

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

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Townsend called opened the public hearing at approximately 6:00pm.

2. Public Hearing 2023 Budget: Mayor Townsend opened the public hearing at approximately 6:00pm.

Kim Christensen, 500 Roosevelt Dr., Apologized for being extremely vocal for the last two year. She appreciated Mr. Poplawski's comments at the previous two meetings. Ms. Christensen does feel that the overtime is to high, if this is gotten under control it would make a difference . Would like to know when the last time the building was painted, decades ago? Ms. Christensen than stated that she would be submitting a letter of interest for the open council position and went on to state several reasons she felt qualified, at this time Mr. Poplawski stated that this was a public hearing on the 2023 budget, and called for point of order.

As there was no other input Mayor Townsend closed the public hearing at approximately 6:05pm.

ROLL CALL:

The following were:

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

Excused:

Also Present: Clerk Lorna Pearce, Ryan Fish, Fire Chief, Chief Tufts, Dennis Francis, City Superintendent, Jolena Mills, Kris Thiesfeld, Rick Paris, Dan Holland, Matt Ponusky, Blake martin, Diane Canady, Ruth Dalton, Mark Nash, Kim Christensen, attending via ZOOM were Scott Hunter Star Newspaper, Stephanie Elizalde, Dept. of Revenue

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:

3. VISITOR INPUT: Kim Christensen, 500 Roosevelt Dr., stated that she had recently purchased two lots in town just for beautification purposes, beautification is something the city could be doing to encourage progress in town. Re-stated her intention to pursue a seat on the city council.

Mark Nash, 905 King St., stated that he would be submitting a letter of interest for the open council position. Mr. Nash feels he could be a benefit to the city.

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

The 2022 3rd Quarter Financial Report was included in the council packet.

Chief Tufts stated that there had not been a lot going on, doing routine patrols and preparing for the transition out of the Electric City contract.

City Superintendent Francis stated that they have been plowing snow and repairing equipment. He is hoping that they can clear the parking lanes along Midway Ave. on Wednesday.

Chief Fish said that there have been 541 ambulance calls to date and 57 fire calls. The fire department responded to a structure fire in town a couple of weeks ago, luckily there were no serious injuries but the home was a complete loss.

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He has purchased tablets for the ambulance service and he is hoping to be set up for electronic transmission of ambulance run sheets early next year.

Clerk Pearce said that she really did not have much to report, she has been working on the 2023 budget. She let council know that the city had received three TIB grants, one to resurface Fortuyn and James Saunders, the other two were for scattered crack seal and chip seal projects through out the city. The auditor has been on site since December 5.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Poplawski stated that the finance committee has been working on the 2023 budget.

6. AGENDA REVISIONS:

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 7.1** Motion to approve Regular Council meeting minutes of November 15, 2022.
- 7.2** Motion to approve for Payment Vouchers, dated December 20, 2022, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and expense reimbursement claims, dated December 20, 2022, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.090, voucher numbers 42563 through 42669 and EFT items in the amount of \$164,119.27
- 7.3** Motion to approve Payroll Vouchers, dated November 30, 2022, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, vouchers numbered 42605 through 42622 and Direct Deposit and EFTs (no sequenced numbers) as listed on the Payroll register in the total amount of \$168,984.40.
- 7.4** Motion to approve Resolution 22-13 Establishing a Fee Schedule for Development Permits and Miscellaneous Administrative Services.

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

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- 8.1 Ordinance 1089 Amending Ambulance Rates and Attendant Wages:** Ms. Eylar said that she had received information that the Medicare minimum would be reduced in 2023, she feels that the rates should be set higher than the Medicare allowance, the higher rate does not affect the patient. Mr. Poplawski motioned to approve Ordinance 1089, Mr. Cain second, motion passed with Mr. Cain, Mr. Poplawski and Ms. Eylar voting yes, Mr. Carriere abstained due to being involved with the ambulance service.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1 Ms. Stephanie Elizade, Dept. of Revenue,** gave a presentation on the new working family tax credit. Ms. Pearce asked if they would be providing the liaison to the public or if they would be training volunteers? Ms. Elizade said that both would be options. It was suggested that Rural Resources might be a good match for a local location for residents to receive information, Ms. Pearce said that she would provide that information via email to Ms. Elizade.
- 9.2 AWC Scholarship Committee Update:** Ms. Eylar informed council that the committee has been formed and includes, Linda Roberts, Andy Anderson, Andrea Schumaker and herself. Susan Duclos is acting as a liaison with the school district to get the information to eligible students. Ms. Eylar stated that AWC had increased the amount of the scholarship to \$2500.00. Applications are due to the committee and their selection is due to AWC by January 13, 2023.
- 9.3 Resolution 22-14 Increasing the schedule of Charges for the Collection and Disposal for Solid Waste:** Mr. Cain motioned to approve Resolution 22-14, Mr. Carriere second, motion carried.


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- 9.4 **Resolution 22-15 Establishing 2023 Wages for Department Heads:** Ms. Eylar motioned to approve Resolution 22-15, Mr. Poplawski second, motion carried.
- 9.5 **Resolution 22-16 Approving the 2023 RBOM Budget:** Mr. Carriere motioned to approve Resolution 22-16, Mr. Cain second, motion carried.
- 9.6 **Ordinance 1090 Amending the 2022 Budget:** Ms. Pearce told council the amendment would affect the General Fund, Street Fund, Stadium Fund and the Public Safety Fund. Mr. Poplawski motioned to approve Ordinance 1090, Mr. Cain second, motion carried.
- 9.7 **Ordinance 1091 Adopting the 2023 Budget:** Mr. Carriere motioned to approve Ordinance 1091, Mr. Poplawski second. Mr. Poplawski stated that he would like a balanced budget, the deficit is coming out of the beginning fund balances, this is not a sustainable practice. The only way that the city could have gotten to a balanced budget for 2023 was to lay people off. Beginning in January 2023 the city needs to look for ways to reduce the expenditures by \$50,000, this will take everyone working together. Mr. Poplawski stated that he was a little disappointed to hear that the employees had voted to ratify the union contract rather than going back to the table to renegotiate. Ms. Eylar asked for monthly revenue and expenditure reports beginning in January. Ms. Eylar thanked the department heads for assisting in the reduction of the overage. Mayor Townsend again stated that the use of reserve funds is not a viable solution. Mayor Townsend called for the vote, the motion passed.
- 9.8 **Request for Relief of Late Fee on Account 2438.0:** Ms. Pearce stated this was the first request for this customer. Mr. Carriere motioned to approve the relief of the late fee, Mr. Poplawski second, motion carried.
- 9.9 **Mosquito District Board Vacancy:** Ms. Pearce informed council that Hank Wiebe had stepped down from his position with the mosquito district, he was the representative for Grand Coulee. Grant County advertised the position but did not get any response. Jerry Kennedy said that there was an Electric City gentleman that was willing to take the position. Mr. Poplawski asked that the interested party be invited to the January council meeting to introduce himself. Ms. Pearce said that she would reach out and invite Mr. Brown to the January meeting.

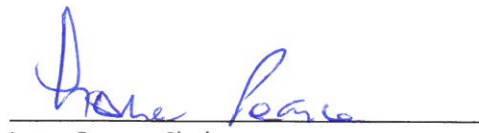
Mayor Townsend that he had received a letter of interest for the open council position from Ms. Ruth Dalton.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no objection, the mayor adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:00pm.



Paul A. Townsend, Mayor



Lorna Pearce, Clerk