

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

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

- 2. Public Hearing 2023 Revenue Sources:** Mayor Townsend opened the public hearing at approximately 6:00pm, there was no comment received. Mayor closed the public hearing at approximately 6:02pm.

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, Ryan Fish, Fire Chief, Darrell Hackworth, attending via ZOOM were Travis Irwin and Jacob Wagner, Star Newspaper

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

- 3. VISITOR INPUT:** Darrell Hackworth, 205 Roosevelt Dr, told council that he has been talking with Dollar General trying to get them to place a store in Grand Coulee. They are interested in a parcel of property owned by the city adjacent to Federal Ave. Ms. Pearce said that she had spoken with Jesse Fox, Dollar General, and he had sent a proposed site plan and information to her but that it had come to late to get to council. Ms. Pearce said that the Planning Agency could review it at their November meeting and that the information would be provided to council in November.

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mr. Fish said that the fire trucks will be serviced within the next two weeks and that a couple of the brush trucks would be winterized and put away. He said that there had been no major fires in our area in 2022, concern now is structure fires, with the weather cooling off people will begin using their heat sources.

Clerk Pearce gave council an update on the park project. Ms. Pearce said that she had received a call from Mike Meskimen, Gray and Osborne, regarding one of the TIB grant application for Fortuyn and James Saunders Way. Mr. Meskimen had been in contact with Andrew Beagle, TIB, who felt that this project was a good fit for the grant, but he had concerns with the intersection of Fortuyn, Main St. and 2nd St. Mr. Beagle thought that a small roundabout could improve the intersection. Budget preparations are moving along, as are union negotiations and Electric City law enforcement negotiations.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Poplawski confirmed that negotiations are moving forward on both the Electric City agreement and the union contract.

City of Grand Coulee, Washington
Regular Council Meeting
October 18, 2022

6. AGENDA REVISIONS:

Mayor Townsend asked that agenda section Old Business items be re-numbered to 8, New Business items to 9 and Adjournment to 10.

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 7.1** Motion to approve Regular Council meeting minutes of September 20, 2022.
- 7.2** Motion to approve for Payment Vouchers, dated October 18, 2022, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and expense reimbursement claims, dated October 18, 2022, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.090, voucher numbers 42497 through 42542 and EFT items in the amount of \$141,725.87
- 7.3** Motion to approve Payroll Vouchers, dated September 30, 2022, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, vouchers numbered 42476 through 42496 and Direct Deposit and EFTs (no sequenced numbers) as listed on the Payroll register in the total amount of \$161,861.60

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

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- 8.1 Review of Fee Schedule:** Council asked Ms. Pearce to verify which items on the fee schedule need to be reviewed by the hearing examiner. There was concern that some of the increases may be too high. Mayor Townsend asked that this brought back in November with more clarification.
- 8.2 Authorize the Mayor's Signature on Agreement for Hearing Examiner Services:** Ms. Pearce was asked to contact neighboring cities to see if they utilize a hearing examiner and what their costs are for the service and provide that information to council in November.
- 8.3 Discussion of City Owned Parcels:** There was discussion about categorizing the parcels into groups, ones the city has structure or utilities on, ROW and parcels for disposal. Mr. Carriere and Mr. Cain said they will review and categorize the parcels and make a recommendation to council in January.
- 8.4 Discussion of Solid Waste Ordinance:** Ms. Eylar said that there is no language in the current ordinance pertaining to proration of service. Council was provided with suggested language from Ms. Eylar and the clerks office. Ms. Eylar motioned to add the language provided by the clerk's office, removing the comma after the word city, Mr. Carriere second, motion carried.
- 8.5 Discussion of Increasing Utility Charges:** Mr. Poplawski motioned to increase water rates by four percent (4%) for 2023, Mr. Carriere second, motion carried. After discussion, with concern for the citizens, Mr. Carriere motioned to increase the sewer rates by four percent (4%) for 2023, Mr. Cain second, motion passed with Mr. Cain, Mr. Horne and Mr. Carriere voting in favor and Ms. Eylar and Mr. Poplawski both voting against.

9. NEW BUSINESS

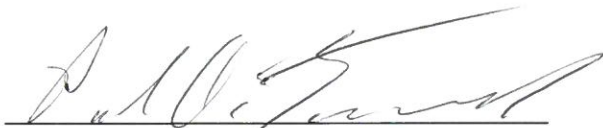
- 9.1 Accepting the Federal Ave./Main St. Project as Complete:** Ms. Eylar motioned to accept the project as complete, Mr. Cain second, motion carried.
- 9.2 Set Date for Public Hearing on 2023 Preliminary Budget:** By consensus council set the public hearing for November 15, 2022, at 6:00pm with the regular council meeting to immediately follow.

City of Grand Coulee, Washington
Regular Council Meeting
October 18, 2022

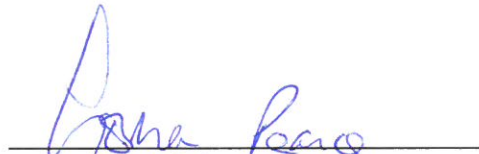
- 9.3 Ordinance Amending Ambulance Rates and Wages:** Mayor Townsend stated that he felt the rates should be increase by more than suggested \$25.00. Grand Coulee ambulance service fees are currently the lowest in the surrounding area. Mr. Fish said that the philosophy has been to charge enough to maintain the level of service, with the increase in the volume of calls over the years and the increase in costs to maintain the service it may be time to increase the fees. Ms. Pearce said that to date the ambulance service had received a little over \$80,000, with the department asking for an increase in wages to cover on-call attendants, there is a need to increase the fees. Ms. Pearce also said that she had contacted MRSC regarding the on-call pay but had not heard anything back yet. Mayor Townsend asked that this be brought back to council in November with the information received from MRSC.
- 9.4 Ordinance 1087 Amending Section 8.12.170 of GCMC:** Ms. Eylar motioned to approve Ordinance 1087 with a letter being sent to customers who currently have suspended garbage service, Mr. Carriere second, motion carried.
- 9.5 Discussion of Beautification Committee:** Ms. Eylar stated that a citizen had mentioned this, and she felt that council should discuss the idea. Ms. Eylar feels that such a committee with the assistance of volunteers could be beneficial to the city. Ms. Eylar offered to look deeper into the subject and asked Mr. Poplawski if he would be willing to assist her, he agreed. Ms. Eylar and Mr. Poplawski will bring their recommendation to council sometime after the first of the year.
- 9.6 Request for Relief of Late Fee on Account 2006.0:** Ms. Pearce informed council this is the first time this customer has requested relief. Mr. Carriere motioned to approve the removal of the late fee, Mr. Horne second, motion carried.
- 9.7 Request for Relief of Late Fee on Account 1554.0 and 1554.1/Same Owner First Request:** Ms. Pearce informed council that this is the first time this customer has requested relief. Mr. Poplawski motioned to grant relief of one of the late fees, not both, Ms. Eylar second, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no objection, the mayor adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:36pm.



Paul A. Townsend, Mayor



Lorna Pearce, Clerk