

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 17, 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 Bill Flory, Robert Morales, Javier Rodriguez and Joan Souders. Council members Jan McDonald and Pam Horner were absent.

Staff present were: City Administrator Scott Staples, City Attorney Jack Maxwell, City Treasurer John Myers and City Clerk Arita Palacios.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Steven Reyes, Student of the Month at Harriet Thompson Elementary School, led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Walt Bratton, 1304 West Fifth Street, Grandview, provided comments on the 2008 budget, which included salaries (City employees vs. School District employees) and the need for employees to share the cost burden for health insurance. He expressed concern with the purchase of the sewer Camal truck.

Dale Burgeson, 1102 Carriage Square Drive, Grandview, thanked Council members Bill Flory and Harv Rodriguez for their service to the City. He also thanked Council for considering the ordinance providing for reduced utility rates for low-income seniors.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

**On motion by Council member Flory, second by Council member Rodriguez, Council unanimously approved the Consent Agenda consisting of the following:**

- A. Minutes of the December 3, 2007 study session
- B. Minutes of the December 3, 2007 regular meeting
- C. 2007 Claim Warrant Nos. 80467-80593 in the amount of \$162,680.49
- D. Payroll Warrant approval for December 15, 2007
- E. 2008 Board & Commission Appointments
- F. Ordinance No. 2007-25; Adopting the 2008 non-union salary schedule and amends the Personnel Manual Exhibit [B] 2008 non-union monthly salary matrix
- G. Ordinance No. 2007-26; Amending GMC Chapter 2.75.010 Recreation Program Fees and Chapter 2.75.040 Country Park Rental and Deposit Fees
- H. Ordinance No. 2007-27; Adding a new Section 2.44.060 to the GMC entitled Library Fees and Fines
- I. Ordinance No. 2007-28; Amending GMC Sections 13.28.010(A) & (B) setting domestic water rates
- J. Ordinance No. 2007-29; Amending GMC Section 13.28.050 setting domestic sewer rates
- K. Ordinance No. 2007-30; Amending GMC Section 13.28.060(B) setting irrigation

- water rates
- L Ordinance No. 2007-31; Amending GMC Section 13.28.085 setting garbage rates
  - M Ordinance No. 2007-32; Amending GMC Sections 3.60.050(E) & (G) setting city utility tax rates
  - N Ordinance No. 2007-33; Providing for reduced utility rates for low income senior citizens and low income disabled persons and adding a new Section 13.30 to the GMC entitled "Low income senior and low income disabled persons utility rates"
  - O Ordinance No. 2007-34; Amending GMC Section 2.04.010 day and time of regular meetings
  - P Resolution No. 2007-36; Authorizing the Mayor to sign the Technical Assistance Contract No. 010108GV with the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments

## 5. ACTIVE AGENDA

### A Ordinance No. 2007-35

- Adopting the budget and confirming tax levies for revenue to carry on the government for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008

City Treasurer Myers explained that the 2008 budget provided for the continuation of City services. In order to maintain a similar level of service in all programs it was necessary to increase some fees, charges for services and city utility taxes. By Fund, notable changes and the highlights of balancing the budget were:

**CURRENT EXPENSE** The city utility taxes from the water/sewer and garbage funds would increase by about \$207,000, library wages and benefits reduced by \$40,000, and depreciation and replacement reserve would not be paid in 2008 for equipment rental vehicles and equipment (\$52,000).

**LAW & JUSTICE. 3% TAX FUND** This was a separate fund beginning in 2008 supported by the Yakima County 3/10ths percent Law & Justice Tax approved by the voters.

**WATER/SEWER:** Increase of 2% in sewer service rates. Increase of city utility tax rate on water service from 17.5% to 24.2%

**IRRIGATION:** Increased irrigation assessment rates by 5%

**SOLID WASTE:** Increased rates by 3% Increased city utility tax rate on garbage service from 17.5% to 40%

**EQUIPMENT RENTAL:** For the year of 2008, the current expense fund would not be paying depreciation and replacement reserve costs on vehicles and equipment used by that fund.

**SPECIAL NOTE** Part of the process to change water, sewer and garbage utility rates included the removal of the imbedded 6% city utility tax. For the past 20+ years, the utility tax was included in the utility rate. Beginning with the newly adopted utility rates, city utility taxes would be separate. The customer would see the utility rate separate on the monthly billing. City and state utility taxes would be summarized on the bill.

By extracting the 6% utility tax from the utility base rate, the rate ordinances showed a decrease in base utility rates. Beginning in 2008, the city utility taxes would be received as non-revenues in the respective utility funds and then transferred on a monthly basis to the current expense fund.

**On motion by Council member Morales, second by Council member Souders, Council unanimously approved adopting the budget and confirming tax levies for revenue to carry on the government for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008.**

## **6. COUNCILMEMBER MEETING REPORTS**

Downtown Revitalization Plan – On December 6<sup>th</sup>, a workshop was held with the downtown property and/or business owners to gather ideas, review design options and facilitate discussion in order to develop a specific downtown revitalization plan. Approximately 25 property owners and/or merchants attended. A summary of the workshop has been prepared and the project team will be meeting with the block captains on December 27<sup>th</sup> to share those results in order for the architect to prepare a new iteration of the design option for presentation to Council at the January 22<sup>nd</sup> study session.

Public Information Process – Following discussion at the Council retreat, staff will be presenting recommendations for a public information process regarding the future financial challenges of the current expense fund at the January 7<sup>th</sup> study session.

Yakima Valley Regional Library Presentation – Following discussion at the Council retreat, a presentation from Morica Weyhe, Executive Director of the Yakima Valley Regional Library will take place at the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting. The presentation will include an explanation of how the regional system operates. The Librarian has been asked to prepare a list of questions that have been presented to her by others including the Library Board, Friends of the Library, library patrons, etc.

Comprehensive Plan Amendment Public Hearing – The public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan Amendment will take place at the January 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting with formal adoption scheduled for the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Ambulance Service District – The Prosser Memorial Hospital District was in the process of scheduling a meeting with representatives of Benton and Yakima County Commissions to discuss a proposition to the voters to establish an ambulance service district. Another meeting has been scheduled on January 7<sup>th</sup> with representatives of the Hospital District, the Cities of Grandview, Prosser and Mabton, as well as representatives from Benton and Yakima County to discuss the issue of inter-fund assistance for 2008.

Grandview United – Council members Souders, Morales and Rodriguez attended the Grandview United meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>. The group reviewed and discussed how to implement the 17 action plans developed at the April 2007 meeting and also discussed ways to increase public participation. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center.

Thank You – Council members Rodriguez and Flory thanked members of Council and staff for the opportunity to work together to serve the community.

7. **UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS** – None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Council member Flory, second by Council member Rodriguez, Council unanimously adjourned the regular meeting at 8:15 p.m.

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Mayor Norman Chidress

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Arita Palacios, City Clerk