

City of Grand Coulee
Regular Meeting of the City Council
August 15, 2023

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Townsend called the meeting to order at approximately 6:03pm.

ROLL CALL:

The following were:

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

Also Present: Clerk Pearce, Chief Tufts, Superintendent Dennis Francis, Mayor Kohout, EC Mayor, George Kohout, Cheryl Hoffman, Mike Eylar, Scott Hunter, Star Newspaper, Travis Irwin, Andrea Schumaker, Officer Gilbert, Rachelle Baughman, Nic Alexander, Kelly Buche, Mark Nash, attending via ZOOM Jim

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

2. VISITOR INPUT: None

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Chief Tufts said he felt there was a good turnout for National Night Out. Officer Schaffer has tendered his resignation; the Chief is asking to hire a replacement. Officer Gilbert provided council with information on blighted properties, with sample ordinances, he is also working on a grant to equip the patrol vehicles with AED units. Officer Gilbert also provided information on a public safety improvement and resiliency policy.

Superintendent Francis let council know that one of the employees has been off work due to an injury received in their off time. TIB funding has been applied for several projects.

Ms. Pearce told council that Chief Fish had told her the ambulance service is up to approximately 400 calls and fire is at approximately 60, the department has received a \$4000 technology grant from Dept. of Natural Resources to replace the pc and accessories at the fire department. Ms. Pearce said the TIB grants applied for were for matching funds to complete the Spokane Way project funded by Grant County, a sidewalk along one side of Martin Rd. and an overlay on a portion of Dill Ave., all of Mead Ave. and all of Batchelor Sq. The sidewalk repair on Main St. is scheduled to begin Friday, August 18, 2023.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Street Committee: Ms. Eylar made a recommendation to council to pursue a traffic study before changing any of the signage at intersections to avoid the possibility of a lawsuit.

Planning Committee: Mr. Carrier has spoken with a realtor who will review the parcels and provide council with a fair market value.

Mr. Carrier also spoke with the manager of Safeway regarding the pharmacy being closed on weekends. He was told that Safeway is actively trying to hire someone for the pharmacy. Mr. Carriere also spoke with a PUD representative about there not being a service technician in the north end of the county, he was told they may hire a local person if they are qualified.

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Ms. Eylar said that she had attended the PUD Commissioners meeting and asked if they could attend the September 19th council meeting, they said they would have representatives attend the meeting.

Ms. Dalton said that she had looked into the feeding of wildlife and it is not recommended by Fish & Wildlife because it can cause health problems for the animals. Researching feral cats shows that the best practice is to trap, neuter and release. This is a good practice because it limits the number of offspring but that keeping the cats can be a benefit to the residents due to pest control that the cats provide. Ms. Dalton thought that the city should speak with the local vet to see if they would offer a reduced rate to fix any feral cats brought to them. Ms. Eylar offered to reach out to contacts she has with the Humane Society.

Mr. Carriere said that he and Ms. Dalton had been to McGovern and Mead to look at the ROW that has been discussed. Mr. Carriere feels there is ample room to place the shed so it would not interfere with utilities. There was discussion regarding setback requirements for the placement. There was some discussion about who actually owns or controls the ROW. Mr. Poplawski felt that this could be further discussed on Agenda Item 7.1.

5. AGENDA REVISIONS: Mayor Townsend asked that Item 8.1 be heard before Item 7.1, Mr. Poplawski asked to add Chief Tufts request to fill the vacant position within the police department as Item 8.8, Ms. Eylar asked that the July minutes be removed from the consent agenda to Item 8.9, by consensus council agreed to the agenda revisions.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 6.1 Motion to approve for Payment Vouchers, dated August 15, 2023, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and expense reimbursement claims, dated August 15, 2023, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.090, voucher numbers 43145 thru 43188 and EFT items in the amount of \$133,504.74.
- 6.2 Motion to approve Payroll Vouchers, dated July 31, 2023, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, vouchers numbered 43127 through 43144 and Direct Deposit and EFTs (no sequenced numbers) as listed on the Payroll register in the total amount of \$ 148,916.71.

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

8.1 Design Phase Funding: Nancy Wetch, Gray & Osborne, provided the council and those in attendance with a handout that had a breakdown of the costs for the WWTF and the Midway Ave. sewer line, the costs for these will be shared by Grand Coulee and Electric City, estimated cost will be \$1,452,000, the design and investigation of Grand Coulee's collection system estimated cost \$372,000, Grand Coulee alone would bear this cost. Mr. Poplawski made a motion to authorize the clerk to contact Dept. of Ecology to begin the funding process for the design phase for the WWTF and Midway Ave. sewer line and Grand Coulee's collection system, Ms. Eylar second, motion carried.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

7.1 McGovern St. Tree Removal: Mr. Poplawski said that after reviewing information provided on ownership of ROW's the city needs to research the subject more when it comes to who has authority over the ROW, the abutting property owner or the city. He suggested that the city contact the abutting property owner to see if they would pay half of the fee to remove the tree. Ms. Dalton said that she would contact the property owner. This will be brought back to council in September.

7.2 Signage on Main and Federal: Ms. Eylar would like the city to further research conducting a traffic study before making any changes to the current signage at any of the intersections. Ms. Eylar motioned to repeal the council's decision to make the intersection of Main and Federal a four way stop, Ms. Dalton second, Motion carried. Mayor Townsend asked the street committee to look into the cost of a traffic study and to provide information to council in September.

7.3 Code Review – Code Publishing: Ms. Eylar is recommending that the review of the city codes be added in to the budgeting process for the 2024 budget.

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8. NEW BUSINESS

8.2 Request for Removal of Late Fee Acct. 1928.0 – First Request: Ms. Eylar motioned to approve the removal of the late fee on the account but not the NSF that was incurred, Mr. Carriere second, motion carried.

8.3 Request for Removal of Late Fee Acct. 1931.0 First Request: Ms. Eylar motioned to approve the removal of the late fee, Ms. Dalton second, motion carried.

8.4 Request by Kindred Spirits Against Diabetes to Close the Alley by the City Park: Ms. Pearce let council know that both the Fire Chief and the Police Chief did not have an issue with closing the alley for the event. Ms. Eylar motioned to approve the request to close the alley, Mr. Poplawski second, motion carried.

8.5 Rachelle Baughman – Funding for Non-Profits: Ms. Baughman gave a brief statement on what LTAC dollars may be utilized for and asked that Grand Coulee consider appropriating funding to local non-profits. Nic Alexander, Reel Recreation and Kelly Buche, Run the Dam, gave suggestions on making the process easier for requesting LTAC funds, such as implementing an application form that would contain information the city would need when submitting the required annual report to the state. Ms. Pearce agreed that such a form would things easier for everyone and has been reviewing what other entities have in place. At this time what is required is a letter from the entity requesting the funds.

8.6 Set Public Hearing for Revised 2024-2029 Six Year Street Plan: By consensus the hearing was set for September 19, 2023 at 6:00pm.


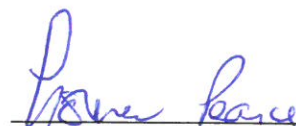
8.7 Bids for ADA Access in the City Park: There was only one bid received, Flowers and Sons Construction in the amount of \$16,693.60. Mr. Francis will contact Mr. Flowers to schedule the work.

8.8 Request to Hire an Officer: Mr. Poplawski make a motion to authorize the Chief to start the hiring process, Ms. Eylar second, motion carried.

8.9 Correction to the July 18, 2023 Minutes: Ms. Eylar motioned to make the following correction to the July minutes, Item 8.1 stated " Mayor Townsend asked the ~~street~~ 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.", Ms. Dalton second, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no objection, the mayor adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:35pm.


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