the RBOM does need a secretary and that the percentage should be in the ILA. Ms. Eylar motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign the ILA as it is currently written on condition that an addendum is drafted to address the secretarial wages, Mr. Cain second, motion carried with Council members Eylar, Cain, Horne and Carriere voting in favor and Mr. Poplawski voting no.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Content of City Website: Ms. Eylar had received an email asking to have a link to alzheimersupport.com webpage to the city website. Ms. Eylar has previously worked with the Liberty Lake, and they have a business directory on their homepage that businesses could ask to be added. Grand Coulee has a community page where businesses may be added. Currently there are no guidelines as to what businesses may be added. By consensus council decided that local businesses and businesses that serve the Grand Coulee area could be added to the city webpage.

8.2 Appointment to the Library Board: Diane Canady has resigned her position on the board effective immediately. Ms. Lori Nordine approached the library board and offered to serve. Mr. Poplawski motioned to appoint Ms. Nordine to the Library Board, Mr. Cain second, motion carried.

8.3 Chamber of Commerce Request for Street Closure for Kids Fest: The Chamber requested to be allowed to close Main St. From Highway 155 to Federal Ave. Chief Tufts and Chief Fish were not in favor of having to block off Spokane Way due to possible emergency calls, closing Spokane Way would cause EMS to have to take a longer route to get to and from the station. Ms. Eylar motioned to allow the closure of Main St. from Spokane Way to Federal Ave., Mr. Carriere second, motion carried.

8.4 Drafting Job Descriptions: Ms. Pearce said that this had been discussed in the past but there has not been any progress made. Mayor Townsend asked the labor committee to draft job descriptions and present to council at the July 2022 meeting.

8.5 Pleasant Valley Water Meter: Superintendent Francis informed council that the utility customer currently has a 2" water meter and would like to reduce the size of the meter to 5/8". Current city code states that a request in meter size is to be treated as a request for a new connection and the current fee is \$2700.00. Mr. Francis also said that the current meter is on the change list and would have had a new 2" meter installed. Request for meter exchanges is not common. The cost to exchange the meter would be under \$500.00, the cost to replace the 2" meter would be significantly higher and would be borne by the city. Mr. Francis is asking council to consider changing the code for future and asking that the current customer be charged time and materials instead of the connection fee. Mr. Carriere feels language should be added to the code for reducing the size of the meter. Ms. Pearce asked council to consider reviewing the entire water code for possible changes to fees so that the code is not constantly being changed. Mr. Cain motioned to charge the current customer time and materials for the meter exchange, with no back charges. Mr. Horne second, motion carried. Ms. Eylar motioned to address the code and make necessary changes, Mr. Horne second, motion carried. Mayor Townsend asked the water committee to review the current code and provide information at the June meeting.

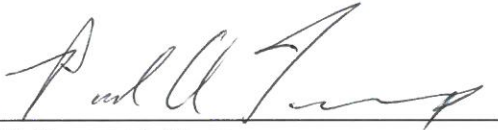
8.6 Sidewalk Replacement on Morrison Street: Ms. Pearce told council that the owner of Brandy's, Jean Comstock, had come into city hall after hearing that as part of the Federal Ave. street project a sidewalk would be added on one side of Federal Ave. Ms. Comstock was upset by this and asked why the sidewalk on Morrison St. had never been repaired or replaced. Superintendent Francis said that he had gone and looked at the Morrison St. sidewalk, it is in need of repair or replacement. The sidewalk measures 83' x 7.5'. No cost estimate available at this time. Photos show that some of the damage appears to have been caused by moisture dripping off of the roof of Brandy's. Superintendent Francis did mention

possibly removing the sidewalk, he is uncertain if the city installed the sidewalk. Mayor Townsend asked the street committee to research the issue and bring their findings to the council in June.

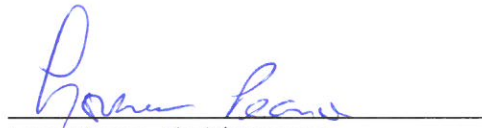
8.7 Hiring of Police Officer: Mr. Poplawski reminded council that in 2021 council had discussed 12 hour shifts in the police department and hiring an additional officer, council approved both. Mr. Poplawski noted that adding an additional officer, whether the department moves to a 12-hour shift or stays with the current 8-hour shift will ease the overtime. Mr. Poplawski motioned to allow the department to move ahead with the hiring process, Ms. Eylar second, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no objection, the mayor adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:50pm.



Paul A. Townsend, Mayor



Lorna Pearce, Clerk/Treasurer