

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 25, 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.

Governor Proclamation 20-28.8 continued the prohibition on "in-person" meetings through September 1, 2020. This meeting was available via teleconference.

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

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

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**On motion by Councilmember Everett, second by Councilmember Souders, the C.O.W. adopted the C.O.W. agenda in the following order:**

**A. Resolution approving an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between the City of Grandview and the Port of Grandview, Washington, for Small Business Emergency Grants**

**B. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an Agreement for the pass through and use of Washington State Department of Commerce Coronavirus Relief Funds between the City of Grandview and the Yakima County Development Association**

**C. Resolution accepting the Stover Road and Birch Street Resurfacing as complete**

**D. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Agreement with the Grandview School District**

**E. Grandview Police Department Personnel Decisions**

Roll Call Vote:

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

**A. Resolution approving an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between the City of Grandview and the Port of Grandview, Washington, for Small Business Emergency Grants**

City Administrator Arteaga explained that on April 27, 2020, Governor Inslee announced the award of nearly \$300 million to local governments in Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) from Washington State's allocation of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding. The City of Grandview's award was \$336,000. At the August 6, 2020 special meeting, Council agreed to dedicate \$141,000 in Coronavirus Relief Funds for small business assistance and invited the Port of Grandview to participate in said small business grants. The Port of Grandview agreed to participate in the amount of \$50,000. The Port drafted the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between the City and Port for Small Business Emergency Grants as presented.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Everett, second by Councilmember Diaz, the C.O.W. moved a resolution approving an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between the City of Grandview and the Port of Grandview, Washington, for Small Business Emergency Grants to the August 25, 2020 regular Council meeting for consideration.**

Roll Call Vote:

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

**B. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an Agreement for the pass through and use of Washington State Department of Commerce Coronavirus Relief Funds between the City of Grandview and the Yakima County Development Association**

City Administrator Arteaga explained that on April 27, 2020, Governor Inslee announced the award of nearly \$300 million to local governments in Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) from Washington State's allocation of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding. The City of Grandview's award was \$336,000. At the August 6, 2020 special meeting, Council agreed to dedicate \$141,000 in Coronavirus Relief Funds for small business assistance and partner with Yakima County Development Association to administer the business grant application and funding. An Agreement was drafted with Yakima County Development Association for the pass through and use of Washington State Department of Commerce Coronavirus Relief Funds as presented.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Jennings, second by Councilmember Moore, the C.O.W. moved a resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an Agreement for the pass through and use of Washington State Department of Commerce Coronavirus Relief Funds between the**

**City of Grandview and the Yakima County Development Association to the August 25, 2020 regular Council meeting for consideration.**

Roll Call Vote:

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

**C. Resolution accepting the Stover Road and Birch Street Resurfacing as complete**

City Administrator Arteaga explained that Central Paving, LLC completed the construction of the Stover Road and Birch Street Resurfacing. Staff recommended Council accept the project as complete once the requirements in the August 19, 2020 letter from HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc., were satisfied.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Diaz, the C.O.W. moved a resolution accepting the Stover Road and Birch Street Resurfacing as complete to the September 8, 2020 regular Council meeting for consideration.**

Roll Call Vote:

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

**E. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Agreement with the Grandview School District**

Police Chief Fuller explained that Grandview has had a School Resource Officer (SRO) for many years. SRO wages were paid half by the City and half by the Grandview School District. The SRO program has always been supported by the Council and benefits both the public and the Police Department. In 2019, the Legislature passed HB 1216. HB 1216 created a statewide consistency for roles, limitations, and minimum training for SRO's. Schools were required to adopt a model policy for the 2020-2021 school year. The main impact of this legislation on Grandview Police Department was the training requirement. In anticipation of this being required for the upcoming school year, the SRO completed all necessary training classes. Approval of the SRO Memorandum of Agreement would allow the SRO program to continue as it has been.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Everett, second by Councilmember Jennings, the C.O.W. moved a resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Agreement with the Grandview School District to the September 8, 2020 regular Council meeting for consideration.**

Roll Call Vote:

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

**E. Grandview Police Department Personnel Decisions**

Police Chief Fuller presented a memo to generate Council discussion on two topics (1) the addition of one new police officer position and (2) the promotion of one current officer to the rank of sergeant.

**Anticipatory New Hire Police Officer:** During the budget process, money was included to hire a 20<sup>th</sup> commissioned police officer position with the understanding that the request would be reviewed by Council mid-year to review the City's financial situation and confirm the decision. There were several officers eligible to retire in 2021 and it could easily take up to one year before a new hire was filling a road position. Since 201, the City has hired one new officer each year in anticipation of the next year's retirement. Because of the uncertainty involved with retirements, the Police Department (PD) has been proactive in making sure officers were ready to fill vacancies. This approach has been successful and has kept the PD at minimum staffing levels. As presented in charts during budget season, the minimum staffing level for the PD was 18 commissioned officers. The 2019 hire was now on a shift by himself which puts the PD at 19 commissioned officers. If only one officer retired in 2021, the PD would be back at minimum staffing level of 18. If a second officer retired any time before October of 2021, the PD would drop below minimum staffing. Currently, no officers have turned in official notice of retirement in 2021. As mentioned during the budget presentation, retirements could happen with little notice.

He requested direction from the Council to either:

- start the hiring process; or
- re-submit the request as part of the 2021 budget process, to provide more time for discussion.

**Promoting One Current Officer to Sergeant:** Included in written handout materials for the 2020 budget was a request to promote one current police officer to the rank of sergeant in 2020. The funds for this were included in the 2020 budget. During his verbal presentation to Council, Police Chief Fuller did not have adequate time to verbally highlight this promotion. The promotion of a fourth sergeant has become absolutely critical for the PD and public safety. Sergeants modify behavior, implements systems, ensure compliance with policy, and were essential to risk management in law enforcement.

He indicated that the promotion of a fourth sergeant was critical for the following reasons:

- With the 24 hour/7 day a week operation there were younger, inexperienced officers working without a sergeant present. They were making decisions that could impact the City for years, without the oversight that only a well-trained sergeant can provide.
- There has been a gradual build-up of new duties being assigned to current sergeants. These new duties have been added on top of their real-time supervision duties.
- An increase in officers needing to leave the City (e.g., DUI, mental health calls, jail transports), requires specialized supervisory experience and training to determine the safest way (for the officer and the city) to handle those events.
- New policies that the PD was adopting need to be consistently enforced in real time.

With the events going on around the country and video examples of law enforcement failures, the PD needed to put proper safeguards in place to reduce exposure to the City. An adequate number of sergeants would help do this. The insurance a sergeant provided to the City was incredible compared to the \$10,000 that a sergeant earns above a patrol officer's wages. The current union contract created an officer-in-charge (OIC) position. The OIC was authorized to make some supervisory decisions in real time when they were working and no sergeant was available. An OIC has not been trained to the same level as a sergeant and does not provide the same quality of oversight. Money spent giving basic training to multiple OICs could be better spent giving specialized training to one sergeant. As the PD moves into the future this promotion would provide an adequate number of sergeants to modify behavior, implement systems, and enforce policies. This would allow the PD to fulfill its vision of "Service with Excellence."

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Everett, second by Councilmember Rodriguez, the C.O.W. tabled the hiring of an additional police officer for discussion during the 2021 preliminary budget meeting.**

Roll Call Vote:

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

6. **OTHER BUSINESS** – None

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The C.O.W. meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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Mayor Gloria Mendoza

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Anita Palacios, City Clerk