

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 23, 2024**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Ashley Lara called the Committee-of-the-Whole (C.O.W.) meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

The meeting was held in person and was also available via teleconference.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present in person: Mayor Lara and Councilmembers David Diaz, Laura Flores, Bill Moore (Mayor Pro Tem), Javier Rodriguez and Joan Souders

Present via teleconference: None

Absent: Councilmembers Steve Barrientes and Robert Ozuna

Staff present: City Administrator Shane Fisher, City Attorney Quinn Plant, City Treasurer Matt Cordray, Police Chief Kal Fuller, Public Works Director Hector Mejia and City Clerk Anita Palacios.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. School Resource Officer Program**

Police Chief Fuller explained that the Grandview Police Department (GPD) and the Grandview School District (GSD) were co-involved in a School Resource Officer (SRO) program since about 2000. The GSD paid 50% of the salary for each SRO provided by GPD. At points in time there were two SRO positions and at other points in time there was no SRO assigned. In about 2019, a budget presentation to Council mapped out a plan to pre-hire for ongoing retirements. The plan would have also provided enough employees to be able to meet GSD's request to assign two SRO's to the schools. The plan to pre-hire was not funded and so the idea of two SRO's was impossible. The lack of pre-hiring for retirements created what has now been a five-year period of operating below minimum staffing levels for GPD. GPD would not be back to minimum staffing levels no sooner than May of 2025. The SRO program was appreciated by GSD, the teachers and student families it served. There was value to GPD in public perception/relations because of having an SRO program. There was not necessarily a strong cost vs. benefit analysis for an SRO program. GPD pays 50% of the SRO salary, but at best only gets 10% of the SRO's time. Although GSD supports the program in theory, they were not completely satisfied with the staffing choices that GPD has made to fill the SRO position.

GPD kept the SRO program during the past four years of under-staffing because it was believed that the SRO program was seen as more important perception-wise than providing the City with on-the-road police coverage. For various reasons, however, GPD would not be able to fund or staff the program when school starts up again in August for the 2024-2025 school year.

Due to lack of funding and staffing, the SRO program was currently unsustainable. There were

several factors that bear on this decision:

- Due to not pre-hiring for retirements, GPD has a very young department and currently lacks officers with the years of experience necessary to fill an SRO position.
- GPD currently has no officers interested in leaving the road to work as an SRO.
- Two years ago, GPD placed a sergeant in the SRO position as an experiment. Due to mandatory supervisory duties, the sergeant has not been able to meet either school expectations or properly fulfill GPD requirements.
- GPD was the lowest staffed agency per-capita in the county. With additional State mandates and Grandview population growth, GPD officers were not able to keep up with basic road duties.
- So far in 2024 there were over 60 unfilled road shifts. These were shifts that were not filled because of officer burnout and excessive overtime.

GPD was very much in favor of the SRO program and would be willing to place an officer back in the schools as soon as GPD was supported with staffing and funding to do so. As far behind as GPD have currently dropped, it would take at least 3 years before GPD would be able to consider restarting the program. Restarting the program would only be possible after an addition of new officer positions. If the SRO position was terminated, the officer would return to the road to address basic city patrol needs.

For multiple reasons, the current SRO program was unsustainable. The officer currently assigned to the SRO position was needed back on the road to provide basic coverage for the City. GPD asks to be authorized to mutually agree with GSD to cancel the SRO contract in August of 2024 and direct a budget amendment in the amount of \$55,000 (officer wages and benefits) to make up for funds lost in the contract with GSD.

Discussion took place. Action would be forthcoming under New Business (C) Ordinance amending the 2024 Annual Budget.

**B. Resolution authorizing the Police Chief to execute and administer an Interlocal Agreement for participation in the Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD) Task Force**

Police Chief Fuller explained that on October 15, 1990, Council approved Resolution No. 90-59, authorizing the Mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) to participate in the Lower Valley Drug Task Force. The Task Force includes various police agencies, as well as the Washington State Patrol and the Yakima County Sheriff Office. The purpose of the LEAD Drug Task Force was to address drug trafficking and gang violence throughout the valley. The ILA gives authority to the Police Chief, as a member of the executive board, to sign and approve changes to the ILA on behalf of the City. He presented a revised ILA which included some minor changes in wording from the previous years' ILA. The new ILA language was reviewed by the City Attorney.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Diaz, the C.O.W. moved a resolution authorizing the Police Chief to execute and administer an Interlocal Agreement for participation in the Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD) Task Force to the August 13, 2024 regular Council meeting for consideration.**

Vote:

- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Flores – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes
- Councilmember Rodriguez – Yes
- Councilmember Souders – Yes

**C. Ordinance amending the 2024 Annual Budget**

City Treasurer explained that staff monitoring and review of fund and department budgets identified numerous budget accounts to be amended. An ordinance was prepared to provide for the amending of the 2024 Annual Budget to accommodate the changes in sources and uses. By Fund the highlights of the budget changes were:

- Current Expense Fund: Increased revenues for Building Permits, Investment Interest, Judgements and Settlements and NSF Checks Receivable. Decreased revenues for School Resource Officer. Increased appropriations for Election Services – County, NSF Checks Remitted, Supplies To Fight Opioid Epidemic, Police Corrections Professional Services and Inspections and Permits Professional Services. Net effect was a decrease in estimated ending fund balance.
- Street Fund: Increased appropriations for Roadway Professional Services and Street Lighting Public Utility Services. Net effect was a decrease in estimated ending fund balance.
- Equipment Rental Fund: Increased appropriations for Office & Operating Supplies. Net effect was a decrease in estimated ending fund balance.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Souders, the C.O.W. moved an ordinance amending the 2024 Annual Budget to the July 23, 2024 regular Council meeting for consideration.**

Vote:

- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Flores – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes
- Councilmember Rodriguez – Yes
- Councilmember Souders – Yes

**5. CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND/OR STAFF REPORTS**

Council Retreat – The Council Retreat was scheduled for August 1 and 2, 2024 in the Program Room at the Grandview Library.

Municipal Code Update - Chickens – City Administrator Fisher reported that it has been brought to his attention the request to allow chickens inside City limits. This request would be considered during the municipal code update currently underway.

Northwest Grandview Infrastructure Improvements SIED Application – City Administrator Fisher reported that City representatives along with developers, presented an application to the Yakima County Supporting Investments in Economic Development (SIED) Board to fund the Northwest Grandview Infrastructure Improvement Project. The City's application was awarded for \$2 million (half grant/half loan) to construct water, sewer and roadway frontage improvements to approximately 44 acres of land zoned as general commercial and industrial along Wine Country Road, Higgins Way and Bethany Road.

City Construction Projects – Public Works Director Mejia provided an update on the following City construction projects:

- Wine Country Road Overlay – Euclid to Grandridge
- Mike Bren Memorial Park Restroom
- OIE (Welch) Sewer Main Improvements

**6. MAYOR & COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Rodriguez, the C.O.W. meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.**

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Mayor Ashley Lara

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Anita Palacios, City Clerk