



**CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 4, 2015
7:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Hartman called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Pro Tem Hartman led the Council, Staff and Audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. ROLL CALL

City Council

Mayor Pro Tem Matt Hartman Present
Tess Greene Present
Suzie Ashworth Present
Tom Collins Present
Tom FitzGerald Present

City Staff

City Clerk Darla Reese
City Administrator Brent Kirk

Consultants

Tom Graafstra, Weed, Graafstra & Assoc.
Chief Scott Robertson, SCSO
Warren Perkins, Gray & Osborne, Inc.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. AB 139-2015 Approval of November 4, 2015 Claims Checks #405382 through #405417 totaling \$30,157.03.**
- B. AB 140-2015 Approval of October 1, 2015 to October 15, 2015 Payroll Checks #27820 through #27822 and Nine EFT's totaling \$27,140.29.**

City Clerk Reese mentioned the change in claims as two checks were incorrectly written and were voided. Two new checks were cut for the proper amounts bringing a change in check numbers and a final amount.

Councilmember Ashworth moved to approve Consent Agenda with changes. Motion seconded by Councilmember Collins and passed 5-0.

Councilmember Collins – Aye, Councilmember Ashworth – Aye, Councilmember FitzGerald – Aye, Councilmember Greene – Aye, Councilmember Hartman – Aye

5. STAFF REPORTS

Chief Robertson mentioned he put in for a Citizen Medal of Valor award for Brett Benzeone (took hand gun away from other juvenile) banquet in January; break in at baseball field – arrest coming soon; Halloween handouts – 400 hot dogs; thanked Tom Dalton for building jail and Danny Meeks for the materials.

City Administrator Kirk mentioned the pad has been poured for the gazebo at Jim Holm Park, and the stairs should be finished tomorrow.

City Clerk Reese mentioned that there will be Transportation Benefit District meetings on November 18th and December 2nd at 6:30 pm on the budget.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS-NON ACTION ITEMS

Fred Cruger, 7020-230th Avenue NE, Granite Falls

Mr. Cruger thanked the Council for moving forward on Proposition 1 on the ballot this year – a change in form of government. As the Planning Commission Chair, he encouraged the Council to adopt the Ordinance on the Agenda tonight dealing with the Comprehensive Plan update. The Planning Commission is working on the UDC in anticipation for the success of Proposition 1, so there should not be any delays in getting it through on time.

7. NEW BUSINESS

F. AB 144-2015 Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance No. 898-2015 2015-2035 Comprehensive Plan Update Adoption

Councilmember Greene moved the City Council adopt and authorize the Mayor Pro Tem to sign Ordinance No. 898-2015, an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Granite Falls, Washington, approving the 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update as the City of Granite Falls 2015-2035 Comprehensive Plan, and providing for an effective date, submission to the State and Snohomish County, severability and summary publication. Motion seconded by Councilmember Ashworth and passed 5-0.

Councilmember Collins – Aye, Councilmember Ashworth – Aye, Councilmember FitzGerald – Aye, Councilmember Greene – Aye, Councilmember Hartman – Aye

A. AB 141-2015 Public Hearing – 7:15 PM

For Consideration of Possible Increases in Property Tax Revenues for the 2016 Budget.

Councilmember Collins moved to open the public hearing. Motion seconded by Councilmember Greene and passed 5-0.

Councilmember Collins – Aye, Councilmember Ashworth – Aye, Councilmember FitzGerald – Aye, Councilmember Greene – Aye, Councilmember Hartman – Aye

City Clerk Reese entered the following exhibits into the record:

Exhibit 1 – Public Hearing Notice Dated October 23, 2015, 1 page

Exhibit 2 – Verification of Public Hearing Posting Dated October 23, 2015, 1 page

Exhibit 3 – Affidavit of Publication from the Everett Herald dated October 23, 2015, 2 pages

Exhibit 4 – Ordinance No. 899-2015, 2 pages

Exhibit 5 – Resolution No. 2015-07, 2 pages

Exhibit 6 – City of Granite Falls 2016 Property Tax Worksheet, 1 page

City Administrator Kirk explained the property tax spread (distribution), banked capacity, and property values increase.

Councilmember FitzGerald asked what the constituents would see as a total end result.

City Administrator Kirk replied approximately 5% total on a \$200,000 home.

City Attorney Graafstra explained the levy increase.

Councilmember Greene moved to open the public testimony. Motion seconded by Councilmember Collins and passed 5-0.

Councilmember Collins – Aye, Councilmember Ashworth – Aye, Councilmember FitzGerald – Aye, Councilmember Greene – Aye, Councilmember Hartman – Aye

Fred Cruger, 7020-230th Avenue NE, Granite Falls

Mr. Cruger mentioned another way of saying the valuation increase was \$1.00 per \$10,000 of assessed value across the city that will be collected.

Councilmember Greene moved to close the public testimony. Motion seconded by Councilmember Ashworth and passed 5-0.

Councilmember Collins – Aye, Councilmember Ashworth – Aye, Councilmember FitzGerald – Aye, Councilmember Greene – Aye, Councilmember Hartman – Aye

Councilmember Collins moved to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Councilmember Ashworth and passed 5-0.

Councilmember Collins – Aye, Councilmember Ashworth – Aye, Councilmember FitzGerald – Aye, Councilmember Greene – Aye, Councilmember Hartman – Aye

Councilmember Greene moved to adopt Ordinance No. 899-2015, an Ordinance Fixing the Amount of Taxes to be Levied in the Sum of \$441,020 and Levying the Same Upon all Taxable Property, both Real and Personal, in the City of Granite Falls, Washington, for Collection in 2016. Motion seconded by Councilmember Collins and passed 5-0.

Councilmember Collins – Aye, Councilmember Ashworth – Aye, Councilmember FitzGerald – Aye, Councilmember Greene – Aye, Councilmember Hartman – Aye

Councilmember FitzGerald moved to Adopt Resolution No. 2015-07, A Resolution of Intent Authorizing an Increase in Property Tax Revenue for Collection in 2016 in Terms of Both Dollars and Percentages for the General Operating Levy in 2016. Motion seconded by Councilmember Collins and passed 5-0.

Councilmember Collins – Aye, Councilmember Ashworth – Aye, Councilmember FitzGerald – Aye, Councilmember Greene – Aye, Councilmember Hartman – Aye

B. AB 142-2015 Public Hearing – 7:30 PM

For Consideration of Resolution No. 2015-06 & Ordinance No. 900-2015

Setting the Amount for the Monthly Water, Sewer and Storm Drainage Utility Rates

Councilmember Collins moved to open the public hearing. Motion seconded by Councilmember Greene and passed 5-0.

Councilmember Collins – Aye, Councilmember Ashworth – Aye, Councilmember FitzGerald – Aye, Councilmember Greene – Aye, Councilmember Hartman – Aye

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Exhibit 4 – Ordinance No. 900-2015, 4 pages

Exhibit 5 – Resolution No. 2015-06, 19 pages

City Administrator Kirk reviewed rates and increases. He discussed the 2015 comparison chart with other cities in the county, letter to the customers on increase, stormwater billing methodology changes, catch basins & detention pond cleanings, ecology requirements, changing to annual stormwater billing with the county, and discrepancies with industrial and commercial methodologies.

Councilmembers asked about clarification on a stormwater charge examples and notification of citizens on the rate changes.

Councilmember Greene moved to open the public testimony. Motion seconded by Councilmember Collins and passed 5-0.

Councilmember Collins – Aye, Councilmember Ashworth – Aye, Councilmember FitzGerald – Aye, Councilmember Greene – Aye, Councilmember Hartman – Aye

No one from the audience chose to comment.

Councilmember Greene moved to close the public testimony. Motion seconded by Councilmember Collins and passed 5-0.

Councilmember Collins – Aye, Councilmember Ashworth – Aye, Councilmember FitzGerald – Aye, Councilmember Greene – Aye, Councilmember Hartman – Aye

Councilmember Collins moved to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Councilmember Ashworth and passed 5-0.

Councilmember Collins – Aye, Councilmember Ashworth – Aye, Councilmember FitzGerald – Aye, Councilmember Greene – Aye, Councilmember Hartman – Aye

**C. AB 142A-2015 Consideration of Ordinance No. 900-2015.
Setting Stormwater rates and billing methods beginning January 1, 2016
(Public Hearing-Utility Rates)**

Councilmember Greene moved to Adopt Ordinance No. 900-2015, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Granite Falls, Washington, Amending Granite Falls Municipal Code Section 13.20.150 by Adding New Subsections (C), (D) and (E) to Establish Rates for 2016 and to Provide Methods for Collection of the Rates and Charges Imposed; Providing for Severability and Effective Date. Motion seconded by Councilmember Collins and passed 5-0.

Councilmember Collins – Aye, Councilmember Ashworth – Aye, Councilmember FitzGerald – Aye, Councilmember Greene – Aye, Councilmember Hartman – Aye

D. AB 142B-2015 Consideration of Resolution 2015-06 setting utility rates for water, sewer and stormwater service.

(Public Hearing – Utility Rates)

Councilmember Ashworth moved to Approve Resolution No. 2015-06, A Resolution Repealing Resolution No. 2015-02 and Adopting a New Resolution No. 2015-06 Setting the Amounts for Revised Water, Sewer and Storm Water Utility Rates and Charges. Motion seconded by Councilmember Greene and passed 5-0.

Councilmember Collins – Aye, Councilmember Ashworth – Aye, Councilmember FitzGerald – Aye, Councilmember Greene – Aye, Councilmember Hartman – Aye

E. AB 143-2015 Discussion of Tethering/Containment Ordinance.

Kristi Everett, 21419 Wait Mill Road, Granite Falls

Mrs. Everett discussed her draft ordinance with the Council. She will work with Chief Robertson and City Administrator Kirk on a draft ordinance that can be sent to the City Attorney for review prior to having it come back to the Council for action.

G. AB 145-2015 Consideration of City of Granite Falls Investment Fund Policy.

Councilmember Collins moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-05, adopting a policy for investment of city funds. Motion seconded by Councilmember Greene and passed 3-2.

Councilmember Collins – Aye, Councilmember Ashworth – Aye, Councilmember FitzGerald – Nay, Councilmember Greene – Aye, Councilmember Hartman – Nay

*This item will be brought back with language changes at the beginning of the year and more information on:

- Changing the Mayor delegation of authority;
- Looking into alternative banking options and what they are.

8. CURRENT BUSINESS (None)

9. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Councilmember Hartman met with Brent & Sean Connell (Economic Director of Snohomish County). He hopes the Council can form a committee soon to meet on economic development and tourism. He also mentioned the election on change to Manager/Council form of government which looks to be passing, and thanked both Brent for his knowledge tonight and also thanked the voters of the City for passing this.

10. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Ashworth thanked the local businesses, City Hall, Police Department, and churches for Halloween. She further mentioned the good comments she heard on the Park renovations.

Councilmember Greene had no comments.

Councilmember Collins mentioned the low turnout numbers of trick or treaters at his house this year.

Councilmember FitzGerald mentioned he will be in Langley on December 9th and may need to be excused. He further mentioned the deadline for attending the Snohomish County Cities Dinner on November 12th and asked Mayor Pro Tem Hartman if he would like to attend.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember FitzGerald moved to enter into Executive Session at 8:55pm for 15 minutes to discuss the collective bargaining agreement. Motion seconded by Councilmember Greene and passed 5-0.

Councilmember Collins – Aye, Councilmember Ashworth – Aye, Councilmember FitzGerald – Aye, Councilmember Greene – Aye, Councilmember Hartman – Aye

Councilmember Greene moved to exit Executive Session at 9:10 pm. Motion seconded by Councilmember Collins and passed 5-0.

Councilmember Collins – Aye, Councilmember Ashworth – Aye, Councilmember FitzGerald – Aye, Councilmember Greene – Aye, Councilmember Hartman – Aye

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Hartman adjourned the meeting.

City Clerk Darla Reese, CMC

Mayor Pro Tem Matthew Hartman