

City of Grand Coulee  
Regular Meeting of the City Council  
November 21, 2023

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**MINUTES**

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**PUBLIC HEARING: Ad Valorem Tax/Revenue Sources:** Mayor Townsend opened the public hearing at approximately 6:01pm. There was no public comment or input from the council. The public hearing was closed at approximately 6:03pm.

**PUBLIC HEARING: PRELIMINARY 2024 BUDGET:** Mayor Townsend opened the public hearing at approximately 6:04pm. There was no public comment. Council asked if the request for a Resource Officer was in the 2024 budget, Ms. Pearce said no. As there was no further comment or discussion the public hearing was closed at approximately 6:06pm.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Townsend called the regular meeting to order at approximately 6:06pm.

**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 Fish, Officer Martin, Officer Gilbert, Kris Thiesfeld, Civil Service Secretary, Barbara Walters, NCW Regional Library, Melissa Little, NCW Regional Library, Rick Paris, Chuck and Chantel Crowe, Scott Hunter, Star Newspaper, Mike Eylar, Linda Roberts, Mark Nash, attending via ZOOM Julie Norton, Ogden Murphy Wallace.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**2. VISITOR INPUT:**

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Chief Fish reported there have been 90 fire calls to date and the ambulance will be over 600 calls for the year. Ms. Pearce updated the council on TIB applications.

**4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Scholarship Committee:** Ms. Eylar informed council that AWC is once again offering scholarship opportunities and the committee will be working with the school district and students to make a selection and recommendation to AWC.

**Planning Committee:** Mr. Carrier reported that he has not heard back from the realtor on the city parcels.

**5. AGENDA REVISIONS:** Mr. Poplawski asked that a request by the Library Board to fill a vacant position be added to the agenda as Item 8.7

**6. CONSENT AGENDA:**

6.1 Motion to approve Council Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2023.

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- 6.2 Motion to approve Budget Workshop Minutes of October 3, 2023.
- 6.3 Motion to approve Budget Workshop Minutes of October 24, 2023.
- 6.4 Motion to approve for Payment Vouchers, dated November 21, 2023, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and expense reimbursement claims, dated November 21, 2023, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.090, voucher numbers 43331 thru 43378 and EFT items in the amount of \$272,813.88.
- 6.5 Motion to approve Payroll Vouchers, dated September 29, 2023, certified by the City Clerk/Treasurer as required by RCW 42.24.080, vouchers numbered 43315 through 43330 and Direct Deposit and EFTs (no sequenced numbers) as listed on the Payroll register in the total amount of \$ 119,370.80.

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

## 7. OLD BUSINESS:

7.1 **ROW Ordinance:** Ms. Norton discussed the various options the council had in regard to the makeup of a ROW ordinance. Council would like to keep it simple, with a permit process for use of the ROW. Ms. Norton will draft the ordinance for council review.

7.2 **Library Agreement:** Ms. Walters, NCW Regional Library, was in attendance and several questions from the council regarding the library operations. Mr. Poplawski motioned to approve the Mayor's signature on the library agreement, Ms. Eylar second motion carried. Mr. Poplawski asked that Item 8.7 be considered at this time so library staff in attendance could leave if they chose. Mr. Poplawski made a motion to approve the appointment of Lee Seekins to the vacant position on the Library Board, Ms. Eylar second motion carried.

7.3 **Set a Salary for the New Chief Police:** After some discussion, Mr. Poplawski motioned to set the salary range for the incoming Chief at \$95,000 - \$110,000, Mr. Carriere second, motion carried.

7.4 **Removal of Chief from Civil Service:** After some discussion, there was no council action.

7.5 **Small and Attractive Asset Policy:** After some discussion, Mayor Townsend asked the legislative committee to review and make a recommendation to council.

7.6 **Wildlife Ordinance:** After some discussion, Mayor Townsend placed this back in committee.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 **Discussion of School Resource Officer:** Officer Gilbert informed council that a condition of the DOJ grant that the dept. received was to supply a resource officer for the school district. The school board is receptive to the idea of a shared officer and shared expenses for the officer. The city portion would be approximately \$45,000 per year. Council would like more information on this and has scheduled a Special Meeting for November 28, 2023 at 5pm.

8.2 **Resolution 23-04 Increase Property Tax:** Ms. Eylar motioned to approve Resolution 23-04, Mr. Poplawski second, motion carried.

8.3 **Grant County Health District Request for Contribution:** After some discussion Mr. Carriere motioned to deny the request for funds, Mr. Cain second, motion carried.

8.4 **Request for Relief of Late Fee; Acct. 1598.0:** Ms. Eylar motioned to approve the removal of the late fee on account 1598.0 as it was the first request for this account, Ms. Dalton second, motion carried.

8.5 **Resolution 23-05 Surplus Property:** Ms. Eylar motioned to approve Resolution 23-05, Mr. Carriere second, motion carried.

8.6 **Requests for Lodging Tax Funds:** Mr. Poplawski motioned to approve the requests that have been received and budget for the amounts requested, Ms. Dalton second, motion carried with four yes votes and Ms. Eylar abstaining. Ms. Eylar is the treasurer of the Ridge Riders Rodeo Association.

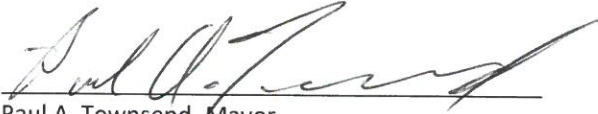
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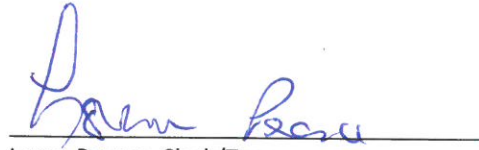
Mayor Townsend let council know that an applicant for the WWTF Operator position had been interviewed. The candidate had been previously certified in both wastewater and water operations, but his certifications were no longer valid and he would have to apply to DOE to test.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no objection, the mayor adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:35pm.



Paul A. Townsend, Mayor



Lorna Pearce, Clerk/Treasurer