

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 13, 2018**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Norm Childress called the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present were: Mayor Childress and Councilmembers Gay Brewer, Mike Everett, Dennis McDonald, Gloria Mendoza, Bill Moore and Javier Rodriguez.

Councilmember Joan Souders arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Staff present were: City Administrator/Public Works Director Cus Arteaga, City Treasurer Matt Cordray, Fire Chief Pat Mason, Building Official/Code Enforcement Officer Cory Taylor and City Clerk Anita Palacios.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Ambulance Service Budget Recommendation and Ambulance Utility Fee**

Fire Chief Mason explained that in March 2018, the City was approached by the current primary ambulance provider, Prosser Hospital Ambulance, concerning the fact that their ambulance service was losing money. This led to the City being in a position where the City would no longer receive ambulance services for the community at no cost to the City. The Council tasked staff with exploring options to ensure that the citizens of Grandview have access to quality ambulance services in a cost-effective way for the foreseeable future. The Council also indicated that they would like to see this service provided under some type of long term contract and/or agreement. The Council recently made the decision to pursue an agreement with the Sunnyside Fire Department to provide ambulance services. Sunnyside Fire Department indicated that the cost to provide the service to the City after taking away the other sources of income derived such as billing and EMS funding would be \$341,023 per year. Of the \$341,023 annual cost, Astria Sunnyside Hospital committed \$215,000 per year for a minimum of 5 years, leaving an annual balance of \$126,023. The City would now have to pay a minimum of \$126,023 per year for ambulance services. If for some reason Astria Sunnyside Hospital was unable to fulfill their financial commitment, the City would pay \$341,023 per year for ambulance services. For that reason, he proposed the Council consider implementing an "Ambulance Utility Fee" similar to the City of Sunnyside. Sunnyside's Ambulance Utility Fee charged a monthly fee per residential water utility user. It also charged non-residential users a monthly fee for every 3.6 employees to make it equal to residential users. He also proposed the Council consider setting that monthly fee at a minimum of \$8.00 per month per residential water utility user. The City currently had the following water accounts: commercial 231, government 75, industrial 38, apartments 58, and residential 2,608 for a total of 3,010 accounts. The actual number would be higher if the Council chose to use the 3.6 employee ratio for non-residential users, but he proposed 3,010 for the example. He also used \$300,000 as the annual dollar amount needed to be raised for the example. It would be up to the Council to determine if the

dollar amount would include the entire potential amount of \$341,023 or if Council would consider paying a portion of the amount from the general fund.

Example

\$300,000 divided by 3,010 users equals \$99.67 per year

\$99.67 per year divided by 12 equals \$8.31 per month

Based on the example, he proposed a minimum of \$8.00 per utility account per month. If the Council opted to use the 3.6 employee option for non-residential users then these numbers would amount to approximately \$341,023 per year. If the utility fee was implemented now then it would coincide with the start of the new ambulance service. If Astria Sunnyside Hospital was able to follow through on their generous commitment then the extra funding could be utilized to help provide other needs within the Fire Department such as adding sleeping quarters to the station in order for the ambulance service to operate in the City 24 hours per day. Sleeping quarters would shorten response times and be of benefit to all citizens because in an emergency seconds count. It could also be utilized as a reserve to help with any potential shortfalls in the future. If the necessary needs were met and sufficient reserves were put in place then the Council could always consider lowering the amount charged in the future. Based on the information provided, Fire Chief Mason recommended Council consider implementing an \$8.00 per month "Ambulance Utility Fee" at the beginning of 2019. This would further enhance the ability to provide a quality emergency medical service for the community for years to come.

City Administrator Arteaga presented a draft Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between the City of Sunnyside and the City of Grandview for Emergency Medical Transport Services.

Discussion took place as follows:

- Adding \$126,100 to the 2019 Emergency Medical Services Fund for ambulance services;
- Incorporating wording in the draft Interlocal Agreement for Sunnyside to provide a quarterly report on the number of Grandview transports, etc.
- Incorporating wording in the draft Interlocal Agreement that any increase in the annual fee assessed by Sunnyside be provided in writing along with the reasons for the fee increase.

**On motion by Councilmember Everett, second by Councilmember Souders, the C.O.W. added \$126,100 to the 2019 Emergency Medical Services Fund for ambulance service and directed staff to present a revised draft Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the City of Sunnyside for Emergency Medical Transport Services for further consideration at the November 27, 2018 C.O.W. meeting.**

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

**B. Determination of Procedure for Selection of Next Mayor – Councilmember Mike Everett**

Councilmember Everett requested that an item entitled "Determination of procedure for selection of the next Mayor" be placed on the November 13, 2018 C.O.W. agenda for consideration. He suggested that the process for the selection of the Mayor's successor be as

follows keeping in mind the importance that Council proceed in a manner that was transparent and also open to everyone and all of the public:

1. The Mayor would submit his resignation with a designated date.
2. Council would accept applications from anyone that wanted to be Mayor on the 27th meeting. Each applicant would have three minutes to address the Council. This would be just like a person running for the office would do, except that at the end of the presentation the Council would vote (on behalf of their constituents).
3. Then the person chosen would become Mayor elect until the effective date of Mayor's resignation and then be sworn in by either the City Attorney or the Mayor Pro Tem.

He explained that this process mirrors the public process by which the City elects a Mayor. It was open and public. Also, the person who wanted to be Mayor should (in his opinion) be willing to say that they want to be Mayor, just like they would have to do so, if they seeked the office in an election.

Discussion took place.

Councilmember Mendoza expressed her interest in the Mayor appointment.

Due to time constraints, the C.O.W. meeting was recessed.

## **5. RECESS & RECONVENE OF C.O.W. MEETING**

**On motion by Councilmember Everett, second by Councilmember Moore, the Council recessed the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting at 7:00 p.m., to reconvene following the regular Council meeting.**

**On motion by Councilmember Everett, second by Councilmember Moore, the Council reconvened the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting to discuss the following items at 8:10 p.m.**

### **B. Determination of Procedure for Selection of Next Mayor – Councilmember Mike Everett (continued)**

Discussion continued.

**On motion by Councilmember Everett, second by Councilmember Brewer, the C.O.W. agreed to the following procedure for the selection of the next Mayor:**

1. Mayor Childress would submit his resignation with a designated date.
2. Council would accept applications from anyone that wanted to be Mayor at the November 27, 2018 Council meeting. Each applicant would have three minutes to address the Council. This would be just like a person running for the office would do, except that at the end of the presentation the Council would vote on behalf of their constituents.
3. The person chosen would become Mayor-elect until the effective date of Mayor Childress' resignation and then be sworn in by either the City Attorney or the Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmembers Mendoza and Moore voted in opposition.

**C. Nuisance Ordinance – Councilmember Gay Brewer**

At the October 22, 2018 special Council meeting, Councilmember Brewer requested that the City's nuisance ordinance be placed on an agenda for discussion.

Building Official/Code Enforcement Officer Taylor explained the process followed upon receipt of a nuisance complaint. He also advised that building code review, issuance of building permits, and cross-connection/backflow prevention inspections and documentation took precedence over nuisance complaints.

City Administrator Arteaga advised that forms entitled "Code Enforcement Referral Notice" were available to the Council and/or public to complete and return to the Building Department for reporting of nuisance complaints.

Discussion took place. No action taken.

**D. Sponsorship Request to Maintain the Fly YKM Marketing Program**

City Administrator Arteaga presented a letter dated October 19, 2018 from Cliff Moore, City Manager with the City of Yakima requesting that the City of Grandview contribute a \$10,000 match for 2019 to maintain the FLY YKM marketing program.

Discussion took place. Following discussion, Council decided not to contribute to the FLY YKM marketing program.

**E. Yakima Health District City Representative Member of the YHD Board of Health**

Mayor Childress presented a letter dated October 29, 2018 from the Yakima Health District extending an invitation to a member of the City Council to apply to become a City Representative member of the Yakima Health District Board of Health.

Discussion took place. Councilmembers were advised to apply directly to the Yakima Health District if interested in the position.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS – None**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The C.O.W. meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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Mayor Norm Childress

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Anita Palacios, City Clerk