

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 9, 2020**

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.

On May 31, 2020, Governor Inslee issued proclamation 20-28.4. The proclamation continued the prohibition on "in-person" meetings. However, the proclamation did not limit permissible "action" to "necessary and routine matters" and "matters necessary to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak and current health emergency." As a result, Council may conduct business on all matters coming before it; but should not do so at a meeting conducted in-person. This meeting was available via teleconference.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Mendoza and Councilmembers Gay Brewer, David Diaz, Mike Everett, Bill Moore, Javier Rodriguez and Joan Souders

Absent: Councilmember Diana Jennings

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution Renaming Stokely Square Park to the Mike Bren Memorial Park – Councilmember Brewer

Councilmember Brewer requested “staff prepare an appropriate resolution to rename the Stokely Square downtown park to honor the memory of Mike Bren. Mike grew up, attended school, and raised his family here in Grandview. Mike served on the City Council and as Mayor. Mike and his wife Carolyn have been an inspiration to many of us. Even while suffering from his painful and fatal illness, he still was a courageous supporter of Grandview, his Church, family and those he knew and served. The name could be Mike Bren Memorial Park, or even another appropriate name that would honor him.”

Discussion took place.

On motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Everett, the C.O.W. moved a Resolution Renaming Stokely Square Park to the Mike Bren Memorial Park to the June 23, 2020 regular Council meeting for consideration.

Roll Call Vote:

- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes

- Councilmember Souders – Yes
- Councilmember Rodriguez – Yes
- Councilmember Everett – No
- Councilmember Brewer – Yes

B. Palacios Parkway Pedestrian Bridge – Councilmember Brewer

Councilmember Brewer explained “My concern with the canal bridge itself is the possibility that a small child could fall or climb through the guard rails, but even more concerning is the very short wings that flank both ends of the bridge. They look far too short in my opinion. If the mayor, council members, along with the City Supervisor, believe I am wrong, State it on the public record. If the mayor wants to go with me, I will point out my concerns to her, Cus and/or a representative from the Insurance Authority. The letter I received today, leads me to believe that you think my concern is nonsense and is a waste of time. Is that the case? You asked be to present my feelings in writing.”

A memo from Mayor Mendoza to Councilmember Brewer was distributed. The memo stated as follows:

Please consider this memorandum as my formal response to your concerns regarding the pedestrian walking bridge located on Wine Country Road east of the rose garden.

Your Personal Opinion: You claim that this bridge is unsafe but you have not provided any documentation and/or reasons to support your concern as to what is unsafe. Keep in mind, that as an “elected official” you must choose your words wisely and statements of this nature should be supported with facts. Each one of us can bring up concerns but must do so in a manner that will not place us in a position of potential liability.

History of this Bridge: This bridge has been in place for over 20-years and it was installed by Yakima County. This is a U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service standard trail design and is classified as a “Glulam Stringer Trail Bridge”. (Drawing included) This is an engineered bridge and when it was installed it had to meet all of the safety regulations in place for that time. I know for a fact, that our staff does annual inspections and also provides a wood preservative to the wood every spring.

I am aware that Todd informed you that there was nothing unsafe with this bridge. Todd is the appropriate person to provide this information because he is the one who is responsible for the maintenance of this bridge. In addition, I also told you that I had met with the City Administrator and that he also is not concerned with the condition of the bridge. I was with the City Administrator when he spoke with the Police Chief and was told that the Police Department has never had any calls and/or concerns with the safety of the bridge. Our City Code Official also inspected the bridge and he supported the others that the bridge is safe as constructed. The City Code Official’s only comment was to consider adding one more board at the bottom of the rail, four-inches off the ground, but other than that, he has no other suggestions.

Conclusions: I appreciate your concern for safety and I assure you that we are concerned about safety too. As you know, our City Administrator is information-driven and he will not make up an answer unless he has the facts to support his determination. I have met with him, I have been included in his fact findings, and I agree with the facts that this bridge is “safe” based on the

following:

- *This is an engineered design plan.*
- *Staff provides annual maintenance, inspections, and treatment of the wood.*
- *We have no reported concerns from the Public.*
- *The Police Chief has no concerns regarding the safety of the bridge.*
- *The Code Officer inspected the Bridge on May 11, 2020, with no real concerns.*
- *I inspected the bridge myself on May 11, 2020, and personally observed staff performing annual maintenance.*
- *I denied the City Administrator's request of hiring a Professional Engineer to provide an inspection just to satisfy your concerns based on the estimated cost of \$2,000 for an opinion.*

I have gone through all of this information and the bridge is safe; therefore, we are bringing this concern to a closure unless you can provide me with some items and/or facts to change my mind. Staff is very busy and I do not want to continue to waste their time, and our taxpayer's money, on personal opinions.

For example; when Todd told you, the bridge was safe that should have been the end of it, but you called me again and I, again, told you the bridge was safe. Now here we are again for a third time.

Recommendations: In the future, submit your comments in written form so that I and/or staff will actually know what the concerns are. This communication method, will help staff eliminate the guessing game and most importantly, it will provide us with the ability to expedite a repair and/or response without creating any hard feeling towards anyone.

No discussion took place and no action was taken.

C. Ambulance Utility Fee – Councilmember Everett

On motion by Councilmember Everett, second by Councilmember Rodriguez, the C.O.W. tabled the ambulance utility fee to the September 8, 2020 C.O.W. meeting for consideration.

Roll Call Vote:

- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes
- Councilmember Souders – Yes
- Councilmember Rodriguez – Yes
- Councilmember Everett – Yes
- Councilmember Brewer – Yes

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Tree Planting in Memory of Mike Bren – City Administrator Arteaga reported that a tree planting took place yesterday at Dykstra Park in memory of former Mayor Mike Bren. The tree and monument were donated by a family friend of the Bren's.

Face Mask Distribution & Food Drive – Councilmember Everett thanked Mayor Mendoza for her participation in the face mask distribution at the local grocery stores and the food distribution.

Yakima County Community Mask Campaign – City Clerk Palacios reported that the Yakima County Emergency Operations Center obtained masks from the State of Washington to assist Yakima County in moving to the next phase of reopening. The City of Grandview received approximately 11,000 masks to distribute to the community to slow the spread of COVID.

WCIA Risk Mitigation Grant – City Administrator Arteaga reported that the City was awarded a 2020 Risk Mitigation Grant from the Washington Cities Insurance Authority in the amount of \$10,000 for the purchase of the sidewalk sucker equipment to remove, level and replace sidewalks sections.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The C.O.W. meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Mayor Gloria Mendoza

Anita Palacios, City Clerk