

City of Grand Coulee  
Regular Meeting of the City Council  
September 20, 2022

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**MINUTES**

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**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, Gary Carriere and Mike Horne

Excused:

Also Present: Clerk Lorna Pearce, Rick Paris, Melissa Little, NCR Library, Joanne Percy, NCR Library, Carolyn Vrablick, attending via ZOOM were Travis Irwin, Nancy Wetch, Gray & Osborne, and Scott Hunter, Star Newspaper

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

- 2. VISITOR INPUT:** Carolyn Vrablick, 604 4<sup>th</sup> St, said that she had heard there was a new RV park coming into town. Ms. Pearce stated that she was unaware of an RV park permit having been applied for. Ms. Vrablick said that she was concerned that there was a parcel where several motorhomes had been parked. Mayor Townsend asked that she come into city hall to fill out a nuisance complaint form and the code enforcement officer would look into it.

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Mr. Paris stated that the ambulance to date had 397 calls for service and that the fire dept. has responded to 40 calls for service.

Clerk Pearce gave council an update on the park project. Ms. Pearce informed council that she has been working on the budget, union negotiations have started, as well as Electric City Law Enforcement agreement. Auditors are expected to be on site sometime either in October or November. Ms. Pearce relayed a request from the parks person to consider purchasing an ashtray for out front of city hall.

**4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**5. AGENDA REVISIONS:**

**6. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**6.1** Motion to approve Regular Council meeting minutes of August 23, 2022.

**6.2** Motion to approve for Payment Vouchers, dated September 20, 2022, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and expense reimbursement claims, dated September 20, 2022, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.090, voucher numbers 42438 through 42475 and EFT items in

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the amount of \$192,390.28

- 6.3** Motion to approve Payroll Vouchers, dated August 31, 2022, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, vouchers numbered 42420 through 42437 and Direct Deposit and EFTs (no sequenced numbers) as listed on the Payroll register in the total amount of \$151,821.52

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

Ms. Pearce asked council to consider Item 8.1 prior to beginning with the old business as bot Ms. Little and Ms. Percy had a long drive home. Ms. Eylar requested that Item 8.1 be moved ahead of Item 7.1.

**Item 8.1 Introduction of New Librarian:** Ms. Little introduced Ms. Percy. Ms. Percy stated that she is getting settled in. She has started several new programs including a Lego program, book club and story time at both the Nespelem school district and Lake Roosevelt school district.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS:**

- 7.1 Morrison Street Sidewalk:** Council was provided an estimate to tear out and replace the sidewalk, the estimate was for approximately \$11,676.00. The Public Works Director recommends that the owner of the adjacent building be asked to re-direct the run-off from the roof of the building as this has been a contributing factor to the deterioration. Ms. Eylar stated that council should look at drafting a policy pertaining to the repairs/replacement of sidewalks. Ms. Eylar motioned to consider budgeting to replace the sidewalk in 2023, Mr. Cain second, motion carried.
- 7.2 Garbage Ordinance:** Council had adopted some new language to the solid waste code at the August 2022 meeting, the implementation of the new language brought up more questions. The solid waste committee met with Deputy Clerk Schumaker to discuss some of the concerns. The committee provided revised language for council review. Mr. Cain motioned to approve the new language, Mr. Horne second, motion carried.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8.2 Nancy Wetch, Gray and Osborne, Update on WWTF Facilities Plan:** The facilities plan is almost complete. Ms. Wetch told council that there have been no substantial upgrades since construction was completed in 1985. The biggest issue with the facility is age and the inability to obtain parts. Ms. Wetch and her team will crate a cost estimate and a prioritized construction plan for the needed improvements. The sewer collection system is also being addressed in the facility plan. There are large portions of the collection system that need to be replaced, there is still a lot of clay and concrete lines in use. The upgrades to both WWTF and collection system can either be done all at once or in phases. The WWTF already qualifies to receive funding from the Department of Ecology. The split between grant and loan funding is based on median household income, Grand Coulee median household income is currently \$34,800.00. Ecology allows 2% of household income or \$64.82 per month, if sewer rates are above this amount the grant portion of funding would be higher. Ms. Wetch does not feel the plant needs to be replaced, but it does need to be upgraded. Ms. Wetch also recommended that the current wastewater agreement with Electric City be looked at. Ms. Wetch is hoping to have the plan complete soon and to schedule a meeting with city staff and council to review the recommendations.

**8.3 Resolution 22-09 Repealing Resolution 20-03 Supplemental Covid Leave:** Mr. Cain motioned to approve Resolution 22-09, Mr. Horne second, motion carried.

**8.4 Review of Fee Schedule:** Mayor Townsend asked the finance committee to review and bring their recommendation back to council in October.

**8.5 Authorize Mayor's Signature on Agreement for Hearing Examiner Services:** Mayor Townsend asked that this be brought back to council in October so that the finance committee will have time to review the fee schedule and provide a recommendation. Some items on the fee schedule are directly tied to the hearing examiner services.

**8.6 Discussion of Increasing Business License Fee:** Ms. Pearce informed council that she had received an email from Dept. of Revenue asking if there were changes or fee increases that needed to be updated. The deadline to submit these changes is Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Pearce said it is too late to make any changes for 2023 but would like council to consider a fee increase for 2024. Mayor Townsend asked the licensing committee to review and make a recommendation to council at a later date.

**8.7 Discussion/Review of City Owned Parcels:** Mayor Townsend asked that all council members take the time between the September council meeting and the October council meeting to review the information provided and to be prepared at the October meeting to go over the list one by one and make decisions.

**8.8 Discussion of Changing Verbiage in Solid Waste Ordinance:** Ms. Eylar said that she had contacted Sunrise Disposal and was told that Sunrise does pro-rate the service if they are sent an invoice. Ms. Pearce stated that the city does not send an invoice to Sunrise, they are, however, notified when service is stopped or started. Ms. Pearce said she would review the contract with Sunrise and reach out to Sunrise. Mayor Townsend asked that this be brought back in October.

**8.9 Discussion of Increasing Utility Charges:** Ms. Pearce told council that she had given them a spreadsheet for both water and sewer showing increases from 2% to 4%. Ms. Pearce said that she is concerned that the 2% increases over the past several years has not covered the cost of inflation. In 2021 the CPI was over 6% and for 2022 it is over 8%. The current union contract requires a minimum of 2.5% to a maximum of 4.5%. Mr. Poplawski reminded council that Grand Coulee's median income was \$34,800.00, if increases are tied to the CPI, they should follow the inclines and declines of the CPI. Mayor Townsend referred this to the water/sewer committee and asked them to bring a recommendation back to council in October.

**8.10 Set date for Public Hearing on 2023 Revenue Sources/Ad Valorem Taxes:** Mr. Cain motioned to set the public hearing for 6pm on October 18, 2022, with the regular council to follow, Ms. Eylar second, motion carried.

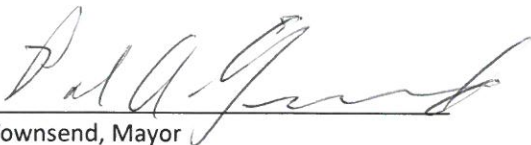
**8.11 Appointing Linda Black to Position #4 on the Library Board:** Mr. Cain motioned to appoint Ms. Black to Position #4 on the Library Board for a four-year term, Mr. Poplawski second, motion carried.

**8.12 Approving the purchase of Rubber Mulch and Rubber curbing for the Park Project:** Ms. Pearce stated that this request is so that payment can be issued if received prior to the October council meeting. Mr. Horne motioned to authorize payment, Mr. Poplawski second, motion carried.

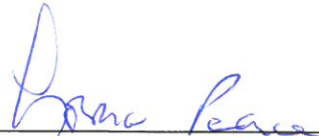
Mr. Horne asked if there were grants available for Electric Vehicle charging stations, Ms. Pearce said she was unsure if there were grants for private entities.

#### ADJOURNMENT

As there was no objection, the mayor adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:00pm.



Paul A. Townsend, Mayor



Lorna Pearce, Clerk

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