

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2019**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gloria Mendoza called the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Due to a lack of a quorum, the meeting was recessed until a quorum was present. The meeting reconvened at 6:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present were: Mayor Mendoza and Councilmembers David Diaz, Mike Everett and Bill Moore.

Councilmember Gay Brewer arrived at 6:03 p.m. Councilmember Joan Souders arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Absent were Councilmembers Diana Jennings and Javier Rodriguez.

Staff present were: City Administrator/Public Works Director Cus Arteaga, City Attorney Quinn Plant, City Treasurer Matt Cordray, Police Chief Kal Fuller, Fire Chief Pat Mason and City Clerk Anita Palacios.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. House Bill 1026 – Breed-Based Dog Regulations – Amending the City’s Dangerous Dog Ordinance

Police Chief Fuller explained that at the October 21, 2019 special C.O.W. meeting, he was asked to follow-up on two questions.

The first question was what the City of Yakima was doing now that the State law regarding breed-based dog regulations would be changing. He explained that the City of Yakima does not have any breed specific language in their current ordinance and so does not need to make any changes. He provided a link to the City of Yakima’s Dangerous Dog Ordinance. In addition, the City of Selah has breed specific language similar to Grandview. As of the end of October, they had not determined what they would do to comply with the new law.

The second question was whether American Kennel Club (AKC) Canine Good Citizen Class or equivalent classes were offered in the area. He explained that he was able to locate several Canine Good Citizen classes offered in Yakima and Tri-Cities. The AKC does not provide any classes in Washington State. It appeared that instructors could be trained by the AKC and then offer training themselves. Petco was one of the best known names that offer Canine Good Citizen classes by trained instructors. Phone calls to the local veterinarian offices did not reveal any known classes in the Grandview or southern valley area. They refer people to Petco. Petco in Yakima advised that they have a six week long Canine Good Citizen class on an almost monthly basis. The Class had two prerequisites; Adult Dog Level 1 and Adult Dog Level 2. Both of those classes were also six weeks long. The total progression of all three classes would take a minimum of 18 weeks and at the end, the AKC Canine Good Citizen test would be given to the dog. If the

dog passed it would get its proof of certification. The cost for Petco six week classes was \$129.00 each or a package of all three for \$350.00. Several other entities offered AKC equivalent classes in the Yakima area: Acme Canine Center, 4 Paws Dog Works, and Little Paws. Each of these entities may have different requirements and costs to provide the Canine Good Citizen class.

He noted the two options provided in City Attorney Plant's memo dated October 3, 2019 were to keep breed specific language or not and to either repeal or amend the ordinance.

Discussion took place.

On motion by Councilmember Everett, second by Councilmember Diaz, the C.O.W. directed the City Attorney to draft an amendment to the Dangerous Dog ordinance for consideration at the November 26, 2019 C.O.W. meeting.

Councilmember Brewer voted in opposition.

B. Ordinance amending Grandview Municipal Code Section 13.28.050 setting domestic sewer rates – 3% increase

City Administrator Arteaga, utilizing a memo prepared by City Engineer Ted Pooler, explained that at the November 4, 2019 special budget meeting, a question was raised regarding the differences in the sewer rates charged for water usage in excess of the first 5,000 gallon per month. The subject 2020 sewer rates were repeated below for reference.

Industrial Employees

Minimum Monthly Charge for 5,000 gallons\$41.80
Plus for each 1,000 gallons after 5,000 gallons\$5.19

Residential and Public Users

Minimum Monthly Charge for 5,000 gallons\$35.32
Plus for each 1,000 gallons after 5,000 gallons\$5.59

Commercial, Business and Industrial Users

Minimum Monthly Charge for 5,000 gallons\$35.32
Plus for each 1,000 gallons after 5,000 gallons\$4.39

Grocery Stores, Bakeries, Restaurants, and Drive-Ins

Minimum Monthly Charge for 5,000 gallons\$35.32
Plus for each 1,000 gallons after 5,000 gallons\$5.14

Differences in charges between the user groups were first introduced into the rate structure in 1995 when the City adopted a new approach to rates based on the strength of sewage (known as a loading-based rate structure) rather than a flow-based rate structure. The new structure was phased in over three years with the purpose to equitably distribute costs amongst users and hold industries accountable for their high strength wastes. Fundamental tenants of that original rate structure were:

- Treatment costs were assigned to flow, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), and total suspended solids (TSS). As the new rate structure was shifted from flow-based to loading-based, a higher proportion of cost was shifted from flow to BOD and TSS.

- Large industrial customers would be charged for the amount of flow (gallons), BOD (pounds), and TSS (pounds) discharged to the system as measured through metering and monitoring stations.
- Since it was impractical to measure BOD and TSS from individual houses and businesses, assumed values were used.
- Base charges and unit charges were set to generate the required revenue. Base charges were held constant among the user groups and unit charges for sewage in excess of the first 5,000 gallons were adjusted to account for the different strengths and treatment costs.
- Some adjustments were made at the Council's discretion to benefit industries, businesses, and other commercial users to retain existing users and promote commercial and industrial growth.

Over the ensuing years, rate adjustments have generally been made across the board based on percentage increases needed to generate the required revenue. As a result, those initial differences in usage charges have been carried forward.

Discussion took place.

Following discussion, Councilmember Everett requested that the sewer rate structure for water usage in excess of the base rate be reviewed the first of the year.

C. Ordinance amending Grandview Municipal Code Section 13.28.060(B) setting irrigation water rates – 2% increase

At the November 4, 2019 special budget meeting, this item was moved to the November 12, 2019 regular meeting agenda for consideration.

D. USDA Rural Development Funding Assistance Application to purchase firefighter self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)

Fire Chief Mason explained that self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) were the air packs worn by firefighters to enter an immediately dangerous to life and health atmosphere such as a building full of smoke and heat. The life expectancy of SCBA's was 15 years. The Fire Department currently has 6 SCBA's that were purchased in 2018 with the funding to purchase the new KME Pumper fire truck. An additional 22 SCBA's were purchased in 2005 with an Assistance to Firefighters Grant. The 22 SCBA's need to be replaced in 2020. For the last three years, the City applied for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant to replace the SCBA's and was unsuccessful. It would cost approximately \$161,000 to purchase 22 SCBA's and associated equipment. In 2018 and 2019, \$52,000 was budgeted in the Fire Suppression Fund under the Capital Expenditure category for the purchase of the SCBA's (\$104,000 total). An additional \$57,000 would need to be budgeted in 2020 to make this purchase. Due to the upcoming tight budget, he was asked to research alternative financing for this purchase to spread the impact to the budget over a period of time. USDA Rural Development advised that the SCBA's would qualify for the same type of loan the City applied and received for the purchase of the new fire truck. The current rate for a 10-year loan was 3% until January 1, 2020.

He requested Council consider moving forward with the application process to borrow the \$161,000 from USDA Rural Development for the purchase of the 22 SCBA's.

Discussion took place.

On motion by Councilmember Everett, second by Councilmember Moore, the C.O.W. authorized staff to issue a public meeting notice of the Council's intent to apply for funding assistance to the USDA Rural Development for the purchase of firefighter self-contained breathing apparatus for consideration at the November 26, 2019 Council meeting.

E. Snow Control Plan

The following information was distributed at the August 27, 2019 Council meeting for discussion at a future meeting.

City Administrator Arteaga explained that during the month of February 2019, the City received record setting snow accumulations. Storms such as these were very challenging because City Departments were not equipped with the man-power or equipment to handle such extreme events. Each year, policies/procedures were evaluated and, if appropriate, modified and/or changed regarding snow control. This year, the following information was requested of neighboring cities: snow plans; snow control efforts; snow budgets; and number of employees working snow control. The cities contacted were Prosser, Sunnyside, Toppenish, Moxee and Selah. Overall, it appeared that the industry standard was to begin snow plowing efforts at approximately three inches and to plow all snow accumulations to the sides. In the process, vehicles would be buried as well as driveways making it the property owners' responsibility to dig themselves out. Grandview was the only City that was cleaning residential sidewalks, opening driveways and removing plowed snow from any residential areas. This year, the City expended over \$150,000 battling the extreme snow conditions while Sunnyside and Toppenish spent under \$10,000, Selah spent \$56,000 and Moxee spent \$15,000. The major difference was the cost of removing and/or hauling off snow within the residential areas.

The City could not continue an annual \$150,000 snow control budget without affecting other departments supported by the General Fund. The previous six-year expenditure average was approximately \$34,000. The 2020 snow budget of \$80,000 should support an acceptable program if the City followed the industry standard, as follows:

- Do not plow to the center and only plow to the sides.
- Do not maintain residential sidewalks.
- Minimize the use of private contractors which required the payment of prevailing wages.

The snow plan could be revised to meet the following:

- Begin snow plowing efforts at three inches for the downtown business core, schools, arterials and commercial areas.
- Plow snow to the sides except for the downtown business core. In the downtown business core either remove and/or stock pile snow at the intersection corners similar to the other cities.
- Continue to apply de-icing materials on all street intersections, hill areas, school zones and the downtown business core.
- Continue to apply sand/gravel to the same areas mentioned above, when appropriate.
- Begin incorporating salt into sand during heavy icy weather.

In reviewing the other City's snow control plans, he recommended the City revise the current snow plan to reflect the City of Pasco's snow removal plan. The City of Sunnyside had also adopted the City of Pasco's plan. This plan addressed questions regarding why plowing to the center was not a good option, reasons why plowing snow onto parked cars and driveways was unavoidable and why residential streets were seldom plowed.

Discussion took place.

On motion by Councilmember Everett, second by Councilmember Souders, the C.O.W. directed staff to draft a new snow removal plan and public media campaign for consideration at the November 26, 2019 C.O.W. meeting.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS** – None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

The C.O.W. meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Gloria Mendoza

Anita Palacios, City Clerk