

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 24, 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 20-28.12 continued the prohibition on "in-person" meetings through December 7, 2020. This meeting was available via teleconference.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Mendoza and Councilmembers David Diaz, Mike Everett, Diana Jennings, Bill Moore (Mayor Pro Tem) and Robert Ozuna.

Councilmember Joan Souders arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Absent: Councilmember Javier Rodriguez

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

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Grandview Chamber of Commerce Update – Cody Goepfner, President of the Chamber of Commerce advised that the Chamber membership campaign for 2021 had started. Due to COVID-19 and recent restrictions, the Chamber's smaller events would be going virtual. The Light Up The Town would take place on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the virtual Frosty 5-K would take place between December 5<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, and the virtual Christmas Tree Lighting would take place on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The Chamber also launched a new website [www.visitgrandview.com](http://www.visitgrandview.com).

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Benton County Mosquito Control District Re-Appointment – Mayor Pro Tem Bill Moore**

Mayor Mendoza received a letter from Angela Beehler, District Manager with the Benton County Mosquito Control District informing that the two year term of Mayor Pro Tem Moore as a Trustee on the Mosquito Control Board would expire December 31, 2020. She recommended that the Council reappoint Mayor Pro Tem Moore for another term beginning January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Everett, second by Councilmember Souders, the C.O.W. moved the reappointment of Mayor Pro Tem Bill Moore to the Benton County Mosquito Control District for the term January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022 to the December 8, 2020 regular Council meeting for consideration.**

Roll Call Vote:

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

**B. Resolution accepting the bid and authorizing the Grandview Herald as the Official City Newspaper for the year 2021**

City Clerk Palacios explained that RCW 35.23.352(7) provided that bids were required to secure the services of the official newspaper. Bids to serve as the Official City Newspaper for the year 2021 were opened on November 17, 2020. The City received one (1) bid from the Grandview Herald. The bid was as follows:

<u>Newspaper</u>	<u>Type of Publication</u>	<u>Rate (per column inch)</u>
Grandview Herald	Legal Notices	\$6.75

The legal notice bid rate was the same rate as 2020.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Diaz, second by Councilmember Moore, the C.O.W. moved a resolution accepting the bid and authorizing the Grandview Herald as the Official City Newspaper for the year 2021 to the December 8, 2020 regular Council meeting for consideration.**

Roll Call Vote:

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

**C. Ordinance adopting the budget and confirming tax levies for revenue to carry on the government for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021**

City Treasurer Cordray explained that during the months of August through November, there were numerous staff reviews, budget discussions and City Council special meetings regarding the 2021 preliminary budget. The Mayor's preliminary budget was released to the Council and public on November 13, 2020. Following the release of the Mayor's preliminary budget, staff allocated an additional \$9,500 to the irrigation fund for the Grandridge Estates Subdivision.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Everett, the C.O.W. moved an Ordinance adopting the budget and confirming tax levies for revenue to carry on the government for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021 to the December 8, 2020 regular Council meeting for consideration.**

Roll Call Vote:

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

**D. Ordinance amending the City of Grandview 2021 non-union salary schedule**

City Administrator Arteaga explained that the following general wage increases were incorporated into the salary schedules and included in the 2021 preliminary budget:

- Public Works Union (settled) – 3% on 1/1/2021
- Police Sergeants & Patrol Union (settled) – 3% on 1/1/2021
- Police Support Union (settled) – 3% 1/1/2021
- Non-Union (to be determined by Council) – proposed 3% 1/1/2021

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Everett, second by Councilmember Souders, the C.O.W. moved an ordinance amending the City of Grandview 2021 non-union salary schedule to the December 8, 2020 regular Council meeting for consideration.**

Roll Call Vote:

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

**E. Municipal Engineering Services Request for Statement of Qualifications (2021-2023) – HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc.**

City Administrator Arteaga explained that the City's Professional Municipal Engineering Services Agreement with HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc., for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 expires December 31, 2020. The City advertised for Municipal Engineering Services Request for Statement of Qualifications and received seven (7) proposals for a new three-year agreement from 2021 through 2023.

The seven (7) engineering firms and evaluation combined scores were as follows:

- HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc., Yakima, WA – 213
- Gray & Osborne, Inc., Yakima, WA – 155
- RH2 Engineers, Richland, WA – 139
- TD&H Engineering, Spokane, WA – 130
- CRW Engineering Group, Seattle, WA – 127
- LDC Inc., Woodinville, WA – 102
- Walker Consultants, Seattle, WA – 69

The three evaluating the applications were Councilmember Joan Souders, City Clerk Anita Palacios and City Administrator/Public Works Director Arteaga.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Everett, second by Councilmember Ozuna, the C.O.W. moved the selection of HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc., as the most qualified municipal engineering firm and directed staff to negotiate a three-year engineering services agreement, in accordance with State Law, to the December 8, 2020 regular Council meeting for consideration.**

Roll Call Vote:

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

**F. Resolution accepting the Water Service Meter Equipment project as complete**

City Administrator Arteaga explained that in 2019, Council approved the water meter conversion from the Master meters to the new Muller radio read water meters. In addition, Council approved a contract with Consolidated Supply Co., for the new Mueller radio read water meters. This was a two-year water meter conversion project as existing City employees were being used to change out the 3,300 water meters. The City received all of the water meters as per the contract with Consolidated Supply and were at the point to closeout this project upon receipt of the final invoice. Staff recommended Council accept the project as complete once the requirements in the November 9, 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 Water Service Meter Equipment project as complete to the December 8, 2020 regular Council meeting for consideration.**

Roll Call Vote:

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

**G. Radio Read Water Meters – Opt-Out Option**

City Administrator Arteaga explained that on October 20, 2020, Amelia Alcalá from 707 West Concord Avenue requested the City implement an “opt-out” option regarding the radio frequency read water meters. She was under the impression that these types of water meters would cause health issues because of radiation that they could emit. In an email, she provided examples of other utilities (such as power and gas) in which opt-out options were offered.

The City’s water meters were located approximately 15-feet away from the residence. In addition, all the information the City researched and been provided by the meter supplier supports that the water meters were safe for the following reasons:

- Radio frequency transmission from water meters decreases as the distance from the residence increases.
- Radio devices transmit (radio frequency) when they were in use and a water meter was only in use a fraction of the time compared to cellphones and/or other electrical household devices.

As part of the City’s research, staff also contacted other municipal agencies using the radio frequency water meters asking if they had an opt-out option. The following do not have an opt-out option: City of Yakima, City of Toppenish, City of Sunnyside, City of Prosser and City of West Richland. As the City continued to grow, the City must be creative and find ways of meeting the daily workload demands, but most importantly, the City must keep operational costs affordable. The automated water meter reading system helps accomplish this by reducing the required manpower to read water meters manually. This was estimated at approximately \$40,000 per year. In addition, the system provided important data when evaluating customer consumption and/or usage.

If the City provided an opt-out option, the City could potentially jeopardize the \$1 million water meter investment because the City would not be able to maximize the many options available with this new equipment.

He did not recommend the City provide an opt-out option. The City had been using radio read water meters for over 12-years with no health issues reported. In addition, the water meters were not connected directly to the home as was the electrical and gas meters. The water meter was safer than a cellphone, a microwave oven, a computer and/or a television. He was not aware of any requirement or law that required a water utility and/or City to provide an opt-out option.

He requested Council authorize the City Attorney to write a letter to the Ms. Alcala informing her that the City would not be implementing an opt-out option regarding the use of the radio read water meters within the City of Grandview.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Everett, second by Councilmember Jennings, the C.O.W. agreed to not implement an opt-out option and authorized the City Attorney to advise Ms. Alcala accordingly.**

Roll Call Vote:

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

## **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

2019 Annual Audit Risk Assessment – Mayor Mendoza requested a Councilmember participate in a risk assessment telephone interview with the Washington State Auditor regarding the City's 2019 Annual Audit on December 2, 2020. Councilmember Diaz volunteered.

Wine Country Road Transportation Improvement Board Grant – City Administrator Arteaga advised that the Transportation Improvement Board announced the grant award of the City's application for Wine Country Road from the Euclid intersection to the freeway interchange improvements.

Employee Appreciation – Councilmember Jennings requested that the Council discuss employee appreciation ideas at the next C.O.W. meeting.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Mayor Gloria Mendoza

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Anita Palacios, City Clerk