

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 28, 2018**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Norm Childress called the Special Committee-of-the-Whole meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present were: Mayor Childress and Councilmembers Dennis McDonald, Gloria Mendoza, Bill Moore and Joan Souders.

Councilmember Javier Rodriguez arrived at 5:35 p.m.

Councilmember Mike Everett arrived at 5:50 p.m.

Councilmember Gay Brewer arrived at 5:55 p.m.

Staff present were: City Administrator/Public Works Director Cus Arteaga, City Attorney Quinn Plant, Assistant Public Works Director Todd Dorsett, City Treasurer Matt Cordray and City Clerk Anita Palacios.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Resolution accepting the bid for the Elm Street and Fir Street Sidewalk Improvements and authorizing the Mayor to sign all contract documents with Reclaim Company**

City Administrator Arteaga explained that bids for the Elm Street and Fir Street Sidewalk Improvements funded by the Washington State Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Program were opened on August 16, 2018. A total of four (4) were received with Reclaim Company of Yakima, Washington, submitting the low bid in the amount of \$349,520. The low bid was approximately twenty-two percent (22%) above the City Engineer's estimate of \$285,145. The Grandview School District pledged an additional \$15,000 towards the project. The remaining funds in the amount of \$15,000 would be available from the Transportation Benefit District (TBD) fund. A budget amendment would need to be approved by Council to appropriate the additional funds from the TBD fund.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Souders, the C.O.W. moved a resolution accepting the bid for the Elm Street and Fir Street Sidewalk Improvements and authorizing the Mayor to sign all contract documents with Reclaim Company for consideration at the August 28, 2018 regular Council meeting.**

**B. Resolution declaring certain City property from the Police Department and Parks & Recreation Department as surplus and authorizing disposal by public auction, sale or trade**

The Police Department and Parks & Recreation Department have the following vehicles and equipment which were no longer needed for the conduct of City business and were being recommended for surplus:

- 2002 Chevrolet Express Van, VIN #1GAHG39R321237038, License Plate #41223D (PD/9992)
- 2007 Dodge Charger, VIN #2B3KA43H97H758716, License Plate #44069D (PD/208)
- Intel Nobilis computer, ID #01363 (Parks & Rec)
- Dell 2400 computer, ID #01339 (Parks & Rec)
- Dell monitor, ID #01340 (Parks & Rec)
- Pinnell digital imager/copier, ID #01366 (Parks & Rec)

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Mendoza, second by Councilmember Rodriguez, the C.O.W. moved a resolution declaring certain City property from the Police Department and Parks & Recreation Department as surplus and authorizing disposal by public auction, sale or trade for consideration at the September 11, 2018 regular Council meeting.**

**C. Ambulance Services Report**

Present on behalf of the City of Sunnyside was Fire Chief Ken Anderson.

City Administrator Arteaga presented a report and recommendation for ongoing ambulance service in the City. The report addressed current services as well as future short and long-term recommendations.

**CURRENT SERVICE:** The City was provided with ambulance service by the Prosser Memorial Hospital Ambulance (PMHA). At the present time, the City had no written agreement for the current ambulance service. PMHA was renting an office space at the Grandview Fire Department for a monthly rental fee of \$356.96. PMHA housed a two-person team with one ambulance for an eight-hour shift per day, seven days a week from this location at no cost to the City. The daily work shift was from 10 am to 7 pm. Outside of that time period, the ambulance responded from the Prosser office.

**PROBLEM:** The current service was provided to the City at no cost. During the month of March 2018, PMHA notified the City that they were approximately \$600,000 in the red and needed to generate new revenue. PMHA requested that Council support a bond measure on this year's election ballot which would generate \$180,000 per year to help fund the current ambulance service.

PMHA has been working on an interlocal agreement since April 2018 to identify how much the City would need to contribute financially for PMHA to continue to provide an ambulance service in the City of Grandview.

CONTRACTING WITH A PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDER: Based on the amount of service calls generated within City limits, it would be difficult to encourage a private ambulance company to provide ambulance services in Grandview. Staff had not inquired and/or contacted a private company for ambulance services based on information received from PMHA and Sunnyside Ambulance.

CONTRACTING WITH THE CITY OF SUNNYSIDE: During the month of May, Mayor Childress, City Administrator Arteaga and Fire Chief Mason met with Sunnyside City Manager Don Day to discuss the possibility of expanding the City of Sunnyside's ambulance service to the City of Grandview. Mr. Day requested information regarding the amount of calls for ambulance services for the City in order to determine whether Sunnyside could absorb the additional calls with their existing ambulance staff. Mr. Day stated that Grandview would need to determine the level of service. For example, if the City requested a 24/7 service, Sunnyside would need to add additional staffing and equipment which would increase their annual operation budget. The City of Sunnyside has a city-wide ambulance fee which funds their ambulance services. In addition, Sunnyside Astria Hospital also financially contributes to support the Sunnyside Ambulance Service.

The Grandview Mayor, Grandview Fire Chief, Grandview City Administrator, Sunnyside City Manager and Sunnyside Fire Chief met with the Sunnyside Astria Hospital CEO and CFO to discuss the hospital financially supporting an ambulance service expansion to Grandview. Following that meeting, Astria Hospital sent an email identifying a financial commitment of up to \$215,000 per year to help offset the additional cost to the City of Sunnyside for expanding ambulance services to the City of Grandview. The commitment from the Astria Hospital was for a five-year period and would be re-evaluated at that time.

ITEMS TO CONSIDER AS THE CITY MOVES FORWARD: In discussions between Grandview, Sunnyside and Astria Hospital, the following was considered:

- What was the cost for services? This would depend on the level of service Grandview requested? For example, if Sunnyside Fire Department was to station two paramedics/firefighters, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, there would be an increase to the City of Grandview to offset the additional staffing levels to the City of Sunnyside.
- What would the duration of the Interlocal Agreement between both Cities for ambulance services be? Staff recommended a 20-year agreement with an automatic renewal unless either party terminates the agreement with at least a 12 month notice.
- Could the service be modified and/or expanded after it was in place? Yes, the service could be modified and/or expanded if it was determined there was a need.
- How long would Astria Hospital support the financial contribution? Astria Hospital would make a five-year commitment and would re-evaluate the support and could continue as long as it fit their business model and future plans.
- What was the cost for a new ambulance? A new ambulance would cost approximately \$140,000 to \$170,000 depending on vehicle size and options.
- When does Grandview start considering an ambulance fee? A new ambulance would need to be purchased within the next couple of years with funds being allocated during the budget process. Implementing the fee was a councilmatic decision and would not need to be voted on by the public.

COMPARISONS BETWEEN PMHA AND SUNNYSIDE AMBULANCE SERVICES:

- Both ambulance services require a financial commitment from the City of Grandview to be successful.
- PMHA was requesting approximately \$180,000 per year.
- Sunnyside was estimating approximately \$126,000 per year starting in 2019.
- \$180,000 per year contribution to PMHA would provide for one ambulance and a two-person team for medical emergencies only.
- PMHA owned its own ambulances and had not indicated that Grandview would need to participate in purchasing a new ambulance.
- The City of Sunnyside proposed that the City of Grandview participate in purchasing a new ambulance within two years of entering into an interlocal agreement.
- A \$126,000 per year contribution to the City of Sunnyside would provide one ambulance and a two-person team to support emergency services. The two-person team would also assist the Grandview Fire Department with vehicle maintenance, emergency calls, training and/or inspections.
- Astria Hospital was making a five-year financial commitment in the amount of \$215,000 per year to help subsidize Sunnyside's annual ambulance budget for expanding services into Grandview.

SHORT TERM RECOMMENDATION: Based on discussions between PMHA, City of Sunnyside and Astria Hospital, City Administrator Arteaga recommended Council formally contract with the City of Sunnyside for all future ambulance services. The City would first need to complete the following steps:

- The Sunnyside Fire Department would need to obtain approval from the Yakima County EMS and Trauma Care Council and the Washington State Department of Health for their ambulance response area. (During the month of June 2018, preliminary discussions took place to begin this process.)
- The City of Sunnyside and the City of Grandview would need to approve an interlocal agreement to implement the new ambulance service. The agreement would include financial support to cover all employee overtime cost until Sunnyside could add additional staff to support the expansion of the service. It would also include any additional vehicle fuel, vehicle maintenance support and/or housing needs during their stay in Grandview.
- The City of Sunnyside, City of Grandview and Astria Hospital would need to approve an agreement providing for the Hospital's financial support and the duration of that support.
- The City of Grandview would need to provide a financial contribution in the amount of \$126,000 per year to the City of Sunnyside.
- The ambulance service would start with a two-person team stationed at the Grandview Fire Department seven days per week from 7 am to 7 pm. During the night shift, the ambulance would respond from Sunnyside.

LONG TERM RECOMMENDATION: The preliminary discussion with the City of Sunnyside was to make this ambulance service long term and/or indefinitely. However, the agreement would be flexible enough to be modified and/or expanded. Items to consider for long term:

- The City of Grandview would need to implement an ambulance fee to support an ambulance service. The funds would support vehicle replacement, equipment upgrades and labor costs.
- The City of Grandview would need to approve a long-term agreement with the City of Sunnyside. City Administrator Arteaga strongly recommended a 20 year agreement with

automatic 20 year renewals unless a 12 month termination notice was submitted by either party.

- The City of Grandview would need to either expand the Fire Station and/or purchase a location to house the ambulance team and equipment if the Council wanted to expand into a 24 hour a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year service.
- Overall, the expansion of the Sunnyside Ambulance Service into Grandview makes the most sense. It was a great example of a true “partnership” and demonstrated how two cities could work together for the betterment of both communities.
- Both Cities were located in Yakima County so any future levies and/or bonds would be easily distributed. Both are governmental agencies financially supported by a private source (Astria Hospital).
- The City of Grandview could utilize the Sunnyside Ambulance team to assist around the Fire Department which could provide a direct benefit to the City’s fire insurance rate system by keeping insurance rates affordable.
- The City of Grandview would have the ability to utilize some of the volunteers on the ambulance team. This option could help reduce and/or control the City’s financial contribution.

City Administrator Arteaga explained that transparency was important and it would be easier to document and support how the fees and/or taxes were spent each year for an ambulance service in Grandview by contracting with the City of Sunnyside.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Everett, second by Councilmember Mendoza, the C.O.W. directed staff to prepare the necessary agreements to provide ambulance services in the City of Grandview based on financial criteria and any other criteria deemed necessary for Council consideration before the adoption of the 2019 budget.**

Councilmember Brewer abstained from the vote as his spouse was currently the Chair of the Astria Sunnyside Hospital Board of Directors.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS** – None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

The C.O.W. meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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Mayor Norm Childress

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Anita Palacios, City Clerk