

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 17, 2008**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Norm Childress called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Present were: Mayor Childress and Councilmembers Mike Bren, Pam Horner, Jan McDonald, Bill Moore, Jesse Palacios and Joan Souders. Councilmember Robert Morales was absent.

Staff present were: City Administrator Scott Staples, City Attorney Jack Maxwell, Public Works Director Cus Arteaga, Fire Chief Pat Mason, and Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer Elizabeth Alba.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ismael Campos, student at Harriet Thompson Elementary School, led the pledge of allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Helen Darr, 1307 King Street, Grandview, expressed her desire to have the property at 601 Hillcrest property abated as soon as possible.

Larry Bolan, P.O. Box 664, Grandview, voiced his concern regarding contact from a police officer while he walked downtown videotaping parking on Division Street. Mr. Bolan suggested the officer could have handled the situation differently.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Minutes of the March 3, 2008 study session
- B. Minutes of the March 3, 2008 regular meeting
- C. Minutes of the March 10, 2008 special meeting
- D. Claim Check Nos. 90305-90425 in the amount of \$173,318.49
- E. Payroll Check approval for March 15, 2008
- F. Acceptance of Councilmember Robert Morales Resignation; 03/10/08
- G. 2008 Fuel Bid Award to Bleyhl Farm Service
- H. Resolution No. 2008-8; Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the Prosser Hospital District for Ambulance Services
- I. Resolution No. 2008-9; Declaring Bicycles as Surplus and Authorizing the Disposition Thereof.

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. **Public Hearing RE: Community Development Block Grant Close-Out – Downtown Revitalization Plan**

Mayor Norm Childress opened the public hearing to review the final project performance on the Downtown Revitalization Plan funded by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Collie Hough-Beck of Hough Beck & Baird, Inc. presented the Grandview Downtown Improvements March 2008 "Alive" Plan. She explained that in June 2006, Council adopted the

Vision Statement of an "Alive Downtown." After receiving several grants and organizing the Downtown Revitalization Committee, block captains and the project consulting team, the first business and property owner workshop was held on December 6, 2007.

Ms. Hough-Beck stated the goal established for the revitalization effort was to create a pedestrian friendly downtown which would encourage commerce for residents and visitors alike. Throughout presentations of the design concepts to business and property owners and to the general public, a single concept emerged as a preferred concept. Wider sidewalks on both Division Street and Second Street were desired, which required an adjustment to the street centerline and parking layouts. Through preliminary inventory this was accomplished with only a net 4% loss of parking in the downtown core area.

The next steps in the development process were to apply for and secure additional grant or loan funds to design and construct the preferred design concept improvements.

No public comments were received during the meeting or by mail.

The public testimony portion of the hearing was declared closed.

B. Resolution No. 2008-10

- Adopting the Grandview Downtown Improvements March 2008 "Alive" Plan

Councilmember Bren expressed concerns that the parking issue was still not resolved among the downtown business owners. Bren questioned if the plan was approved as presented, would there still be room for changes at a later date.

City Administrator Staples added that the concept plan was submitted to meet the grant requirements for the purpose of developing a Downtown Development and Design Plan. When additional grants or loans are applied for the construction phase of the downtown, changes could be made to meet the needs of the business district.

On motion by Councilmember McDonald, seconded by Councilmember Horner, Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-10 adopting the Grandview Downtown Improvements March 2008 "Alive" Plan.

C. Resolution No. 2008-11

- Calling for a Special Election to Allow an Increase in the Utility Tax Rate for the Privilege of Conducting Electrical Energy, Natural Gas, Telephone Business and Cable Television from 6% to 7.5% for a Period not to Exceed December 31, 2010 with Such Increased Revenue to be Used Solely for Police Department, Gang Prevention, Court & Legal, Parks & Recreation, Fire Department, Library, Code Enforcement, Animal Control, Senior Center and Graffiti Removal Services.

On motion by Councilmember Palacios, seconded by Councilmember Bren, Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-11 calling for a special election to allow an increase in the utility tax rate from 6% to 7.5% for a period not to exceed December 31, 2010.

D. Ordinance No. 2008-5

- Amending Grandview Municipal Code Section 2.28.450 Compensation for Volunteer Firefighters.

Fire Chief Mason presented information concerning the current trend with volunteer firefighter departments showing a decline in the number of active volunteers to accomplish the growing demand of services by the public. Chief Mason explained that recruitment of new volunteers has been successful in Grandview and in order to retain those volunteers, an increase in compensation is needed. The 2008 budget was adopted with sufficient funding to provide for the increase in compensation.

City Administrator Staples added that if the City were to utilize a career fire department system, those career firefighters would add substantially to the City's Current Expense Budget. Currently, the City pays approximately \$80,000 for one career firefighter while the budget for the entire volunteer force was appropriated for the 2008 budget at \$27,250.

On motion by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously approved Ordinance No. 2008-5 amending Grandview Municipal Code Section 2.28.450 Compensation for Volunteer Firefighters. Councilmember McDonald abstained from voting due to spouse volunteer status.

6. COUNCILMEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Firefighters Banquet – Mayor Childress and City Administrator Staples attended the Firefighters Banquet on Saturday, March 15th at The Vineyard. New recruits and volunteer firefighters were honored.

DRYVE Steering Committee – Councilmember Souders reported the DRYVE Committee would be the program for the YVCOG Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 19th in Grandview.

Soccer Fields – City Administrator Staples reported with the use of volunteers the cost for materials for the underground sprinkler system would cost approximately \$10,000 to upgrade the cemetery fields to be used as soccer fields. This money was not appropriated for in the 2008 budget.

Swimming Pool Direction – City Administrator Staples reported there would be a public outreach meeting on April 8th, 6:30 p.m. at The Vineyard to discuss the direction of the swimming pool.

7. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilmember Palacios, second by Councilmember McDonald, Council unanimously adjourned the regular meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Mayor Norm Childress

Elizabeth Alba, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer