

City of Grand Coulee
Regular Meeting of the City Council
July 18, 2023

MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING: 2019 CDBG PLANNING GRANT: Mayor Townsend opened the hearing at approximately 6:00pm. There was no public comment or written comment received. Council had no comment. Mayor Townsend closed the hearing at approximately 6:02pm.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2023-2028 AND 2024-2029 SIX YEAR STREET PLAN: Mayor Townsend opened the hearing at approximately 6:03pm. There was no public comment or written comment received. Council had no comment. Mayor Townsend closed the hearing at approximately 6:04pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Townsend called the regular meeting to order at approximately 6:05pm.

ROLL CALL:

The following were:

Present: Mayor Townsend, Mayor Townsend, Council Members Anita Eylar, Ruth Dalton, Tom Poplawski, Gary Carriere. Councilperson Alan Cain was excused.

Also Present: Clerk Pearce, Fire Chief Fish, Chief Tufts, Superintendent Dennis Francis, Mike Eylar, Linda Roberts, Shannon Liniger and Ron Beeler, Officer Gilbert, Travis Irwin. Attending via ZOOM: Scott Hunter, Star Newspaper, and Jim.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

2. VISITOR INPUT: Mike Eylar, 810 Spokane Way, expressed concern with the fact that Safeway pharmacy is now closed on weekends and asked if the council could send a letter stating the concerns about not having the pharmacy open. Mr. Eylar also voiced concerns with the future service from Grant County PUD if there is a power outage or need for service in the area. Grant County PUD closed the office in Grand Coulee and the service tech that lived in the area retired, if service is needed it may be a minimum of two hours before there is a response. Mr. Eylar asked the council if they could reach out to the PUD with these concerns. Mr. Poplawski suggested contacting the PUD commissioners and encouraged residents to contact them also. Ms. Eylar said that the retired PUD employee had said to contact the commissioners also.

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Superintendent Francis gave council a written report that included two quotes for removal of the tree on McGovern St., one from Basin Tree Service: \$3,126.26 to \$3,772.32 for tree removal and stump grinding. The second was from Tree Health: \$2926.86 for tree removal and stump grinding. Mr. Francis read information he had gotten from MRSC regarding ROW's and who is responsible for maintaining them. He told the council he has a draft ordinance if they would like to see it. Mr. Francis went on to tell the council that he is working with WSDOT to get the flashing speed limit signs installed. The department has an old crack sealer they would like to surplus. The playground equipment is all installed in the park, he is working with WSDOT on some of the ADA requirements for parking access. Mr. Francis gave the council some information regarding the need for a second employee at the wastewater facility.

City of Grand Coulee, Washington
Regular Council Meeting
July 18, 2023

Chief Fish reported that the fire department had responded to five fire calls since the June meeting and the ambulance had thirty-seven calls for service in that time frame. The EMS course will be concluding August 7th at which time the attendees can take the state test to become certified. Four of the class attendees will be joining the Grand Coulee service.

Chief Tufts reported sixty-seven calls for service since the June meeting. Both officers who had been out on paternity leave are now back in service.

Clerk Pearce reported that there are two civil service positions that need to be filled as well as the civil service secretary position. Ms. McPherson tendered her resignation from the library board, the board should be making a recommendation to council for her replacement. The planning agency will have two empty positions as of July 31, 2023. Ms. Pearce said that she will place an ad in the paper for the civil service and planning positions. The exit conference for the 2020-2021 audit has been scheduled for Monday, July 24th at 10am. Ms. Pearce said that Deputy Clerk Schumaker had completed and submitted a grant application to T-Mobile for windows and the painting of the outside of city hall, the city should hear sometime in September if they will receive the funding. Ms. Pearce said that Electric City had approved pursuing the Ecology funding for the design phase of the wastewater project.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Street Committee: Ms. Eylar said that she looked into the signage at Spokane Way and Main St., the stop on one side and yield on the other, MRSC said that it is legal to have the signage done this way. MRSC thought that the city may want to do a traffic study in the area. The Mayor stated that he would like to see a stop sign at the intersection of Martin Rd. and Prins Pl. After more discussion the Mayor asked the street committee to look into a traffic study for the odd intersections and report back in August.

Planning Committee: Mr. Carriere suggested that Merle Kennedy be contacted to discuss valuation of the city parcels. The question was asked if the city has deeds to the parcel they are wanting to surplus, Ms. Pearce said that she has not seen any deed documents in the vault. Council asked that the deeds be looked for.

5. AGENDA REVISIONS:

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 6.1 Motion to approve Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2023
- 6.2 Motion to approve for Payment Vouchers, dated July 18, 2023, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and expense reimbursement claims, dated July 18, 2023, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.090, voucher numbers 43075, 43090 thru 43126 and EFT items in the amount of \$79,819.22. Warrants 43076-43089 were voided.
- 6.3 Motion to approve Payroll Vouchers, dated June 30, 2023, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, vouchers numbered 43058 through 43074 and Direct Deposit and EFTs (no sequenced numbers) as listed on the Payroll register in the total amount of \$ 152,920.73.

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

7. OLD BUSINESS:

7.1 NCI Datacom Lease Agreement: Ms. Eylar motioned to approve the Mayor's signature on the agreement, Mr. Poplawski second, motion carried.

7.2 Allocation of Prop 1 Funds for the COPS and DARE Programs: Ms. Eylar motioned to approve the request for Prop. 1 money, Mr. Carriere second, Mr. Poplawski asked Officer Gilbert if the new school superintendent had been contacted about the DARE program, Officer Gilbert said that Officer Martin had reached out but has not heard back. Officer

City of Grand Coulee, Washington
Regular Council Meeting
July 18, 2023

Gilbert also stated that Officer Martin has had conversations with several teachers and support staff at the school district and the program was well received. The motion carried.

7.3 Request to Close Midway Ave. Between Kimble and Morrison St. August 1, 2023: Mr. Poplawski asked if WSDOT had approved the closure, Ms. Pearce said that Chief Tufts had sent a revised traffic plan that morning and it is expected to be approved. Mr. Carriere motioned to approve the closure contingent on WSDOT approval; Mr. Poplawski second, motion carried.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Quote for Removal of McGovern St. Tree: Mayor Townsend said that he would like to limit the expense by possibly not grinding the stump. Mr. Francis is still waiting for other quotes on the removal. Ms. Liniger, 215 Roosevelt Dr., asked if she could speak, Mayor Townsend recognized Ms. Liniger, she went on to ask if council had reached a decision on her request to place a shed in ROW? There was discussion of who had authority over ROW's, at this point Mayor Townsend asked the planning committee to research the issue of ROW authority and asked Mr. Francis to attempt to locate the city utilities within this ROW and bring the information to council in August.

8.2 Resolution 23-02 Adopting the 2023-2028 and 2024-2029 Six Year Street Plan: Ms. Pearce let council know that reason for adopting both the 2023-2028 and the 2024-2029 plans was due to the 2023-2028 plan not being adopted last year and the funding that the city is set to receive from Grant County requires that project to be on both plans. Ms. Pearce said that she had contacted the city attorney and she did not see an issue. Russ Powers, G&O, had contacted WSDOT, they also did not see an issue. Mr. Poplawski motioned to approve Resolution 23-02, Ms. Eylar second, motion carried.

8.3 Discussion of Community Meeting for the Future of Ambulance Service in the Area: Mr. Carriere feels that council is getting ahead of themselves and that the public safety committee along with Chief Fish and Director Paris should meet prior to meeting with the public. Mr. Poplawski stated that there is a need to move to a paid service with full-time employees and the community should be involved in the discussions. Chief Fish said that Director Paris is developing a survey to put out to the ambulance service area, this will give them an idea of what the community wants. Mr. Carriere suggested that while survey is being developed and responses are gathered the public safety committee and the Chief and Director meet to discuss and gather information on an EMS District, and once the survey results in and tallied begin holding community meetings. By consensus this was agreed upon.

8.4 Discussion of Partnering with Electric City for the Purchase of a Street Sweeper: Ms. Pearce mentioned that Electric City had already approved the purchase of the sweeper, so she was unsure if this was still an option. Travis Irwin, Electric City Public Works Director, said that Electric City may still be open to joint ownership or some type of lease agreement. Mr. Poplawski offered to speak with Mayor Kohout about entering into an agreement for the sweeper.

8.5 Discussion of Enacting an Ordinance on Feeding Wildlife and Feral Animals: Ms. Pearce said that the office had received several complaints in last few weeks about the feeding of deer within Grand Coulee, this ordinance would make this a citable offense, and could be written to include feral cats. Ms. Eylar does not feel this is the way to handle feral cats, the proven method of reducing the numbers would be to implement a trap, neuter and release program. Mayor Townsend said one of the issues with feeding the cats is that the surrounding neighbors have to deal with the feces in their flower beds and such. Ms. Eylar provided a sample of what is called a "scat mat" that deters animals from using the area that it is placed in. Mayor Townsend placed this into the planning, zoning and licensing committee to review further and bring their findings to council in August.

8.6 2nd Quarter Budget Review: Ms. Eylar commended the department heads for staying within their budgets. Ms. Eylar did have concerns about the cost of IT service and would like to look into other IT service providers. Ms. Eylar also said she feels it is good to openly review the budget on a quarterly basis.

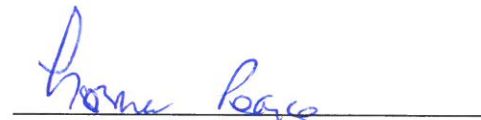
8.7 Ordinance 1093 Amending the 2023 Budget: Ms. Pearce said that the amendment is to account for the TIB funds that have been approved for the three street projects and the purchase of the public works pickup and plow attachment. Mr. Poplawski motioned to approve Ordinance No. 1093, Mr. Carriere second, Ms. Eylar asked about the Prop

1 funds that had been requested, Ms. Pearce said that will be a separate amendment because the council had just authorized the expenditure tonight. The motion carried.

8.8 Discussion of Wastewater Facility 2nd Employee: Mayor Townsend said he has a hard time justifying a second full-time employee at the facility. The lead operator is nearing retirement, SJ Environmental has presented a proposal for contract services for part-time assistance and possibly moving to full coverage when the lead operator retires. Mayor Townsend would like to designate the second position as part-time. The other option would be to advertise for a full-time assistant operator. Mr. Poplawski asked Mr. Francis for his thoughts. Mr. Francis said that in the past the second employee has assisted in other departments when needed. It was brought up that the Wastewater Agreement gives the joint board some say in the hiring process. The agreement was discussed, and council has suggested that Grand Coulee and Electric City attorneys should review the agreement to see who makes decisions in this matter. Mr. Poplawski motioned to draft an agreement with Electric City to allow an interim agreement with SJ Environmental for coverage at the wastewater facility until the wastewater agreement has been reviewed and a decision made, Mr. Carriere second, motion carried. Mr. Poplawski offered to speak with Mayor Kohout, Electric City, about the agreement for interim services.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no objection, the mayor adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:20pm.


Paul A. Townsend, Mayor
Lorna Pearce, Clerk/Treasurer