

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 7, 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, Bill Moore, Jesse Palacios and Joan Souders. Councilmember Jan McDonald was absent.

Staff present were: City Administrator Scott Staples, City Attorney Jack Maxwell, City Treasurer John Myers, Parks & Recreation Director Mike Carpenter, Deputy Recreation Director Gretchen Chronis, Fire Chief Pat Mason, Receptionist Mary Padilla (Spanish Interpreter) and City Clerk Anita Palacios.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Victoria Olivares, student of the month at Thompson Elementary School, led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.**

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Minutes of the November 16, 2009 special budget study session**
- B. Minutes of the November 16, 2009 regular meeting**
- C. Claim check Nos. 94554-94665 in the amount of \$178,441.05**
- D. Payroll check approval for the November 16, 2009 through November 30, 2009 payroll**
- E. Resolution No. 2009-41 accepting the bid and authorizing the Sunnyside Daily Sun News as the Official City Newspaper for the year 2010**
- F. Ordinance No. 2009-14 amending the 2009 Annual Budget**
- G. Ordinance No. 2009-15 creating the Community Center Construction Fund**

**5. ACTIVE AGENDA**

**A. Public Hearing – Community Development Block Grant**

Before the hearing began, copies of the public hearing handouts entitled “Community Development Block Grant Program” and “Federal Citizen Participation Requirements for Local Government Applicants to the State CDBG Program,” in both English and Spanish, were distributed to the public.

Mayor Childress asked if there was anyone in the audience who required a Spanish interpreter. This information was translated in Spanish by Mary Padilla, bilingual Receptionist for the City. There was no one in the audience who requested the assistance of a Spanish interpreter.

Mayor Childress opened the public hearing by reading the public hearing procedure. He explained that the purpose of the public hearing was to review community development and housing needs, inform citizens of the availability of funds and eligible uses of the state Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and receive comments on proposed activities, particularly from low- and moderate-income persons and persons residing in the City of Grandview. Up to \$1.5 million may be available to the City of Grandview on a statewide competitive basis to fund public facility, community facility, economic development, housing rehabilitation, and planning projects that principally benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons.

Before hearing from the public, Shawn Conrad, Planner with the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments presented the City's staff report regarding the City Council consideration of pursuing Community Development Block Grant funds, as follows:

### **Background**

The City Council was considering pursuing a General Purpose Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The General Purpose CDBGs provide funding through a competitive process to small cities, towns, and counties for projects that benefit low- and moderate-income residents. The City is proposing that the CDBG application be used to obtain funds to develop a multiuse community center. The purpose of this hearing was to review community development and housing needs, inform citizens of the availability of funds and eligible uses of the CDBG, and receive comments on proposed activities, particularly from low- and moderate-income persons residing in the City of Grandview.

### **Grandview Community and Housing Needs**

Grandview was characterized by low- to moderate-income levels, significant poverty, and low educational attainment among its residents. In addition, there have been an increase in gang-related violence and other incidents in recent years. All of this translates to a need for a wide variety of social, health-related, recreational, educational, and housing needs throughout the community. A large number of homes in the City of Grandview were older and require maintenance and/or rehabilitation. In addition, a large percentage of Grandview households spend more than 30% on housing, meaning those homes are considered unaffordable for the families living in them.

### **CDBG Funds and Eligible Uses**

Projects eligible for CDBG funding include public facility, community facility, economic development, housing rehabilitation, and planning projects that principally benefit low- to moderate-income residents. The maximum award for any single application is \$1.5 million. Because Grandview was a non-entitlement community (does not qualify to receive CDBG entitlement funds), and have a population less than 50,000 with more than 50% of residents considered low- to moderate-income, the City was qualified to apply for and receive General Purpose CDBG funds.

### **Proposed CDBG Project**

The City of Grandview was proposing that the CDBG application be used to obtain funds to develop a multiuse community center. The proposed community center would serve a variety of age groups, including preteens, teens, adults, and seniors. The community center would also include all senior programming and American Legion programming currently available at the Carl L. Steven Senior Center.

### **Public Hearing Notice**

A public hearing notice was published in the Grandview Herald on November 18 and 25, 2009. Newspaper articles advertising the hearing also ran in three areas newspapers. Cards with information about the hearing were handed out at a variety of Grandview venues. To ensure the public hearing notice reached the non-English speaking public, the notice was advertised in two alternate language newspapers, announced on six alternate language radio or television stations, and posted in Spanish at 11 public locations throughout Grandview. In addition, multiple organizations, advocacy groups, and community leaders representing non-English speaking residents and minority groups were contacted directly and informed of the hearing.

### **Findings & Conclusions**

1. A resolution to pursue CDBG funds at this time is in keeping with the City of Grandview's needs and policies.
2. The public use and interest would be served.

### **Recommendation**

The Yakima Valley Conference of Governments, acting as staff for the City of Grandview, recommended that the Grandview City Council adopt the findings of fact and a resolution to pursue CDBG funds to address community needs.

Public comments received during the hearing were as follows (transcribed verbatim):

Mary Barrett, 301 Douglas, Grandview – I know a community center great, but I question the department that's going to be funding it. As we all know, every time we cut, we cut Parks and Rec. We can't even seem to keep the museum a float which has such a tiny budget and I would not want to see one officer go, a police officer be cut, I don't want my taxes raised and things like that to keep this a float. This could be, this community center could be a key to bring tourism and everything in this town. It's at a great location. If we took that convention center approach to it, to rent it to people that wanted to make money, we could make a fly, but if we just house it to make it a glorified Parks and Rec Department, you know, that, these things are scattered around town and it's okay, you know. I don't see how it benefits everybody. It's not going to benefit me to go there and walk when I can walk in the school, but I just do not want to see my taxes raised or an officer being let go if we have to pay Parks and Rec. If we can find partners, which would be great, the School District, that would be fine. To a, you know, a step to help our finances cause it's not going to, closing the office there and putting Parks and Rec out there will not free up that much money. The maintenance out there would be a lot more, air conditioning, heating, parking lot maintenance or more security out there, it's going to cost a lot of money and I hope the City Council takes this serious and, you know, decides because it's going to be their decision what they want to do in the future. But I love the community center idea, but let's be wise on how we fund it, the staffing.

Jim Davidson, 606 Cherry Lane, Grandview – I'm here representing the American Legion Post, which has a vested interest in this project. As you know, we helped build the original senior center and we had recently upgraded the kitchen facility with a \$10,000 gas range, so we clearly have an interest in this program. The previous speaker said that this facility may not be a wise choice and I would heartily disagree. This City does not have an adequate facility to meet community needs. You look at that like the Chamber dinner, for example, which I don't participate in, but, you know, that can be a large event. Where do you have to hold it? There is only one place in town to hold it and that's the Catholic Church. If you use a school, you don't

have a kitchen available to you. Convention center, I'm sorry, but we're not a convention center town, we don't have hotel facilities to support that. However, we can support wedding receptions. We can support large family reunions. We can support quinceneras. We can support large conferences, district events for various clubs and organizations, and a larger facility than what we had at the senior center would adequately meet those needs. As far as location, it makes perfect sense to place it at a City-owned facility already, at the fairgrounds. Adequate parking is there. Adequate handicapped parking is there. You have easy accessibility for moving equipment in for displays and it is a facility that seniors and other groups can use easily and conveniently. Now no finalized plans obviously have been made as far as the architectural make-up of the facility and there certainly needs to be additional review of that, but clearly a larger facility would meet some of the needs and demands already placed on the City through the nature of our City. Expanded youth programs, for example. The Legion has a program called Junior Shooting Sports which is a family-oriented Olympic training program for youth, young men and women. We really don't have a facility that we can run that in. A little bit larger facility than the current senior center would be more than adequate to meet that and would address some of the family dynamic issues that we are currently seeing in our youth programs in this community. As far as cost, we don't have the bottom line on that, but realistically a larger facility with centralized services, including the Parks and Recreation Department and including nutrition programs, health programs, and other activities within the City is certainly an admirable approach and we would fully endorse and hope that the City would proceed with this application. Thank you.

Kevin Chase, Superintendent of Schools in Grandview – I'm here to endorse the proposal for the CDBG grant for the community center. The District pledges to be a wholehearted partner with the City of Grandview in this endeavor. There's certainly a need in our community for a place that can be the heart of the community for seniors, for teens and young adults as well. We know that an investment in community facilities like this is an investment in the state, healthy, public communities that are the kinds of places people want to move and they're kinds of places people want to work and I think it's a really important factor that number one, the City has a track record of building coalitions and pulling off events and projects like this with great success. Number two, they don't see the issues that other community centers have seen in the area where they have a lack of people willing to participate, a lack of use, where for example Sunnyside is not using theirs, we have a proven track record of constant use in our senior centers and I think we can do that again. Three, I think the opportunity to expand the County fairgrounds, or actually the Grandview fairgrounds, with a more permanent use is something that we should look at. I mean, we really should build some infrastructure that's usable by the public in that area and I think it's a great location for it, and then the last thing is, I think it's important we realize that that kind of endeavor keeps people off the streets, it keeps kids and seniors engaged and it gives places for families to go and that's what it's about, that's why you call it a community center because it could really be the center of a community and I think it would be wise for the State to invest in a community like Grandview and an area like the Lower Yakima Valley and I think it would be something that we should support, the community could support and the District certainly can get behind.

Leslie White, representing the Grandview High School Drama Department – One of those other activities that would really benefit from having a community center. There is not a permanent large space at Grandview High School. When we put on productions, we have to juggle our timing with either Smith School or the Middle School and there's always conflict. We don't have a place to call our own. We don't have a home for the arts in the Lower Valley here in

Grandview. Some of the students involved in drama are not your traditional students, but there's really a need to fill their creative desires and to help them to have a safe place, a home for them to have for the drama and the arts in Grandview. Thank you.

Sarah Schneider, 2382 South Euclid Road, Grandview – I'm here representing the Class of 2011. The Junior Class has always been in charge of planning the prom for the high school and it's a really expensive affair and teenagers usually don't like having it at the school just because it's the one extraordinary event from the year that we get to plan ourselves. We just starting planning prom and we got estimates already that are really high. The cheapest place we could find wanted \$1,300 to rent, no DJ, no table, no chairs, anything, everything has to be a separate cost. All together it would have been \$2,800 to host the prom this year. I think a community center like the one that you guys would like to plan would help not my class because it probably won't be finished by prom. It would help the future generations because I know that costs are going go up and it's going to cost a lot more just to host an event and a community center is better than having it in the courtyard if we can't afford to rent a place anywhere else.

Dudley Brown, 611 West Fifth Street, Grandview – You notice the kerosene lamps in my upstairs windows as you go by the house. I represent the Lower Valley Bridge Club and I'm also an American Legion with other American Legion members and a facility of this nature is very vital for us that are older. Our age group in our Bridge Club is probably in the high 70's, but that doesn't mean we don't welcome younger too. So having a facility that's open to everybody for all types of activities, seniors, juniors, kids, it would be a wonderful thing for the City. We just had our annual meeting and dinner at the current Senior Center yesterday and we had 21 tables playing. We brought in people from both sides of us. We only have about 40 in our unit, but you see a center of this nature does bring people into Grandview and would help the City. Thank you.

Karen Ramirez, 400 West Fifth Street #62, Grandview – I came to represent the Leadership Class for Grandview High School and I think that the community center would be really good not just for us as this place, but was a whole as a community for the fact that I know that in Grandview, like they oh it's just Grandview there's nothing to do there and it's like we as teenagers want something to do, not just by ourselves, but together as a whole and bring it together cause I know not everyone can mesh, like people don't get along and like little by little I think if we try, like to be a community, we will grow as a community and like not just in our ideas, but like I can't word it, but I just think it's a good idea.

Melodie Smith, 502 Avenue H, Grandview – I'm here tonight to represent Grandview United. One of the things that we did last year was do a survey of youth and the biggest thing back was they wanted a lot of things to do, but they weren't here. When we asked them what kind of activities they wanted to do, they were, you know, paintball, laser tag, different things, all kinds of different things that we don't have a facility for that type of event even just setting up an impromptu game of laser tag. I wouldn't recommend paintball, but there was a lot of things that they wanted and we found also that there a lot of groups such as the Round Three Boxing Club that didn't have a facility to use. They are now going to be using the School District building, but they have practices during the summer, they compete at Olympic levels, they travel and these kids are all required to stay out of trouble, maintain good grades and they are mentored and their mentors are usually police officers or other public citizens that have an influence in law enforcement. Those kind of things we have noticed that we didn't have the facilities for and that came from adults who answered the surveys and that came from the kids that answered the

surveys so we recommend that the City go forth with the proposal for the Community Development Block Grant.

There were no public comments received by mail.

The public testimony portion of the hearing was declared closed and no further comments were received.

**B. Resolution No. 2009-42 authorizing the Mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement with Yakima County Fire District No. 5 for joint ownership and maintenance of a fire truck**

Earlier this year, Council was advised of the need to replace Grandview 13, a 1977 Ford Van Pelt fire engine. Council was also advised that Yakima County Fire District (YCFD) No. 5 had an interest in a joint purchase of a fire engine with the City. After confirming the City would receive credit for the new fire truck from the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau and researching the potential costs involved, Council instructed staff to proceed with the joint purchase. Currently, the bid was in the process of being awarded. The Interlocal Agreement between the City and YCFD No. 5 provided for a 50/50 split for the purchase and operation of the new fire truck. The agreement has been reviewed by the attorneys from both parties and was scheduled to be signed by YCFD No. 5 at their January 5, 2010 Commissioner's meeting.

**On motion by Councilmember Horner, second by Councilmember Moore, Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 2009-42 authorizing the Mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement with Yakima County Fire District No. 5 for joint ownership and maintenance of a fire truck.**

**C. Ordinance No. 2009-16 adopting the budget and confirming tax levies for revenue to carry on the government for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010**

The 2009 budget provided for the continuation of most City services. Some programs would be continued, but at reduced levels. In order to maintain a similar level of service in all programs, it was necessary to increase some fees and charges for services. By fund, notable changes and the highlights of balancing the budget were:

- **CURRENT EXPENSE:** There would be a transfer of \$75,000 from the Current Expense fund to the Street fund for road and street maintenance.
- **COMMUNITY CENTER CONSTRUCTION:** A newly created fund to provide for required expenditures to plan and build a new community center replacing the existing senior center.
- **WATER/SEWER:** Increase of 6% in water service rates. Increase of 6% in sewer service rates.
- **IRRIGATION:** Increased irrigation assessment rates by 5%.

**On motion by Councilmember Palacios, second by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously approved Ordinance No. 2009-16 adopting the budget and confirming tax levies for revenue to carry on the government for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010.**

**6. COUNCILMEMBER MEETING REPORTS**

GHS Site Council Meeting – Councilmember Bren attended the GHS Site Council meeting and advised that a teacher from the high school would be contacting the Parks and Recreation Department to discuss staffing of the museum as a possible senior project.

West Second Street Retaining Wall – Councilmember Palacios advised that the retaining wall on West Second Street which was part of the Grandridge Neighborhood Improvement project was finally complete.

Cocoa and Carols Tree Lighting – The annual Cocoa and Carols Christmas tree lighting event sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce took place on December 4<sup>th</sup> at Stokely Square.

YVCC Grandview Student Council Fundraiser – The YVCC Grandview Student Council would be holding a fundraiser on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Grandview Campus Activity Center. Entertainment would be provided by Eric E, a talented singer and guitarist.

Council Meeting Cancellation – **On motion by Councilmember Horner, second by Councilmember Moore, Council unanimously cancelled the December 21, 2009 regularly scheduled Council meeting due to a lack of agenda items.**

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

**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Collective Bargaining (60 minutes) and Potential Litigation (30 minutes)**

Mayor Childress adjourned the meeting to an executive session at 8:00 p.m., for approximately 60 minutes to discuss collective bargaining and 30 minutes to discuss potential litigation with the aforementioned Mayor, Councilmembers, City Attorney and City Administrator present. Councilmember Palacios recused himself from the executive session. The meeting resumed at 9:30 p.m., with the aforementioned Mayor, Council and staff present.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously adjourned the regular meeting at 9:30 p.m.

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Mayor Norm Childress

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Anita Palacios, City Clerk