

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 6, 2007**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Norm Childress called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Present were: Mayor Childress and Councilmembers Helen Darr, Bill Flory, Pam Horner, Jan McDonald, Robert Morales, Javier Rodriguez and Joan Souders.

Staff present were: City Administrator Scott Staples, City Attorney Jack Maxwell and City Clerk Anita Palacios.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Childress lead the pledge of allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Clarence Zahn, 904 West Fourth Street, Grandview, expressed concern with the cost of constructing a new animal control shelter and did not feel that taxpayers who do not have animals should bear the burden of the cost for a new shelter.

Angie Johnson, 1430 Grandview Pavement Road, Grandview, commented that she does a lot of walking around the City and commended the animal control officer for doing a great job.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Councilmember Horner, second by Councilmember Flory, Council unanimously approved the Consent Agenda consisting of the following:

- A. Minutes of the July 16, 2007 study session
- B. Minutes of the July 16, 2007 regular meeting
- C. 2007 Claim Warrant Nos. 79429-79571 in the amount of \$288,133.54
- D. Payroll Warrant approval for July 31, 2007
- E. Resolution No. 2007-22; Cherry Lane Surplus Property Exchange with M&R Construction and Development
- F. Resolution No. 2007-23; Mutual Aid Agreement with Hanford Fire Department
- G. Resolution No. 2007-24; Safe Deposit Box Access
- H. Resolution No. 2007-25; Surplus Police Vehicles
- I. Ordinance No. 2007-12; Official City Flower Designation

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. **Prosser Memorial Hospital Funding Request for Ambulance Services**
 - Reviewed legal opinion from City Attorney

In a letter dated July 27, 2007, Jim Tavary, CEO of the Prosser Memorial Hospital (PMH), requested funding assistance for one year in the amount of \$120,000 for the ongoing provision of emergency medical services in the City of Grandview. This request was being made in an attempt to resolve an estimated \$400,000 annual shortfall in EMS operations resulting primarily

from an unanticipated change in the way the service was being compensated by the Medicare program.

City Attorney Maxwell explained that the PMH was a “hospital district” that receives taxes from its district area. The City of Grandview was not part of that “district,” but the hospital has established an ambulance office and assigned ambulances to Grandview. He believed this service was “for profit” in that the services were billed to the users of the ambulance and that the ambulances located in Grandview were not exclusively devoted to Grandview. The Washington Constitution bars the City from “lending credit,” which means that the City cannot give money to anyone or any other organization and unless an exception could be made in the law to this general principal, no funds could be given to the hospital district. It was his opinion that there was no statutory authority to merely grant an amount to the hospital district from general funds for past or expected shortfalls due to the action of the federal government that would get past the constitutional issue. If there were no ambulance service in existence or the ambulance services were inadequate, then he thought the City could enter into an interlocal agreement with the hospital district, but the City would have to assess a levy on the citizens for such services. He noted that the shortfall caused by the underpayment of Medicare or Medicaid was an issue that only the legislature could resolve.

On motion by Councilmember Darr, second by Councilmember Horner, Council unanimously declined Prosser Memorial Hospital’s funding request of \$120,000 for ambulance services.

B. Downtown Holiday Lighting and Banners

- Received 7/31/07 recommendation from Chamber Board of Directors that City initiate holiday lighting and banner program for central business district

The Chamber of Commerce submitted a proposal to the Council that the City initiate the process of and take over the Christmas decorations and lighting for the proposed Main Street District of Division and Second Street.

Currently, the decorations belong to the Chamber, but the City hangs the decorations each year on the street light poles.

On motion by Councilmember Morales, second by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously approved a Christmas decoration and lighting program for the central business district and instructed staff to prepare a cost estimate.

C. Ordinance No. 2007-17; Olmstead Annexation

On motion by Councilmember Horner, second by Councilmember McDonald, Council unanimously approved Ordinance No. 2007-17 providing for the annexation of property owned known as the Olmstead annexation to the City of Grandview pursuant to the petition method, and incorporating the same within the corporate limits thereof, providing for the assumption of existing indebtedness, requiring said property to be assessed and taxed at the same rate and basis as other property within said City, adopting a comprehensive land use plan, and changing the official zoning map of the City.

6. COUNCILMEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Yakima Valley Fair & Rodeo and Community Parade – The Yakima Valley Fair & Rodeo would take place on August 8th – 11th. The Community Parade was scheduled for August 9th.

Valley Mayors Meeting – Mayor Childress attended the Valley Mayors meeting on July 26th. The topic of discussion was gang violence. A subcommittee was formed and Mayor Childress was selected as chair.

Gang-Related Offenses Legislative Workshop – SSB 5987 created a work group to study gang-related offenses. The work group held their first community forum on July 30th in Yakima. Mayor Childress and Superintendent Kevin Chase attended the meeting on behalf of the City and School District.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS - None

8. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilmember Darr, second by Councilmember Rodriguez, Council unanimously adjourned the regular meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Mayor Norm Childress

Anita Palacios, City Clerk