

City of Grand Coulee  
Regular Meeting of the City Council  
March 28, 2023

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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, Gary Carriere, Alan Cain and Ruth Dalton

Also Present: Clerk Pearce, Chief Tufts, Nic Alexander, Caroline Walsh, Jim Brakebill, John Reid, Greg Behrens, John Halvorsen, Mark Nash; attending via ZOOM: Fire Chief Fish, Jim

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:**

**2. VISITOR INPUT:**

Caroline Walsh, owner Plain Janes, asked if there were plans to paint the parking stripes on Main St. Mayor Townsend said public works would be notified.

Nic Alexander, Centerline Development, said that he had been approached by the American Legion about purchasing a piece of property along Midway Ave. for a Veterans Park for all branches of the military. Jim Brakebill said that the hope is to have two to four food trucks available in the park along with seating, and restrooms for those that visit. Jim Reid stated the flagpole will be uplit, and there will be good sightlines for policing the area. Funding is being looked into, the Legion plans to offer bricks for sale that would be engraved and placed in the walking path, there will be a donation box set up with the proceeds being used for maintenance and upkeep. Mr. Alexander asked if the project could be done in phases as far as the permitting was required, beginning with the leveling of the lot and stubbing in the utilities. Ms. Pearce offered to look into the possibility of allowing the utility tie ins to be done prior to payment of the connection fees to allow funds to be raised for payment.

Mark Nash, 905 King St., requested that the speed limit be raised by the old center school property since it is no longer a school and is privately owned. Mr. Nash also asked that the bus parking signs be taken down by the middle school property and the speed zone be changed. He then made the request that the speed limit on the Almira hill be looked into and changed. Mayor Townsend asked the street committee to research this and present council with their findings at the April meeting.

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Chief Tufts reported that the department had received 87 calls for service for the month. The Chief met with the new Chamber of Commerce Director and answered some of her questions regarding procedures for Colorama. Grand Coulee has historically provided law enforcement for the parade, blocking intersections, directing traffic etc, and has paid up to five hours of overtime to the officers who are scheduled to be off duty. The question was asked why Grand Coulee has been solely responsible for these activities since this is a Chamber event and is represented by all four of the surrounding communities. Ms. Pearce thought that the city's hotel/motel monies could be used to cover these costs, she will verify. Mayor Townsend asked the public safety committee to see what other possibilities might be available and to provide council with that information at the April meeting.

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Fire Chief Fish reported that the department has responded to 25 fire calls and approximately 130 ambulance calls to date. The EMT class is still in the planning phase, they are looking at beginning in May and running through August. There are at least three people interested in training for Grand Coulee and nine others from surrounding areas. The cost for the class will be \$525.00 to \$550.00 per student. Ms. Eylar asked if the electronic reporting for the ambulance was up and running, Chief Fish said he has been working on it and is hopeful that it will be fully functional and in use by June.

Clerk Pearce reported that the engineers had submitted a grant application to Grant County for work on Spokane Way from SR 174 to Alcan Road. The projected cost of the project is \$1,015,000.00. There were several projects that were only partially funded last year so they will get priority this year but this will get our project on their radar. Ms. Pearce said that Officer Gilbert has been working on grant applications for the police department, one is for officer retention. Officer Martin has issued three code compliance notices, one had been issued an infraction for no action taken and was given ten more days, if no progress in ten days another infraction will be issued. All three will be reviewed for progress on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor Townsend reported that the Regional Board had chosen a tree service for the chipping event, the tree service will be going to individual addresses instead of staging at the transfer station. The mayor was unclear what the process will be for disposing of the wood chips. The Regional Board has applied for grant money to purchase a chipper, it sounds like the grant will be awarded.

#### 5. AGENDA REVISIONS:

#### 6. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 6.1 Motion to approve Council Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2023
- 6.2 Motion to approve for Payment Vouchers, dated March 21, 2023, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and expense reimbursement claims, dated March 21, 2023, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.090, voucher numbers 42833 thru 42872 and EFT items in the amount of \$88,968.80.
- 6.3 Motion to approve Payroll Vouchers, dated February 28, 2023 certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, vouchers numbered 42752 through 42772 and 42830-42832 and Direct Deposit and EFTs (no sequenced numbers) as listed on the Payroll register in the total amount of \$ 172,024.49.

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

#### 7. OLD BUSINESS:

- 7.1 **SMP Update/Council Comments:** Council had no comment.

#### 8. NEW BUSINESS

**8.1 NCI Datacom Proposal for Use of City Property:** Mayor Townsend had some concerns about the wording in the lease agreement, as did council. Mayor Townsend would like NCI Datacom to be at the April meeting to answer councils' questions. Ms. Pearce will contact NCI Datacom and ask them to be in attendance for the April meeting.

**8.2 Discussion of EMT Training Costs:** Mr. Carriere stated that there may be three or four trainees for Grand Coulee the city has typically covered the cost out of the ambulance budget. Mr. Poplawski is concerned that the city is

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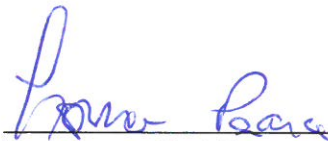
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expending the funds for training and not receiving any service once the student is certified. There was suggestion that the student pay for the class and the city reimburse them once they complete the class or possibly have a requirement that once certified they serve the city for a certain amount of time or the student would have to reimburse the city the class fees. Chief Fish said that the State Volunteer Fire Board has minimum requirements that have to be met to maintain good standing for retirement benefits, the department is currently mirroring that requirement which is a minimum of 24 calls per year or 2 calls per month.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no objection, the mayor adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:21pm.

  
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Paul A. Townsend, Mayor

  
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Lorna Pearce, Clerk/Treasurer