

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 12, 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 Ashley Lara, Councilmembers David Diaz, Laura Flores, Bill Moore (Mayor Pro Tem), Robert Ozuna, Javier Rodriguez and Joan Souders

Present via teleconference: None

Absent: Councilmember Steve Barrientes

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

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement with the Yakima County District Court for Probation Services**

City Clerk Palacios explained that Grandview Municipal Court contracts with Yakima County District Court for court services. In the past, probation services were included in the court contract. In 2018, Yakima County District Court separated probation services from the court contract. The City entered into a separate four-year agreement with Yakima County District Court for probation services. On November 9, 2021, the Grandview Probation Services Agreement with Yakima County District Court was renewed for January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024. District Court Administrator Therese Murphy attended the October 22, 2024 C.O.W. meeting to discuss the cost increase for probation services and the new costing model that appropriates to each entity the cost associated with the work being performed by probation services. The Probation Services Agreement with Yakima County District Court would expire December 31, 2024. Staff presented for Council consideration the new Probation Services Interlocal Agreement between the City and Yakima County District Court effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2029.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Ozuna, second by Councilmember Moore, the C.O.W. moved a resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement with the Yakima County District Court for Probation Services to the November 26, 2024 regular Council meeting for consideration.**

Vote:

- Councilmember Barrientes – Absent
- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Flores – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes
- Councilmember Ozuna – Yes
- Councilmember Rodriguez – Yes
- Councilmember Souders – Yes

**B. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a Public Defender Agreement with the Law Office of Beck and Phillips, PLLC**

City Clerk Palacios explained that the City contracts with Yakima County District Court for municipal court services. Under the terms of the Yakima County District Court contract, the City was to provide indigent defense services to indigent defendants. At the September 10, 2024 C.O.W. meeting, City Attorney Plant explained that the City was required to provide an attorney for people prosecuted by the City whom cannot afford an attorney, commonly referred to as "indigent defense." Since 2012, the City has contracted with the law firm of Beck and Phillips, PLLC, for indigent defense services. The contract has contemplated that Beck and Phillips would handle up to 350 cases per year for the City. Since 2021, Beck and Phillips have handled between 250 and 300 cases per year. The compensation provided to Beck and Phillips has increased at roughly 10 percent per year since 2012, from \$69,000 in 2015, to \$107,470 in 2024. The current contract expires at the end of 2024, and negotiations over a successor contract were ongoing. Recent developments at the state level have consequences for indigent defense services. In March 2024, the Washington Supreme Court published mandatory standards limiting the number of cases attorneys doing criminal defense work may handle in a given year. The standards were complicated, but could be summarized as containing the following limitations:

- Starting 7/2/2025, an attorney may handle no more than **280** misdemeanor cases per year;
- Starting 7/2/2026, an attorney may handle no more than **225** misdemeanor cases per year;
- Starting 7/2/2027, an attorney may handle no more than **120** misdemeanor cases per year.

The main implication of this development was that starting in mid-2026, Beck and Phillips would no longer be able to provide defense services for the City commensurate with the historical number of prosecutions. The City could respond by (1) hiring additional indigent defense counsel, and/or (2) reducing the number of cases it was prosecuting. The standards would also have the effect of increasing the cost of indigent defense services, and would require decisions from City Council. First, the City Council should anticipate that the cost of providing indigent services would increase and should budget accordingly. Second, City staff would need direction on whether to begin exploring how to reduce the number of cases that were prosecuted by the City. This could include, for example, implementing a pre-trial diversion program. If City Council wished the City to maintain the current level of prosecutions, it may be appropriate to begin searching for additional indigent defense counsel. It has been the experience of staff that it was difficult to locate attorneys willing to do this work.

Staff requested the Law Office of Beck and Phillips, PLLC, submit a proposal for renewal of the Public Defender Agreement. They proposed an additional 18 months contract renewal at a cost of \$205,000 commencing January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. The prior contract allocated \$2,000 for interpreters and \$5,000 for investigators. This is now reversed, \$5,000 for interpreters and \$2,000 for investigators, so no net change. Said renewal Agreement was presented for Council consideration.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Souders, the C.O.W. moved a resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a Public Defender Agreement with the Law Office of Beck and Phillips, PLLC to the November 26, 2024 regular Council meeting for consideration.**

Vote:

- Councilmember Barrientes – Absent
- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Flores – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes
- Councilmember Ozuna – Yes
- Councilmember Rodriguez – Yes
- Councilmember Souders – Yes

**C. Ordinance amending Grandview Municipal Code Section 13.28.140 Imposition of delinquency charge – Shutoff as method of enforcement**

City Clerk Palacios explained that currently, utility accounts with a \$20.00 past due were not disconnected for nonpayment or issued a doorhanger. The last time the threshold increased was in 2014 from \$15.00 to \$20.00. The Utility Billing Clerk recommended the threshold be increased to \$30.00 for the following reasons:

- Utility bills were increasing and the threshold should also be increased.
- Customers' bills range from \$200 - \$300 that do not have irrigation water, therefore their late fees were \$20 - \$30 per month.
- This past month, a customer was disconnected for having a past due of \$21.66 (late fee). The customer paid their September bill late on October 11<sup>th</sup>, but did not pay the late fee. When the customer received the doorhanger on October 15<sup>th</sup>, they ignored it thinking they would not be disconnected for \$21.66. In addition, another customer was disconnected for a late fee of \$22.25.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Diaz, second by Councilmember Moore, the C.O.W. moved an ordinance amending Grandview Municipal Code Section 13.28.140 Imposition of delinquency charge – Shutoff as method of enforcement to the November 26, 2024 regular Council meeting for consideration.**

Vote:

- Councilmember Barrientes – Absent
- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Flores – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes
- Councilmember Ozuna – Yes
- Councilmember Rodriguez – Yes
- Councilmember Souders – Yes

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

City Treasurer Cordray 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 appropriations for Planning Professional Services. Net effect was a decrease in estimated ending fund balance.
- Street Fund: Increased revenues for Yakima County Reimbursement. Increased appropriations for OIE Hwy project. Net effect was no change in estimated ending fund balance.
- NW Grandview Infrastructure Fund: Increased revenues for Yakima County SIED Loan. Net effect was an increase in estimated ending fund balance.
- Solid Waste Fund: Increased appropriations for Operating Rentals & Leases. Net effect was a decrease in estimated ending fund balance.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Ozuna, the C.O.W. moved an ordinance amending the 2024 Annual Budget to the November 26, 2024 regular Council meeting for consideration.**

Vote:

- Councilmember Barrientes – Absent
- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Flores – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes
- Councilmember Ozuna – Yes
- Councilmember Rodriguez – Yes
- Councilmember Souders – Yes

**E. Resolution approving the final plat of Grapevine Estates – Phase 3 located on North Euclid Road**

Public Works Director Mejia explained that at the April 26, 2022 City Council meeting, Council adopted Resolution No. 2022-17 approving the Grapevine Estates Preliminary Plat Residential Subdivision – 97 Lots. Following approval of the preliminary plat, the developer proceeded with the public infrastructure improvements for Grapevine Estates subject to the conditions as outlined

in the Hearing Examiner's recommendation and per Grandview Municipal Code Section 16.24 Design Standards and Section 16.28 Improvements. The public infrastructure improvements for Grapevine Estates – Phase 3 consisting of 31 lots has been completed to the City's standards. The final plat map for Grapevine Estates – Phase 3 was presented for Council consideration.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Diaz, the C.O.W. moved a resolution approving the final plat of Grapevine Estates – Phase 3 located on North Euclid Road to the November 12, 2024 regular Council meeting for consideration.**

Vote:

- Councilmember Barrientes – Absent
- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Flores – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes
- Councilmember Ozuna – Yes
- Councilmember Rodriguez – Yes
- Councilmember Souders – Yes

**F. Resolution approving the final plat of Grandridge Estates – Phase 12 located on Grandridge Road**

Public Works Director Mejia explained that at the March 24, 2020 City Council meeting, Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-13 approving the Grandridge Estates Subdivision 227-lot preliminary plat. Following approval of the preliminary plat, the developer proceeded with the public infrastructure improvements for Grandridge Estates subject to the conditions as outlined in the Hearing Examiner's recommendation and per Grandview Municipal Code Section 16.24 Design Standards and Section 16.28 Improvements. The public infrastructure improvements for Grandridge Estates – Phase 12 consisting of 31 lots were completed to the City's standards. The final plat map for Grandridge Estates – Phase 12 was presented for Council consideration.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Ozuna, second by Councilmember Souders, the C.O.W. moved a resolution approving the final plat of Grandridge Estates – Phase 12 located on Grandridge Road to the November 12, 2024 regular Council meeting for consideration.**

Vote:

- Councilmember Barrientes – Absent
- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Flores – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes
- Councilmember Ozuna – Yes
- Councilmember Rodriguez – Yes
- Councilmember Souders – Yes

**G. Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for two future City events at the Country Park Amphitheater**

City Administrator Fisher explained that the ARPA Committee appropriated \$20,000 to go towards two (2) city events to promote the Country Park Amphitheater. The process to select an event organizer must be conducted using a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) process. The ARPA Committee has been working together to create the RFQ application for funding. The application was now complete, and the Committee wanted to discuss the process with Council before the advertisement for RFQ proposals was published. Once proposals were received, the ARPA Committee would review the submittals and score them based on the criteria stated in the application. Based on the scoring criteria, Council would make a selection and award the event to the successful proposal. The ARPA Committee allocated \$10,000 for each event.

Discussion took place. No action was taken.

**H. ARPA Update**

City Administrator Fisher provided an update on the following ARPA items:

- Phone System
- Police Department Fitness Facility
- Extrication Tools
- Marketing Materials
- Amphitheater Events
- Downtown Sound System
- Youth Center Activities/Library Programs
- Skateboard Park for Youth
- Pool Splash Pad
- Grandview/Sunnyside Pathway
- Park Playground Equipment
- Pickleball Courts
- Fairground Amphitheater Sound System
- Transfer Out - Cemetery

Discussion took place. No action was taken.

**I. ICSC Las Vegas Convention Attendance – May 18-20, 2025**

City Administrator Fisher advised that the ICSC Conference would be held on May 18-20, 2025 at the Las Vegas Convention Center. He questioned whether or not Council would like a delegation to attend on behalf of the City.

Discussion took place. No action was taken.

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

2025 AWC City Action Days – City Administrator Fisher reported that the 2025 AWC City Action Days was scheduled for February 19-20, 2025 in Olympia.

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

- Mike Bren Memorial Park Restroom
- Kang residential subdivision development sewer main extension on Bonnieview Road
- Public Works winter weekend hours November 16, 2024 – March 15, 2025
- Cherry Acres residential subdivision development
- Welch Sewer Main Improvements

6. **MAYOR & COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS** – None

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

**On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Souders, the C.O.W. meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.**

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Mayor Ashley Lara

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Anita Palacios, City Clerk