

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 14, 2026**

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: Councilmembers David Diaz, Laura Flores, Ramona Garibay-Rios, Bill Moore (Mayor Pro Tem), Javier Rodriguez and Joan Souders

Present via teleconference: None

Absent: Councilmember Robert Ozuna

Staff present: City Administrator Shane Fisher, City Attorney Quinn Plant, Public Works Director John Simmons and City Clerk Anita Palacios

Also present was City Engineer Jakob Michael with HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the Vortex Aquatic Structures International Contract #101625-VOR through Sourcewell Awarded Contract for the Grandview Splash Pad Project

The City has funding to construct a new Splash Pad located at Dykstra Park. This funding was a combination of both local funds and state appropriation that was received last year via the Local Community Project program at the Washington State Department of Commerce.

Staff has been working with Vortex to design the facility via a Sourcewell “piggy-back” contract. Sourcewell allows the City to legally use a competitively bid national contract instead of issuing a request for proposals (RFP). This saves time, reduces administrative costs, and still meets procurement requirements. For the Dykstra Park splash pad, it would allow the City to hire a qualified design-build contractor quickly and at competitive pricing.

A “piggyback” contract means the City can use a contract that was already competitively bid and awarded by another public agency (Sourcewell) instead of issuing its own RFP. Using Sourcewell, Grandview can procure a complete turnkey splash pad project.

Sourcewell has already:

- Developed and advertised a public RFP
- Evaluated proposals
- Awarded contracts to qualified vendors

Typical Scope Covered:

- Concept design & engineering
- Splash pad equipment (spray features, controls, recirculation systems)
- Concrete work & drainage
- ADA accessibility
- Installation and commissioning

Staff recommended the C.O.W. move a resolution Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the Vortex Aquatic Structures International Contract #101625-VOR through Sourcewell Awarded Contract for the Grandview Splash Pad Project to the April 14, 2026 regular Council meeting for consideration.

Discussion took place.

On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Souders, the C.O.W. moved a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the Vortex Aquatic Structures International Contract #101625-VOR through Sourcewell Awarded Contract for the Grandview Splash Pad Project to the April 14, 2026 regular Council meeting for consideration.

Vote:

- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Flores – Yes
- Councilmember Garibay-Rios – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes
- Councilmember Ozuna – Absent
- Councilmember Rodriguez – Yes
- Councilmember Souders – Yes

B. Water & Sewer Connection Fees

Currently, the City charges \$700.00 for a Sewer Connection Fee and \$686.00 for a Water Connection Fee. These fees have not been adjusted since 1997.

The City was proposing an adjustment to water and sewer connection fees to ensure the continued reliability, sustainability, and regulatory compliance of the City's utility systems. These one-time fees were charged to new development to help offset the cost of expanding infrastructure needed to serve growth.

Growth-Driven Infrastructure Demand

Grandview was experiencing significant residential and commercial growth, with multiple housing developments underway and additional projects in permitting. Each new connection increases demand on the City's water and sewer systems, including pipes, pump stations, storage, and treatment capacity.

Connection fees must reflect the true cost of providing this expanded capacity so that existing residents were not subsidizing growth.

Equity Between Existing and New Customers

Connection fees were designed to promote fairness. Existing residents and businesses have already invested in the system through past rates and taxes. Increasing connection fees ensures that growth pays for growth, current customers were not burdened with costs created by new development, and the City maintains a balanced and equitable utility funding structure, as well as financial sustainability and rate stability.

Properly structured connection fees help reduce long-term pressure on monthly utility rates. By collecting appropriate upfront contributions from new developments, the City can maintain adequate reserves for maintenance and emergencies, and support long-term financial planning and bond financing for major projects.

Alignment with Regional Practices

A review of comparable municipalities in Yakima County and across Washington State indicated that Grandview's current connection fees were below or not keeping pace with regional averages. Updating these fees ensures the City remains competitive while also fiscally responsible.

Conclusion

Adjusting water and sewer connection fees was a necessary and responsible step to ensure that Grandview can continue to grow in a sustainable manner while maintaining high-quality utility services. This approach protects existing residents, supports economic development, and ensures compliance with state and federal requirements.

Staff requested direction from Council on this matter and recommended either a 2-year or 3-year phased approach for implementing the new water and sewer connection fees.

Discussion took place.

Council consensus was to implement a 2-year phased approach and present a draft ordinance at the next C.O.W. meeting.

5. CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND/OR STAFF REPORTS

Public Works Department Mechanic – The City has hired an ASC-certified mechanic who has been successfully performing in-house vehicle maintenance to reduce costs, with plans to conduct a comparative analysis of savings and compensation.

City Facility Tours – It was suggested to include City facility tours during the upcoming Council retreat, allowing Council to see department operations firsthand.

6. MAYOR & COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Unsung Hero Committee – Council reviewed plans for establishing an Unsung Hero program, including a committee structure with two Councilmember and three community members appointed by the City Council, along with criteria and scoring scales for award nominations. Next steps included finalizing committee appointments and developing a formal proposal for the award program.

Washington State Office of Equity – Megan Matthews, Director of the Washington State Office of Equity, was the guest speaker at the April 8th Grandview Rotary meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Souders, the C.O.W. meeting adjourned 6:55 p.m.

Mayor Ashley Lara

Anita Palacios, City Clerk