

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 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 Pam Horner, Mike Bren, Diana Jennings, Bill Moore, Jesse Palacios and Joan Souders. Councilmember Jan McDonald was absent.

Staff present were: City Administrator Scott Staples, Public Works Director Cus Arteaga, Assistant Police Chief Mark Ware and City Clerk Anita Palacios. City Attorney Jack Maxwell was absent.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Elaina Gonzalez, student of the month at Harriet Thompson, led the pledge of allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 1. Minutes of the August 17, 2009 study session**
- 2. Minutes of the August 17, 2009 regular meeting**
- 3. Claim check Nos. 93972-94085 in the amount of \$141,149.49**
- 4. Payroll check approval for the August 15, 2009 through August 31, 2009 payroll**
- 5. Resolution No. 2009-27 authorizing the Mayor to sign a Facility Use Agreement with Greater Pacific Cold Storage, LLC**
- 6. Resolution No. 2009-28 authorizing the Mayor to sign the 2009-2011 Capital Budget Direct-Appropriation Project Contract LG09-951-086 between the City and the Public
Works Board for the "Alive" Downtown Improvements**
- 7. Resolution No. 2009-29 approving Task Order No. 2009-3 with Huibregtse, Louman Associates, Inc., for the "Alive" Downtown Revitalization Improvements - Phase 3**
- 8. Resolution No. 2009-30 approving Change Order No. 1 with Huibregtse, Louman Associates, Inc., for the Grandridge Area Street and Watermain Improvements**
- 9. Resolution No. 2009-31 authorizing the Mayor to sign an Industrial Wastewater User Contract with Shonan USA**

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Police Dispatcher Staffing Levels

Assistant Police Chief Ware explained that in an ongoing effort to find ways to reduce the overtime budget in Police Dispatch, staff was asked to review current overtime expenses in 2009. In doing so, staff found that overtime expenditures had increased significantly over the past 3-4 years. In the past, the Police Department had five (5) full-time dispatchers. Since the spring of 2006, the Department has had four (4) full-time dispatchers due to budget cuts and the forced elimination of one full-time dispatcher position. With the current staffing level of four (4) full-time dispatchers, the City would expend approximately \$55,936.00 in overtime costs. This was based on the figures presented to Council at the April 20, 2009 meeting. At that meeting, Council discussed the dispatch overtime and passed a motion "to proceed with the necessary steps to establish a civil service eligibility list with the intent of hiring a full-time police dispatcher." A short time later, the School District informed the City that the Student Resource Officer (SRO) position would not be funded, and thus staff placed a hold on the hiring process. The City later received word that the SRO funding was reinstated, and staff was given direction to proceed with the hiring process. Since that time, the testing was conducted and the Civil Service Commission has certified the list for the police dispatcher position and staff was now ready to proceed with the hiring process. To date, the Department has been besieged with an excessive amount of overtime coverage. In addition, the Department has one full-time dispatcher who would be absent for an unknown length of time due to a serious illness. This has brought the staffing level down to three (3) full-time dispatchers. This would increase the overtime expenses an additional \$28,000-\$30,000 for this position if the dispatcher was gone through the month of December. The Department was covering the vacant positions with off duty dispatchers, officers and sergeants at overtime rates. He reiterated that it would be in the best interest of the City to hire an additional dispatcher to cover shifts and help eliminate overtime coverage on dispatch, as well as not overworking the dispatchers and patrol officers covering these vacant shifts. It would also provide for more patrol officers to be out on the road rather than covering a dispatch shift. To date, a total of 197.5 hours have been logged for dispatch coverage by patrol officers being taken off the road to cover dispatch during their shift.

On motion by Councilmember Horner, second by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously instructed the Police Chief to proceed with the hiring of a full-time police dispatcher.

6. COUNCILMEMBER MEETING REPORTS

3/10ths of 1% Sales Tax Initiative – Councilmember Palacios urged public support of Proposition No. 1 regarding the 3/10ths of 1% sales tax initiative to renew the county-wide law and justice funding. Councilmember Bren requested that staff prepare an objective and neutral presentation of facts concerning the ballot measure that details the financial impact of the initiative and how revenues would be affected by its passage for inclusion in the October community newsletter.

AWC Regional Meetings – The Association of Washington Cities will be hosting their 2009 Regional Meetings on October 1st in Yakima.

WCIA Personnel Training – The Washington Cities Insurance Authority will be conducting training session regarding personnel on September 17th in Grandview.

East Entrance Pathway Project – Councilmember Palacios provided an update on the east entrance pathway project.

Short Course on Local Planning – Councilmembers Jennings and Moore, along with Public Works Director Arteaga, City Clerk Palacios, Assistant Public Works Director Trevino and Code Enforcement Officer Cory Taylor attended the Short Course on Local Planning on September 3rd in Grandview.

DRYVE Meeting – Councilmembers Souders and Palacios, along with Public Works Director Arteaga attended the DRYVE meeting on August 27th in Zillah. Topics of discussion included approving the 2009-10 budget and setting 2010 State and Federal priority lists. The next meeting will be held on October 22nd in Grandview.

Grandridge and Euclid Improvement Projects – Public Works Director Arteaga provided an update on the Grandridge Area Street and Water Improvement Project and the Euclid Road Resurfacing Improvement Project.

Parade Committee – Mayor Childress and City Administrator Staples met with the parade committee to discuss the City's role in assisting with the annual parade.

Downtown Improvement Project Revised Parking Design – Public Works Director Arteaga provided an update on the Downtown Improvement Project. He explained that based on input from downtown business owners, the design had been revised to provide for angle parking on the west side of Division Street and parallel parking on the east side to better accommodate traffic flow from Wine Country Road. The design would also include bubble-outs at the intersection of Division and Third Streets.

On motion by Councilmember Souders, second by Councilmember Horner, Council unanimously agreed to change the angle parking to the west side of Division Street and parallel parking on the east side.

Downtown Improvement Project - Phase 3 Grant Application – City Administrator Staples advised that the City submitted a grant application to the Public Works Board Small Communities in Rural Counties Grant Program for the construction of Phase 3 of the Downtown Improvements Project.

Community Center Grant Application – City Administrator Staples advised that a proposed funding option for the construction of a new community center would be the Community Development Block Grant Program General Purpose Grant. Eligible applicants may request up to \$1 million for community facilities. Applications for the next annual grant cycle would be due on January 21, 2010 with award announcements in May 2010. In order to pursue this grant application, staff would need to develop a specific plan for the proposed location. He requested Council consensus to submit a grant application for the construction of a new community center at the proposed location of Country Park. Following discussion, it was agreed to apply for a grant to construct a new community center at Country Park and also schedule a study session

with Parks & Recreation Director Mike Carpenter to discuss the proposed locations, programming, etc., for a new multi-purpose community center.

YVCOG General Membership Meeting – Yakima Valley Conference of Governments will be holding their next general membership meeting on September 16th in Zillah.

Intergovernmental Cooperation – City Administrator Staples advised that the intergovernmental cooperation between the Cities of Grandview, Sunnyside, and Prosser to date have included the implementation of animal control services. He advised that he meets once a month with the City Administrator of Prosser and interim City Manager of Sunnyside. At their meeting on July 1st, they discussed the concept of inspections, formation of a park district, etc. The three met again in late July, along with the police chiefs from the three cities to discuss the concept of joint dispatching, corrections, etc. He recommended that the three Councils schedule a meeting the first of the year to discuss continued intergovernmental cooperation efforts. He also advised that the City of Sunnyside requested his assistance in facilitating a planning retreat on Saturday, August 15th.

Centennial Grape Stomp – The Great Grandview Centennial Grape Stomp will be held on September 12th at the YVCC Grandview Campus.

7. **UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS** - None
8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – Acquisition of Real Estate (30 minutes) and Collective Bargaining (30 minutes)**

Mayor Childress adjourned the meeting to an executive session at 8:10 p.m., for approximately 60 minutes to discuss acquisition of real estate and collective bargaining matters with the aforementioned Mayor, Councilmembers and City Administrator present. The meeting resumed at 9:10 p.m., with the aforementioned Mayor, Council and staff present.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Horner, Council unanimously adjourned the regular meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Mayor Norm Childress

Anita Palacios, City Clerk