

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 15, 2008**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Norm Childress called the special meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Present were: Mayor Childress and Councilmembers Mike Bren, Pam Horner, Diana Jennings, Jan McDonald and Jesse Palacios. Councilmember Bill Moore arrived at 5:05 p.m. and Councilmember Joan Souders arrived at 5:15 p.m.

Staff present were: City Administrator Scott Staples, Public Works Director Cus Arteaga, City Treasurer John Myers, Parks & Recreation Director Mike Carpenter, Fire Captain George Saenz, Police Chief David Charvet, Librarian Linda Dunham and City Clerk Anita Palacios

**2. ACTION PLAN TO BALANCE 2008 BUDGET**

City Administrator Staples explained that at the Council's special meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Council indicated its desire to take the necessary steps to balance the 2008 budget. The service cuts or changes approved at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting included (1) not filling three seasonal parks maintenance positions, (2) using volunteers for the summer playground program, and (3) eliminating the soap box derby. These cuts would reduce 2008 expenditures by approximately \$25,000.

Since that time, Council prioritized City services paid for out of the current expense fund. Also, the Mayor, City Administrator and Department Heads met on July 7<sup>th</sup> to review the June 30<sup>th</sup> mid-year revenue and expense reports. The City Administrator and City Treasurer met with each Department Director, and as a result have prepared revised expense projections for 12/31/08.

In addition, the Mayor and Management Team prepared the following Action Plan for additional service cuts and/or changes that were recommended in order to implement the Council's direction. The goal was to identify steps to be taken now that would achieve a net savings of no less than \$91,000 in service reductions in the current expense fund for the balance of fiscal year 2008 in order to achieve a balanced budget for fiscal year 2008.

	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>EXPENSE</b>
1	Do not fill three (3) seasonal positions in parks maintenance		-\$22,000
2	Scale back summer playground program		- \$2,000
3	Eliminate Soap Box Derby		- \$1,000
4	Increased revenue from new SRO contract with School District	+ \$6,140	
5	New revenue from School District from reimbursement for cost of programs for school	+ \$3,000	
6	Eliminate phase 2 of downtown holiday decorations		- \$7,500

7	Close swimming pool on August 7 <sup>th</sup>		- \$8,800
8	Close museum on August 1 <sup>st</sup>		- \$2,500
9	Eliminate Animal Control Officer position		- \$23,000
10	Restrict graffiti removal by City to City property only		- \$20,000
	Increase in projected revenue	+ \$9,140	
	Decrease in projected expenses		- \$87,300
	<b>NET EFFECT OF ACTION PLAN</b>		<b>\$96,440</b>

The following documents were reviewed, copies of which are attached hereto and incorporated herein as part of these minutes:

1. Quarterly Budget Report dated 6/30/08
  - The last column reflected the revised 2008 revenue and expense estimates.
2. 2008 Program Summary
  - This document was revised to reflect (a) the personnel costs of each program and (b) the Council priority for each line operation in the current expense fund.
3. Proposed 2008 Budget Service Reductions
  - This plan was developed and reviewed by the Mayor and Management Team to achieve the Council's stated goal of balancing the budget for 2008. The Council priority list was used as a guide in developing this list.
4. Budget Ideas for Future Consideration
  - This document was revised to reflect the various ideas that have been suggested related to increased revenue and/or additional service reductions.

Councilmember Bren recommended extending the museum closure to August 11<sup>th</sup> following the fair and class reunions, continuing the graffiti removal program, and extending the swimming pool closure to August 16<sup>th</sup>.

Following discussion, Council requested staff review the alternative of extending the swimming pool closure through August 16<sup>th</sup> and provide cost estimates for consideration at the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Mayor Childress allowed public comments which included the following:

Brad Rider, 117 East Wine Country Road, Grandview, asked if there would be any expenditure reductions in the current expense fund with the recent loss of the large wastewater producer.

Public Works Director Arteaga explained that the City would be saving electrical costs at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

City Treasurer Myers noted that the cost reduction would be within the wastewater treatment program and unfortunately the impact would be negative to the current expense fund due to the City paying less in electricity utility taxes.

Mr. Rider questioned how the City's performance or lack of it in the two recent commercial fires would affect the fire insurance rating for businesses.

Fire Captain Saenz indicated that the fires would have no impact on the rating that the City receives from the Washington Surveying & Rating Bureau. The City was recently rated and maintained an insurance rating of 5. He explained that ratings were based on water supply, fire apparatus, volunteer staffing, paid staffing, fire inspections and business inspections.

Mr. Rider questioned whether or not the City could utilize incarcerated inmates at the jail for graffiti removal.

Police Chief Charvet explained that the City could utilize incarcerated inmates for graffiti removal with employee supervision. This has been done in the past and the trustee was given credit towards time served. In order for an inmate to qualify for trustee status, they must not have an immigration hold or outstanding warrants from other jurisdictions.

Walt Bratton, 1304 West Fifth Street, Grandview, requested clarification of the animal control budget, expressed concern that his street was being swept once and twice per week rather than once per month, and opposed the closure of the swimming pool.

City Treasurer Myers explained that the animal control service was not being eliminated, only the position which reduced the program budget by wages and benefits. The program included funds for facility maintenance and care of animals taken into custody.

Pat Bratton, 1304 West Fifth Street, Grandview, questioned whether the City was going to raise utilities this year.

Mayor Childress indicated that the City would not be raising utilities this year.

**On motion by Councilmember Bren second by Councilmember Souders, Council approved the 2008 Budget Action Plan with the following amendments:**

- **change the museum closure to August 11<sup>th</sup>,**
- **continue the graffiti removal program, and**
- **table action on the swimming pool closure to the July 21<sup>st</sup> Council meeting.**

**Councilmember McDonald voted in opposition.**

### **3. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember McDonald, Council unanimously adjourned the special meeting at 6:20 p.m.

---

Mayor Norm Childress

---

Anita Palacios, City Clerk