

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 2, 2009**

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, Diana Jennings, Jan McDonald, Bill Moore and Jesse Palacios. Councilmember Joan Souders was absent.

Staff present were: City Administrator Scott Staples, City Attorney Jack Maxwell, Public Works Director Cus Arteaga and City Clerk Anita Palacios.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Samantha Mejia, student at Harriet Thompson Elementary School led the pledge of allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric VanDyke, 106 Harrison Street, Grandview, asked when the Soap Box Derby would be returning.

Mayor Childress indicated that the Soap Box Derby was a budget consideration that unfortunately was eliminated from the budget. The Council would be holding a planning session on February 5th and may discuss funding of some items that were eliminated from the budget.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Minutes of the January 5, 2009 regular meeting**
- B. Claim check Nos. 92359-92570 in the amount of \$313,871.23**
- C. Payroll check approval for the January 1, 2009 – January 15, 2009 payroll and January 16, 2009 – January 31, 2009 payroll**
- D. Resolution No. 2009-2 filling vacancies on the Board of Directors of the Grandview Public Corporation in accordance with Ordinance No. 1072**

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Ambulance Services

City Administrator Staples introduced Mike Schreiner, Director of EMS Services and Julie Petersen, acting CEO of Prosser Memorial Hospital, who provided a brief presentation regarding the Hospital's decision to close the ambulance station in Grandview effective March 1st.

Mr. Schreiner explained that the decision to close the ambulance station in Grandview was made after the proposition to support an emergency service district for taxing purposes in Grandview, Mabton and the surrounding Yakima County areas failed in the November general

election. He noted the decision was difficult to make and that there would be some impact on response times, however, the consolidation to one station located on the Hospital campus would save the Hospital District approximately \$110,000 annually and would allow the ambulance service to continue uninterrupted.

Ms. Petersen asked that during the transition and following the closure any questions or concerns from the public be directed to either her or Mr. Schreiner.

Councilmember Bren expressed concern that the Hospital was saving approximately \$100,000 and the Council voted last year to give the Hospital approximately \$100,000. He was not of the understanding that the Hospital would be closing the ambulance station in Grandview within a year of receiving the City's funding contribution for ambulance services.

Ms. Peterson apologized for any misunderstanding and clarified that the City's contribution of \$100,000 was for the 2008 shortfall. She explained that for cash flow purposes, the City had requested that the contribution be split over three years (2008, 2009 and 2010). She added that it was the Hospital's intention to listen to the vote on November 4th. The Hospital knew it would have to make some operational changes if a contract with Yakima County to provide ambulance services in this area was not secured.

Councilmember McDonald requested an explanation of the transition plan.

Mr. Schreiner explained that all ambulance operations would be consolidated to a single building on the Hospital campus in Prosser. Two ambulance units would be staged from that location a day. Once peak service times were identified, one unit would be staged in the Grandview area in order to keep response times as low as possible. Current response times averaged approximately 8 minutes. Following the move, response times should increase to approximately 12 minutes.

Ms. Petersen pointed out that the State of Washington has standards that the Hospital has to meet depending upon the kind of response provided and it was anticipated that response times would continue to be well within that standard.

Mayor Childress questioned the costs associated with relocating an ambulance station back to Grandview in the future.

Ms. Petersen clarified that the Grandview area would continue to have ambulance service provided by the Hospital, however, the ambulances would be dispatched from the consolidated station in Prosser.

Mr. Schreiner added that he has and would continue working with the Grandview, Mabton and Sunnyside Fire Chiefs on implementing the consolidated plan to ensure that no segment of the service area was without ambulance service.

City Administrator Staples reiterated that the ambulance service change would affect the EMS ambulance service area, which encompassed the Grandview City limits, the Mabton City limits, and the unincorporated area of Yakima County.

Councilmember Bren requested that the Hospital provide statistical information on response times from March through June.

Ms. Petersen agreed to provide the requested data to the Council at their July meeting. She concluded by commending the Cities of Grandview and Mabton and Yakima County for working diligently with the Hospital in this effort.

B. Resolution No. 2009-3 authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement for Professional Services with Huibregtse, Louman Associates, Inc., for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011

It was a requirement for the City to advertise for general engineering services every three years. The engineering contract expired December 31, 2008 and a total of 12 engineering proposals were received. In reviewing the proposals, Huibregtse, Louman Associates, Inc., was considered as the preferred proposal. They have and continue to provide excellent engineering services and they have been a major part of the City's success.

On motion by Councilmember Palacios, second by Councilmember Moore, Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 2009-3 authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement for Professional Services with Huibregtse, Louman Associates, Inc., for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011.

C. Wine Country Road Speed Limits – Fir Street to County Line

At Council's direction, the City Engineering firm of Huibregtse, Louman Associates, Inc., reviewed the existing speed limits on Wine Country Road from Fir Street to the east City limits at County Line and analyzed the current sections of 25 MPH and 45 MPH speed limits for possible modification due to questions that have arisen regarding the suitability of 45 MPH speeds within the City limits. The existing sections of varying speed limits were as follows: eastbound traffic moved from 25 MPH speed limit through the downtown and past the Safeway Store to a 45 MPH section starting approximately 500 feet east of Fir Street. The 45 MPH speed limit continued until County Line where it increased to 50 MPH. Westbound traffic moved from a 50 MPH speed limit in Yakima County to 45 MPH in Grandview starting approximately 1,000 feet west of County Line and 900 feet from the McCreadie Road intersection. The speed limit changed to 25 MPH at the SVID canal crossing, which was approximately 800 feet west of McCreadie Road and 1,600 feet from the Fir Street intersection. It was noted that there currently were two sections where the adjacent eastbound and westbound speed limits were different. A 45 MPH speed limit within an urban area environment was not common but existed in some communities with wide, multi-lane arterials and heavy traffic volumes. The higher rate of speed on a two-lane roadway was generally incompatible within ingress and egress access points such as intersecting streets and driveways. The time it would take for a vehicle to travel 500 feet at 45 MPH was only 7.6 seconds as compared to 13.6 seconds at 25 MPH. Drivers trying to turn onto Wine Country Road from an intersecting street or driveway have almost twice as much time in a 25 MPH zone versus a 45 MPH zone. Currently, there were few intersecting streets and driveways from Fir Street to County Line. However, the McCreadie Road intersection provided access to and from Interstate 82 and, as a consequence the traffic moving through the intersection included a significant volume of trucks. The extended time it takes a semi-trailer truck to turn onto Wine Country Road and accelerate results in potential conflicts with oncoming 45 MPH traffic. As the east City limits area continued to develop there were

likely to be additional new access points, either public street or driveways that would increase the potential for vehicle conflicts.

Huibregtse, Louman Associates, Inc., recommended the City consider modifying the speed limit sections. A new 35 MPH speed limit section would be created from County Line to approximately 500 feet east of Fir Street. The 35 MPH speed limit would increase the vehicle travel time for 500 feet to 9.7 seconds, an increase of 2.1 seconds over the faster 45 MPH travel time of 7.6 seconds. This would allow merging traffic from intersecting streets and driveways additional time to turn and merge onto Wine Country Road ahead of oncoming vehicles. They also recommended the speed limits for adjacent eastbound and westbound sections be consistent. The creation of a new 35 MPH zone would be a transitional step as the east Grandview area develops. It would allow effective movement of traffic while also increasing safety by extending the time vehicles take to travel distances along Wine Country Road. Construction of left turn lanes may be warranted in the future as commercial and/or industrial development evolves. Further modifications to speed limits may also be warranted should vehicular accidents increase. They cautioned that the success of the recommended speed limit changes would be heavily dependent on their enforcement.

On motion by Councilmember McDonald, second by Councilmember Moore, Council unanimously instructed staff to prepare an ordinance modifying the speed limit to 35 MPH from County Line to approximately 500 feet east of Fir Street.

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

7. **COUNCILMEMBER MEETING REPORTS**

Elementary School Presentation – Councilmember McDonald was invited to a fifth grade elementary school classroom to talk with students regarding her role on City Council.

GHS Closed Campus for Freshmen Class – Councilmember Horner serves as a representative on the GHS Site Council. They were currently considering the issue of a closed campus for the freshmen class. The next Site Council meeting would be held on February 11th, 2:30 p.m., at the High School Library and she would be out of town. She asked if another councilmember would attend on her behalf. Councilmember McDonald agreed to attend.

Centennial Celebration – Approximately 50 individuals attended the first oral history presentation on January 27th. The topic was founding fathers and early history. The next Centennial meeting was scheduled for February 4th, 6:30 p.m., at the Vineyard. The next oral history presentation would take place on February 24th, 7:00 p.m., at the Vineyard. The topic would be churches and schools.

Yakima Valley Fair & Rodeo Board Meeting – Councilmember Palacios attended the Yakima Valley Fair & Rodeo Board meeting to discuss Centennial celebration plans that would take place in conjunction with the fair, rodeo and parade.

DRYVE Meeting – Councilmember Palacios attended the DRYVE Committee meeting on January 22nd in Grandview.

YVCOG General Membership Meeting – Mayor Childress and Councilmember Palacios attended the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments General Membership meeting on January 21st in Wapato. The program was a presentation by the Yakima County HOME Program Consortium.

AWC City Legislative Conference – Mayor Childress, Councilmembers McDonald, Jennings, Moore, Palacios and City Administrator Staples would be attending the AWC City Legislative Conference on February 17-19 in Olympia.

Council Meeting Cancellation – **On motion by Councilmember Horner, second by Councilmember McDonald, Council unanimously cancelled the February 17th City Council meeting due to lack of a quorum.**

Federal Stimulus Proposal Projects – Councilmembers Horner and Palacios, along with City Administrator Staples would be visiting Washington, D.C., on February 9-12 to present local project proposals for federal stimulus funding to Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell, and Congressman Doc Hastings.

Intergovernmental Cooperation – Staff from the three Cities of Grandview, Prosser and Sunnyside have formed working groups focused on animal control, recreation services, purchasing, etc. The Sunnyside City Attorney has prepared a draft agreement for sharing staff and equipment and also a draft agreement regarding animal control services. The next step would be for the three administrators/manager to meet with the three police chiefs to discuss the administration of animal control services. The draft agreements would be presented to Council for consideration at the first meeting in March.

Council Planning Session – The Mayor, Council and Management Team would hold a planning session on February 5th, 8:30 am to 4:30 p.m., at the Vineyard.

Joint Library Project Fundraiser – On February 12th, the YVCC Student Government would be hosting a potato bar dinner and entertainment as a fundraising event for the joint library project.

8. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilmember Horner, second by Councilmember Moore, Council unanimously adjourned the regular meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Mayor Norm Childress

Anita Palacios, City Clerk