

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ashley Lara called the Committee-of-the-Whole (C.O.W.) meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

The meeting was held in person and was also available via teleconference.

2. ROLL CALL

Present in person: Mayor Lara and Councilmembers Steve Barrientes, David Diaz, Laura Flores, Bill Moore (Mayor Pro Tem), Robert Ozuna, Javier Rodriguez and Joan Souders

Present via teleconference: None

Absent: None

Staff present: City Administrator Shane Fisher, City Attorney Quinn Plant, City Treasurer Matt Cordray, Police Chief Kal Fuller, Fire Chief Pat Mason, Public Works Director Hector Mejia, Library Director Wendy Poteet and City Clerk Anita Palacios

3. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution accepting the West Fifth Street and Elm Street Resurfacing Improvements as complete

Public Works Director Mejia explained that American Rock Products completed the construction of the West Fifth Street and Elm Street Resurfacing Improvements. Staff recommended Council accept the project as complete once the requirements in the January 25, 2024 letter from HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc., were satisfied.

Discussion took place.

On motion by Councilmember Ozuna, second by Councilmember Moore, the C.O.W. moved a resolution accepting the West Fifth Street and Elm Street Resurfacing Improvements as complete to the February 27, 2024 regular Council meeting for consideration.

Vote:

- Councilmember Barrientes – Yes
- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Flores – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes
- Councilmember Ozuna – Yes
- Councilmember Rodriguez – Yes

- Councilmember Souders – Yes

B. Resolution accepting the Sludge Drying Bed Improvements – Phase 2 as complete

Public Works Director Mejia explained that Goodman & Mehlenbacher Enterprises, Inc., completed the construction of the Sludge Drying Bed Improvements – Phase 2. Staff recommended Council accept the project as complete once the requirements in the January 29, 2024 letter from HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc., were satisfied.

Discussion took place.

On motion by Councilmember Barrientes, second by Councilmember Souders, the C.O.W. moved a resolution accepting the Sludge Drying Bed Improvements – Phase 2 as complete to the February 27, 2024 regular Council meeting for consideration.

Vote:

- Councilmember Barrientes – Yes
- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Flores – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes
- Councilmember Ozuna – Yes
- Councilmember Rodriguez – Yes
- Councilmember Souders – Yes

C. Resolution accepting the Headworks Bypass Improvements as complete

Public Works Director Mejia explained that Industrial Construction of WA completed the construction of the Headworks Bypass Improvements. Staff recommended Council accept the project as complete once the requirements in the January 30, 2024 letter from HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc., were satisfied.

Discussion took place.

On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Diaz, the C.O.W. moved a resolution accepting the Headworks Bypass Improvements as complete to the February 27, 2024 regular Council meeting for consideration.

Vote:

- Councilmember Barrientes – Yes
- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Flores – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes
- Councilmember Ozuna – Yes
- Councilmember Rodriguez – Yes
- Councilmember Souders – Yes

D. Lower Valley Pathway Resurfacing Improvements Requests for Qualifications for Municipal Engineering Services

City Administrator Fisher explained that the City solicited Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) from consulting firms with expertise in civil and structural engineering design and construction engineering services for the Lower Valley Pathway Resurfacing Improvements. This project was being funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and consisted of resurfacing approximately four (4) miles of existing recreational pathway. Construction of the proposed project was expected to start Spring of 2024. The City advertised and received one proposal from HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc., of Yakima, WA. HLA has been providing municipal engineering services to the City of Grandview since 1989 and have always provided quality work.

Discussion took place.

On motion by Councilmember Ozuna, second by Councilmember Rodriguez, the C.O.W. selected HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc., as the most qualified municipal engineering firm for the Lower Valley Pathway Resurfacing Improvements and directed staff to negotiate a professional service/consultant agreement with said engineering firm for presentation at a regular Council meeting for consideration.

Vote:

- Councilmember Barrientes – Yes
- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Flores – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes
- Councilmember Ozuna – Yes
- Councilmember Rodriguez – Yes
- Councilmember Souders – Yes

E. Ordinance amending the 2024 Annual Budget

City Treasurer Cordray explained that staff monitoring and review of fund and department budgets during the first month of 2024 identified numerous budget accounts to be amended. An ordinance was prepared to provide for the amending of the 2024 Annual Budget to accommodate the changes in sources and uses. By Fund the highlights of the budget changes were:

- Current Expense Fund: Increased estimated beginning fund balance. Increase appropriations for City Administrator Retirement, State Auditor Audits and Museum Memorial Ending Balance. Net effect was an increase in estimated ending fund balance.
- American Rescue Plan Act Fund: Increased estimated beginning fund balance. Increase appropriations for project balances not spent in 2023 as well as Mainstreet – Business Revenue Recovery, Flock Camera Maintenance, Police Department Facility, Marketing Materials and Survey, Pool Splash Pad, Park Playground Equipment, Pickleball Courts and Transfer Out – Cemetery. Net effect was a decrease in estimated ending fund balance.
- Yakima Co. Law & Justice Tax Fund: Increased estimated beginning fund balance with equal change in estimated ending fund balance.
- Street Fund: Increased estimated beginning fund balance with equal change in estimated ending fund balance.

- Transportation Benefit District Fund: Reduction of estimated beginning fund balance with equal change in estimated ending fund balance.
- Cemetery Fund: Increased estimated beginning fund balance. Increase revenues for Transfer In – ARPA Fund. Increase appropriations for New Cemetery Engineering. Net effect was an increase in estimated ending fund balance.
- Capital Improvement Fund: Increased estimated beginning fund balance. Increase appropriations for Dykstra & Bren Park Restrooms. Net effect was an increase in estimated ending fund balance.
- WCR & McCreadie Utilities Fund: Increased estimated beginning fund balance with equal change in estimated ending fund balance.
- WCR & Higgins Improvement Fund: Increased estimated beginning fund balance with equal change in estimated ending fund balance.
- OIE (Welch's) & 5th Street Improvements Fund: Increased estimated beginning fund balance. Decrease revenues for Yakima County SIED Loan. Net effect was an increase in estimated beginning fund balance.
- E.M.S. Fund: Increased estimated beginning fund balance. Increase appropriations for Ambulance Services. Net effect was a decrease in estimated ending fund balance.
- Water Fund: Increased estimated beginning fund balance. Increase appropriations for City Administrator Retirement and New Well – ARPA Funding. Net effect was an increase in estimated ending fund balance.
- Sewer Fund: Increased estimated beginning fund balance. Increase appropriations for City Administrator Retirement. Net effect was an increase in estimated ending fund balance.
- Irrigation Fund: Increased estimated beginning fund balance with equal change in estimated ending fund balance.
- Solid Waste Fund: Increased estimated beginning fund balance with equal change in estimated ending fund balance.
- Equipment Rental Fund: Reduction of estimated beginning fund balance with equal change in estimated ending fund balance.

Discussion took place.

On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Souders, the C.O.W. moved an ordinance amending the 2024 Annual Budget to the February 27, 2024 regular Council meeting for consideration.

Vote:

- Councilmember Barrientes – Yes
- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Flores – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes
- Councilmember Ozuna – Yes
- Councilmember Rodriguez – Yes
- Councilmember Souders – Yes

F. Resolution authorizing the Police Chief to execute and administer an Interlocal Agreement for participation in the Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD) Task Force

Police Chief Fuller explained that on October 15, 1990, Council approved Resolution No. 90-59, authorizing the Mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement to participate in the Lower Valley Drug Task Force. Upon formation, it included all the police agencies throughout the Yakima Valley, as well as the Washington State Patrol and the Yakima County Sheriff Office. The purpose of the LEAD Drug Task Force was to address drug trafficking and gang violence throughout the valley. Throughout the years of the existence of the LEAD Drug Task Force, changes were made which changed the agency participation of those involved. From time to time, agencies have entered and left the Task Force for various reasons, along with changes in the funding levels of the Task Force. At each time this occurs, a new Interlocal Agreement needs to be completed with the current agencies whom were involved included in it. The proposed resolution allows the Police Chief or his designee to have the authority to sign these agreements, MOUs, and make necessary amendments on the City's behalf as a member of the executive board of the LEAD Drug Task Force.

Discussion took place.

On motion by Councilmember Ozuna, second by Councilmember Diaz, the C.O.W. moved a resolution authorizing the Police Chief to execute and administer an Interlocal Agreement for participation in the Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD) Task Force to the February 27, 2024 regular Council meeting for consideration.

Vote:

- Councilmember Barrientes – Yes
- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Flores – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes
- Councilmember Ozuna – Yes
- Councilmember Rodriguez – Yes
- Councilmember Souders – Yes

G. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Sunnyside and the City of Grandview for Animal Control Agreement

City Administrator Shane Fisher explained that in 2023, the Yakima Humane Society (YHS) decided to terminate their Animal Control Services agreement with both Grandview and Sunnyside at the end of 2023. YHS stated that performing Animal Control Services makes no financial or logistical sense for them since they were always at or above capacity for their facility. It was determined that YHS operated with a large amount of private funding, which was contingent on YHS being a “no kill” facility. The number of animals that were taken into housing outstrips the number of dogs that could be adopted or outsourced. The model was flawed because there was no way to create housing space when needed for new animals. The City of Grandview was approached by the City of Sunnyside in the summer of 2023, to discuss the possibility of partnering in the development and implementation of an Animal Control Services (ACS) program.

With the number of stray or loose dogs within the Grandview city limits, and the lack of third-party programs to address these issues, staff decided to work through what a program would look like. The proposed agreement was for the City of Grandview to pay 50% of the salary/benefits for the newly hired Animal Control Officer (ACO). This would give the City approximately 20 hours/week for the ACO to patrol and pick up any stray dogs. The ACO would also respond to bites or aggressive animals as needed. The annual cost for these services to the City of Grandview would be \$42,520.

Discussion took place.

On motion by Councilmember Ozuna, second by Councilmember Moore, the C.O.W. moved a resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Sunnyside and the City of Grandview for Animal Control Agreement to the February 27, 2024 regular Council meeting for consideration.

Vote:

- Councilmember Barrientes – Yes
- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Flores – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes
- Councilmember Ozuna – Yes
- Councilmember Rodriguez – Yes
- Councilmember Souders – Yes

H. Emergency Medical Transport (Ambulance) Services

Fire Chief Mason provided the following update regarding ambulance services supplied to the City of Grandview.

History up to this point with Sunnyside:

- A. In 2018 and 2019, the City evaluated local ambulance services and decided to enter into an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the City of Sunnyside to provide primary ambulance services. The City would pay \$163,440 per year to help with financial losses. This ensured that the ambulance service was financially viable and would continue to be available to the community. In addition, Sunnyside would make arrangements to have an ambulance in the City to shorten response times and assist with other duties up to 12 hours per day as the call volume allowed. The ILA was approved on September 1, 2019.
- B. In 2020, Fire Chief Mason studied and Council implemented an Ambulance Utility Fund in May 2021. The current rate was \$5.95 per ERU and revenue collected annually was approximately \$306,000. Additional EMS revenue collected annually from the Yakima County EMS Levy was approximately \$147,000.
- C. There have been ongoing discussions about aspects of the ILA in regards to what personnel would do while stationed in Grandview. These discussions have been on and off over the years and affected by changes in personnel and internal union contract negotiations in Sunnyside.
- D. In 2023, there were additional changes to Sunnyside personnel and further discussions regarding what personnel would do while stationed in Grandview. In response to these discussions, Sunnyside discounted the fee paid for part of 2023. The City ultimately paid

full price for two months and 50% of the cost for 10 months. In addition during 2023, there were concerns raised by Sunnyside as to whether Sunnyside had enough personnel on staff to station a crew in Grandview during the day. As a result of those concerns, the ambulance crew rarely spend any time at the Grandview station.

- E. The current ILA obligated Sunnyside to provide the City ambulance service through most of 2024 at the current rate. Sunnyside asked to renegotiate the ILA. Sunnyside requested that the City either discontinue the ILA and allow Sunnyside to respond as needed from the Sunnyside station, or pay Sunnyside \$434,330 annually for a 2-person ambulance crew to be stationed at Grandview for 12 hours per day.

Additional information: During the last two to three months, Chief Mason was in discussions with Prosser Hospital Ambulance (PHA) as to whether PHA would be interested in providing this service and the cost.

Options:

1. Continue to pay Sunnyside the current annual fee of \$211,500 for this year. Sunnyside would only have an ambulance in Grandview when the size of the crew allowed which would probably be less than 10% of the usual time. It was anticipated that by the end of this year, Sunnyside would begin the formal process to end the ILA.
2. Pay Sunnyside \$434,330 annually. This would allow Sunnyside to hire additional FTE's and ensure a 2-person crew in the City 12 hours per day as call volume allows.
3. Negotiate with PHA an annual fee to offset their financial loss similar to what the City was currently doing with Sunnyside. In return, PHA would provide approximately 8 hours coverage per day from a crew located at the Grandview station as call volume allows. The annual cost would be based on a percentage of what PHA would lose financially on calls responded to in the City. Currently, it was anticipated the cost would be similar to or less than what the City was currently paying Sunnyside.
4. Start a City owned ambulance service.
5. Discontinue paying for ambulance service and go back to requesting an ambulance from Sunnyside or Prosser as needed. This option does not ensure the City would always have an ambulance service available to the community. Depending on the financial burden to the ambulance service providers involved, services could be discontinued at any time since there was no contractual obligation to the City to provide the service. In addition, if this option were chosen, the City would need to discontinue the Ambulance Utility Fund since ambulance services were not being provided. This would mean some of the Fire Department expenses covered by that fund would need to be absorbed by the General Fund.

Fire Chief Mason recommended Option 3 to negotiate an ILA with Prosser Hospital Ambulance at the earliest convenience. In addition, he recommended researching Option 4 to start a City owned ambulance service operated by a combination of FTE's and volunteers at a minimum of 10 hours per day.

Discussion took place.

On motion by Councilmember Ozuna, second by Councilmember Diaz, the C.O.W. directed staff to negotiate an ILA with Prosser Hospital Ambulance at the earliest convenience and begin researching the possibility of starting a City owned ambulance service operated by a combination of FTE's and volunteers at a minimum of 10 hours per day.

Vote:

- Councilmember Barrientes – Yes
- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Flores – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes
- Councilmember Ozuna – Yes
- Councilmember Rodriguez – Yes
- Councilmember Souders – Yes

5. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND/OR STAFF REPORTS** – None

6. **MAYOR & COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS** – None

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Souders, the C.O.W. meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Ashley Lara

Anita Palacios, City Clerk