

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 1, 2010**

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, Bill Moore, Jesse Palacios and Javier Rodriguez. Councilmembers Mike Bren, Diana Jennings and Joan Souders were absent.

Staff present were: City Administrator Scott Staples, City Attorney Jack Maxwell and City Clerk Anita Palacios.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Gabriella Garcia, student at McClure Elementary School, led the pledge of allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Minutes of the January 19, 2010 regular meeting
- B. Claim check Nos. 95008-95093 in the amount of \$97,355.34
- C. Payroll check approval for the January 16, 2010 through January 31, 2010 payroll
- D. Resolution No. 2010-10 approving an Interlocal Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Grandview and the Hanford Fire Department

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Legislative Update

City Administrator Staples and Councilmember Moore attended the AWC City Legislative Action Conference on January 27 and 28, 2010 in Olympia. Hot topics included the following:

State budget: In December, the Governor introduced her supplemental budget that filled a \$2.6 million deficit in the biennial budget by using \$900 million in reserves and \$1.7 billion in cuts. This month, she submitted a new supplemental budget that “buys back” some of the proposed cuts. The Governor’s most recently proposed budget preserved state shared revenues allocated to cities and some key programs for local governments, included:

- Streamlined sales tax mitigation funds to jurisdictions that were negatively impacted by sourcing;
- Support to local public health jurisdictions;
- Support for criminal justice programs; and
- Appropriations to the City-County Assistance Account.

The budget still contained \$1 billion in cuts to reduce and even eliminate some vital services.

Street maintenance utility: HB 2618 would authorize the creation of a street maintenance utility, similar to a water or sewer utility, to serve the residents and businesses in utility areas through the preservation and maintenance of streets. Street utility rates would be determined by levels of use by different classes of residents and businesses. AWC supported HB 2618.

Stormwater: A long-term state funding mechanism was needed to support “Phase I” and “Phase II” NPDES stormwater requirements, as well as Puget Sound cleanup efforts, that impacts 137 cities. AWC was working to secure a dedicated source of funding from the state. Bills were being drafted and would be introduced.

City flexibility: AWC encouraged support of the following bills that promoted city flexibility.

- **Fiscal flexibility:** HB 2650, HB 2749, SB 6164, and HB 2773/SB 6424, all different, would eliminate some restrictions, including supplanting requirements, expand the purposes of some current revenue sources, and otherwise address restraint of existing revenues. While not all cities would benefit from each provision of each bill and may not choose to use other provisions, the package of bills was a very good start towards our goal of flexibility. Three of the bills were heard in the House last week. AWC was working to secure hearings in the Senate. The Governor has been supportive of enhanced flexibility and requested HB 2773/SB 6424 on behalf of local governments.
- **General flexibility - Growth Management Act (GMA):** Over the past 20 years, the state provided some funding support to meet local GMA planning mandates. The Governor pulled funding because of the state’s fiscal issues. City budgets were significantly strained, and cities don’t have the funds for local staff to complete all of the GMA update work. HB 2916 and HB 2992 defer local GMA update requirements for three years. HB 2916 (AWC preference) also would allow 10 years between updates instead of seven.
- **Public records:** HB 2582/SB 6367 would allow public records requestors to be directed to an internet address where the responsive records could be found on the agency’s website while making provisions for requestors without internet access. HB 2583/SB 6368 would provide for a voluntary conference between the agency and the requestor to clarify the request, which could be considered by the court in any subsequent litigation.

Impact fee collections: HB 3067 would defer payment of impact fees to the time that a property was sold rather than when the developer applied for a permit.

Utility liens: SB 6261, proposed by the Washington Multi-Family Housing Association, would specify that cities could only collect from property owners four months of unpaid utility bills, whether or not the city used the lien authority as the collection tool. This bill would be amended to apply to electric utilities only. Cities opposed any changes to the ability to collect delinquent utility bills from property owners.

Wrongful death: SB 6508 would substantially expand the scope of liability in wrongful injury or death causes of action and would have a substantial financial impact on cities and towns by expanding the number of people who may file a cause of action in a wrongful death case and the damages for which they could seek redress. AWC opposed SB 6508.

Election of municipal judges: SB 6686 would require all municipal court judges to be elected. Information provided by the American Judicature Society (AJS) supports AWC's contention that appointed judges were more insulated from undue influences arising when they must raise money to run for election and campaign. Cities continued to oppose any expansion to the requirement that judges must be elected. AWC opposed SB 6686.

Criminal gang intimidation: HB 2415 would establish penalties for criminal gang intimidation and other gang activities. This bill would help cities and towns dealing with growing problems with gangs. AWC supported HB 2415.

Permitting local governments to limit house-banked social card games: HB 2873 would provide local jurisdictions with a tool to limit house-banked social card games within their boundaries and reduced uncertainty by legalizing prior efforts by local jurisdictions to limit house-banked social card games. The bill would not change or hinder a city's ability to completely ban gambling. AWC supported HB 2873.

Photo enforcement: HB 2780 would place additional restrictions on how a city may use red light photo enforcement, including limiting the maximum fine to \$25. AWC had concerns on this proposal. It would negatively impact a city's ability to recover the costs of implementing a photo enforcement program.

Coordination between local law enforcement and the department of corrections: HB 6316 would create a system giving local law enforcement officers more information about offenders' community custody status. It would allow them to arrest an offender and suspend their custody status if the officer has reasonable cause to believe an offender has violated a condition of community custody. AWC supported SB 6316.

B. Benton County Mosquito Control 2009 Operational Review

Rudy Cortez, City of Grandview representative on the Board of Trustees for the Benton County Mosquito Control provided the 2009 operational review of the Mosquito Control.

2009 important events included:

- Four full-time staff changes
- Participated in the local Home & Garden Show and Safe Kids Saturday
- Presentation given at Northwest Mosquito and Mosquito Control Association Meeting in Coeur d'Alene
- Met with Congressmen in Washington, D.C. for AMCA Washington Day
- Barrier spraying for adult mosquitoes was introduced into the program
- Aerial spraying for adult mosquitoes to reduce disease transmission
- Distributed mosquito repellent wipes to Benton County residents
- Nine West Nile virus human cases were reported in Benton County

Plans for 2010 included:

- Start treating and testing early in order to stay ahead of vector activity
- Update access databases for fogging and lab data
- All application records would be completed with handheld devices
- Field maps would incorporate aerial photos and GIS site information

- Increase public awareness of our services through advertising and customer service
- Add traps in residential areas
- Reduce labor costs by eliminating full-time mechanic position

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

7. **COUNCILMEMBER MEETING REPORTS**

New Librarian – Mayor Childress reported that due to a health issues, new Librarian Geraldine deRooy has not begun her employment with the City. In the interim, Assistant Librarian Ruth Dirk would be filling in and receiving compensation for those additional duties.

Alive Downtown Revitalization Project – The “Alive” Downtown Revitalization Project Phase I pre-construction meeting was scheduled for February 18th. In addition, an informational meeting with the downtown property and/or business owners would also take place on February 18th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., at the Vineyard.

AWC Elected Officials Essentials Workshop – Councilmembers Diana Jennings and Javier Rodriguez, along with City Administrator Staples would be attending the AWC Elected Officials Essentials workshop being held on February 5-6, 2010 in Yakima.

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – Collective Bargaining (60 minutes)**

Mayor Childress adjourned the meeting to an executive session at 7:30 p.m., for approximately 60 minutes to discuss collective bargaining with the aforementioned Mayor, Councilmembers, City Attorney and City Administrator present. The meeting resumed at 8:15 p.m., with the aforementioned Mayor, Council and staff present.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Councilmember Palacios, second by Councilmember Rodriguez, Council unanimously adjourned the regular meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Mayor Norm Childress

Anita Palacios, City Clerk