

City Clerk

In the summer of 1909, a caucus was called to nominate town officers for Grandview. At that time, Grandview was three years old. Those nominated were Mayor John Monroe, Treasurer A.W. Hawn, Clerk G.D. Snowden, Marshall Ed Dawson, and five Councilmen by the last names of Elser, Robertson, Fisk, Moulton and Bennett. The Town of Grandview was then incorporated on September 22, 1909.

The City Clerk is an appointive office of the City with a term that runs concurrent with that of the Mayor. The Mayor appoints the City Clerk subject to the approval of a majority vote of the City Council. The City Clerk is the official keeper of the municipal records.

The City Clerk's main function was to serve the Mayor and Council. Other duties included preparation of agendas, taking minutes, maintaining ordinance and resolution books, keeping the municipality's historical records, issuing licenses and permits, processing contracts and agreements, and acting as the key contact person between the Mayor and the citizens of Grandview.

The first City Clerk's salary was set at \$10.00 per month.

Over the past 100 years, the following 16 individuals have served the City of Grandview as the City Clerk:

1909 – 1911 – G.D. Snowden
1912 – 1914 – A.E. Fisk
1915 – 1919 – Fred Swain
1920 – 1929 – Fred Hawn
1930 – 1937 – Clifford M. Dyer
1938 – 1950 – Harry Ehmer
1951 – 1954 – Verna Turley
1955 – 1962 – Beverly McCall
1963 – 1967 – Ed Bahr
1968 – 1980 – Caroline Overdorf
1981 – 1984 – Nancy Davidson
1985 – 1986 – Elaine Caufield
1987 – Patsy Turner
1988 – 1990 – Jody Wheeler
1991 – 1997 – Jean Waller
1998 – 2009 – Anita Palacios

Caroline Overdorf is currently the longest serving City Clerk with 12 years. I am the second longest serving City Clerk and will begin my 12th year in August, but I have been employed by the City for the past 19 years.

The first four ordinances, which are laws set forth by the City Council, were passed on September 27, 1909. The original ordinance book is on display:

- Ordinance No. 1 set the time and place of meetings of the Town Council of the Town of Grandview
- Ordinance No. 2 fixed the amount of bonds for the Clerk, Treasurer and Marshall of the Town of Grandview
- Ordinance No. 3 prescribed the seal for the Town of Grandview (original seal on display)
- Ordinance No. 4 designated the official newspaper of the Town of Grandview which was the Grandview Herald (and 100 years later the official newspaper is still the Grandview Herald).

Some significant events relating to City Hall that have occurred over the past 100 years were:

In 1928, the Town Council brought Lots 1 and 2 in Block 16 for \$108, which were sold for delinquent taxes with the idea of having a location on which to erect a Town Hall. They seeded the grounds and erected a flag pole to carry the large flag won by Grandview for the largest attendance at the State Fair in Yakima on Valley Day in 1927. The flag was raised on Armistice Day with appropriate ceremonies under the auspices of the American Legion and the school children.

In 1936, Grandview voted to issue bonds to build a new Town Hall.

In 1937, the corner stone for the new Town Hall was laid at the N.W. corner of West A and south Second Streets. The building was dedicated July 31st at a cost of \$11,800. It housed the police department, fire department, the town library, and the office of the Clerk and Treasurer. There was also a council chamber and several apartments for volunteer firemen. In the rear of the building was a two-cell jail.

In 1944, an election was held and the town was promoted to a third class City.

In 1962, the City purchased two pieces of property for future growth. The property which lies between the City jail and alley, formerly Tresher's Shoe Shop, was to be used for the expansion of City Hall. The other piece of property was that which is now Euclid Park.

In 1976, the current City Hall was constructed.