

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 6, 2008**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

Present were: Mayor Norm Childress and Councilmembers Mike Bren, Pam Horner, Diana Jennings, Bill Moore, Jesse Palacios, and Joan Souders.

Staff present were: City Administrator Scott D. Staples, City Treasurer John Myers, Police Chief Dave Charvet, Fire Chief Pat Mason, Parks & Recreation Director Mike Carpenter, Librarian Linda Dunham, and Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer Elizabeth Alba.

**2. 2009 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Parks & Recreation Director Carpenter presented his budgets as follows:

Senior Center

Over the past few years, an effort has been made to enhance the usage of the senior center with more community center related activities which has been accomplished with joint use agreements with Yakima Valley Community College and the Grandview School District.

Recreation

The Grandview School District has agreed to reimburse the Parks and Recreation Department for staffing time affiliated with the Frenzy Friday program. As part of the 2009 Budget proposal, regular part-time wages for the summer Recreation Assistant position have been eliminated thereby causing the playground program to be discontinued.

Councilmember Bren suggested using college internships and/or YVCC work study students to provide assistance, given the elimination of the summer Recreation Assistant position.

Another notable change for the Recreation Program was the reduction of the professional services expenditures which was largely used to fund the sound system for the Community Concert Series.

Councilmember Souders recommended the City look at using community service advertising for the events to increase the turn out. Due to lack of attendance and weather problems, City Administrator Staples suggested Parks and Recreation Director Carpenter contact the representatives of the sponsors to determine if a different approach needs to be taken for the concert series.

Aquatics

Due to required reductions within the Current Expense Fund, the swim pool would close on August 6, 2009. The early pool closure would still allow for Grandview to host Swim Team Championships and be open through the fourth session of swim lessons.

### Museum

Due to shortfalls within the Current Expense Fund, the museum budget was reduced significantly for 2009. The facility would be open for tours that were coordinated within the Parks and Recreation Department.

Councilmember Bren suggested that the museum be open during fair week in 2009 utilizing volunteers since it was Grandview's Centennial.

Mayor Childress suggested Parks and Recreation Director Carpenter try to recruit some senior citizens and/or other community members to volunteer at the museum during fair week next year.

Librarian Linda Dunham presented her budget as follows:

### Library Services

The retirement of the librarian at the end of the year would have significant cash out costs. Gates Foundation grant provided four new PCs with Foundation bearing  $\frac{3}{4}$  of cost; city or private contributions bearing  $\frac{1}{4}$  (50/50 split for additional four in 2010). Many of the library's operating costs were for technology, more than \$8,000 in 2007, not including paper supplies.

Councilmember Bren and Palacios expressed concern over the amount of work and specifications required for computers purchased through the Gates Foundation may not be as good as the City purchasing the computers outright without the grant.

Mayor Childress suggested staff look in to the cost to purchase computers through another resource before continuing pursuing the Gates Foundation grant application.

Police Chief Dave Charvet presented his budgets as follows:

Police Administration Services – No notable changes for 2009

Police Investigations Services – No notable changes for 2009

Police Patrol Services – No notable changes for 2009

Police Community Programs – No notable changes for 2009

Police Correction Services – No notable changes for 2009

Police Communications – No notable changes for 2009

### Animal Control Services

Due to budgetary issues, the animal control officer position has been eliminated and have only allowed enough funding for kennel supplies and contract services to dispose of dangerous animals.

### Yakima County Law & Justice Tax Fund

Notable changes for 2009 include purchases of a high entry vest, one rifle, and a ballistic shield.

Chief Charvet noted that the Yakima County Law & Justice Tax Fund covers salaries for two and one-half officers. This special tax levy would be up for renewal in 2009.

Councilmember Jennings noted the overtime for the police and correction budget(s) was a substantial amount.

Chief Charvet explained that the number of regular full-time dispatchers was reduced from five to four. Because of the lower number of dispatchers, it was often necessary for police officers to cover dispatching duties or other dispatchers take the shift at overtime rates.

Mayor Childress suggested staff consider the feasibility of hiring additional personnel to use some of the dollars currently spent on overtime.

Fire Chief Pat Mason presented his budgets as follows:

Fire Administrative Services – No notable changes for 2009

Fire Suppression Services and Emergency Medical Services

There was an increase in the payroll line item to reflect increases in volunteer compensation rates and to reflect cost of adding duty coverage pay for volunteer's Sunday through Thursday from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. There would be replacement of the command vehicle through the Capital Improvement Fund.

City Administrator Staples presented the following budget information on behalf of Public Works Director Cus Arteaga:

Solid Waste Fund

City Administrator Staples commented that the beginning fund balance of the solid waste fund for 2009 was estimated to begin at \$780. In order to bring the fund balance to a reasonable ending dollar amount, a rate increase of 35% was needed. This rate increase resulted in an increase of approximately \$3.50 for each residential size container. While increasing the garbage rate, the corresponding utility tax rate for garbage would be decreased from 40% to 37%.

Councilmember Bren commented that the increase to larger size containers would be higher than \$3.50 and as a result some customers would find it necessary to reduce their container size thereby reducing revenues. He mentioned it might be wise to not decrease the utility tax rate for garbage since the Council would be revisiting the issue in the near future.

City Administrator Staples indicated that Public Works Director Arteaga was concerned with the amount of garbage being taken to the Public Works Shop for disposal. Currently, the City offers a spring clean-up for customers to bring unwanted items to the shop on specific dates. The public continues to bring items year round.

Council agreed this was not the intent of the spring clean-up and the Public Works Shop was not intended to be a transfer station for solid waste.

Rose Garden Relocation

Councilmember Palacios indicated there was interest in relocation of the Rose Garden to the east entrance of Grandview and would like to know if funds could be allocated in the 2009 Budget to allow for installation of an irrigation system to water the roses once relocated.

Mayor Childress indicated staff would look in to the costs associated with relocation of the Rose Garden to the east entrance of Grandview.

**3. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

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Mayor Norm Childress

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Elizabeth Alba, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer