

City of Grand Coulee  
Regular Meeting of the City Council  
October 17, 2023

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**MINUTES**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

The following were:

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

Also Present: Clerk Pearce, Chief Tufts, Chief Fish, Officer Martin, Jeri Smith, NCNB, Grant County PUD, Mark Nash, Scott Hunter, Star Newspaper, attending via ZOOM Johathan Myers, Text My Gov., and Andrea Schumaker

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**2. VISITOR INPUT:**

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Chief Fish reported there have been 81 fire calls to date and approximately 520 ambulance calls.

Chief Tufts reported that the department had responded to 59 calls for service since the last council meeting.

Ms. Pearce said that she has not heard anything from T-Mobile regarding the grant application that was submitted.

Interviews for the deputy clerk position have begun with the hope of making an offer within the next week. Ms. Pearce said that she had received a request to place a dead-end sign on Weil Place, more and more people are using it as a turnaround.

**4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Planning Committee:** Mr. Carrier reported that he has not heard back from the realtor on the city parcels. Mr. Carriere provided the council with a sample Wildlife Ordinance; it was asked to add this to the agenda for discussion as Item 8.14.

**5. AGENDA REVISIONS:** By consensus the council moved Item 8.10 Grant County PUD before Item 8.1 so that guests would not have to stay for the entire meeting unless they chose to.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA:**

6.1 Motion to approve Council Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2023

6.1 Motion to approve for Payment Vouchers, dated October 17, 2023, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and expense reimbursement claims, dated October 17, 2023, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.090, voucher numbers 43268 thru 43314 and EFT items in the amount of \$134,904.96.

6.2 Motion to approve Payroll Vouchers, dated September 29, 2023, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, vouchers numbered 43254 through 43267 and Direct Deposit and EFTs (no sequenced numbers) as

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listed on the Payroll register in the total amount of \$ 152,625.78.

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

**8.1 Introduction of New Librarian:** Melissa Little, NCR Library, introduced Sage Hachey. Sage was hired in August as the librarian for the Grand Coulee Library.

**8.2 Library Card Month Proclamation:** Mayor Townsend read the proclamation naming September Library Card Month. Mr. Poplawski motioned to approve the proclamation, Ms. Eylar second, motion carried.

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8.10 Grant County PUD:** There were several representatives from Grant County PUD present. Questions about service when the power goes out were responded to. They asked that if anyone who has a medical need contact the customer service department to get on a list, these services are given priority during an outage. It was also noted that the PUD does offer discount rates for low-income residents. The PUD has no plans at this time to surplus the office building here in Grand Coulee.

**8.1 Demo/Discussion of Subscribing to Text my Gov:** Jonathan Myers offered a demonstration of how the program works, he noted that people have to sign up for the service. The annual fee is \$2000 with a one-time setup fee of \$1000, the initial term is for two years. Mr. Myers noted that both Coulee Dam and Electric City are utilizing the app and suggested that council reach out to them.

**8.2 Set Date for Public Hearing on 2024 Revenue Sources:** Mr. Poplawski motioned to set the hearing on November 21, 2023, at 6:00pm with the regular council meeting immediately after, Mr. Cain second, motion carried.

**8.3 Discussion of Salary Range for New Police Chief:** Council requested more information, qualifications etc. before they would make a decision. Mayor Townsend placed this into the labor committee for review and asked that it be brought back in November.

**8.4 Discussion of Removing the Police Chief from Civil Service:** After some discussion the Mayor placed this into the labor committee and asked that it be brought back in November.

**8.5 Discussion of Looking at City Insurance Options:** After some discussion Mr. Poplawski motioned to notify CIAW that Grand Coulee would be looking at options for insurance providers, Mr. Cain second, motion carried.

**8.6 Library Lease Renewal:** After some discussion Ms. Pearce was asked to contact Tim Dillman, NCW Library, to see if someone would be able to attend the November meeting to answer questions council has.

**8.7 Request for Relief of Additional Sewer fees; Zion Lutheran Church:** Ms. Eylar motioned to approve removing the excess sewer fees due to summer watering May through September 2023, Mr. Carriere second, motion carried.

**8.8 Review of Sample Small and Attractive Asset Policies:** Council was provided several sample ordinances and asked to review them so they can be discussed in November.

**8.9 WWTF Hiring Discussion:** Council discussed hiring an employee versus continuing with contract service to operate the wastewater facility. Mayor Townsend does not want to hire someone that is not fully certified, this would be more costly due to still needing the contractor to stay on to train. Ms. Eylar asked if council is wanting to hire employees or not; Mayor Townsend said that he leans toward continuing with a contracted service, it is saving the city money, and the city is receiving 24-7 coverage under the current contract. Mr. Poplawski doesn't feel it is beneficial to hire employees, he feels contract service is a more viable option. Mr. Carriere likes the idea of having an employee that is vested in the community over a contracted service. Ms. Dalton stated that the contract price may become too high for the city, contracts start low and increase every year. Ms. Pearce was asked to find out where the current operator is with getting his WA. certification.

**8.11 ROW Ordinance:** Ms. Pearce let council know that the attorney has been contacted and is working on drafting the ordinance.

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**8.12 Discussion of EV Charging Station Grant:** Officer Gilbert has found a grant through Dept. of Ecology for the installation of EV charging stations. This could be a way for the city to increase general fund revenue. The city could turn the funding down if the grant was not going to cover the actual cost of the project. Mr. Carriere motioned to allow Officer Gilbert to move forward with the application, Mr. Cain second, motion carried.

**8.13 Appointments to the Library Board:** Mr. Carriere motioned to approve the appointment of Janis Heuvel to a five-year term, Mr. Poplawski second, motion carried. Ms. Eylar motioned to approve the appointment of Carol Nordine to a five-year term, Ms. Dalton second, motion carried.

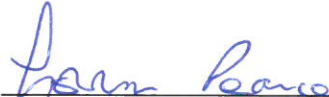
**8.14 Wildlife Ordinance:** There was discussion about some of the verbiage in the sample ordinance regarding birds, council will review and bring recommendations/changes back to council in November.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no objection, the mayor adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:50pm.



Paul A. Townsend, Mayor



Lorna Pearce, Clerk/Treasurer