

# GRANGER CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

6:00PM  
October 22, 2024,

City Hall  
102 Main Street

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Hilda Gonzalez called the workshop to order at 6:00 p.m.

## **COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Susie Munoz	Francisco Tijerina, Public Works Director
Israel Bustamante	Juan Ceja, Police Chief
Judi Montes	Terry Carter, Fire Chief
Ryan Stonemetz	Fantasia Reyes, Clerk-Treasurer
Alfredo Reyes - Absent	

## **ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO CONSENT AGENDA**

- A** Review Minutes of Workshop dated October 08, 2024
- B** Review Minutes of Council dated October 08, 2024
- C** Review the accounts payable dated for October 22, 2024, in the amount of \$48,668.40
- D** Review payroll dated October 18, 2024, in the amount of \$63,688.32

No discussion or questions on the following items on the consent agenda items A-D.

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

*None.*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

*None.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **City Hall**

#### **Resolution 2024-11**

The city clerk Fantasia explained that Yakima County provides the amount of taxes and the increase for 2025. All we have to do is adopt a resolution and submit a resolution and the certification to Yakima County. Councilmember Stonemetz asked if this was included in the twenty six percent that we just adopted and we city clerk and Mayor explained that was something different. This comes directly from the county.

#### **Resolution 2024-12**

*Mayor explained that this is just approval of completion of Main Street Phase 1 for HLA so they can close the project.*

## **DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS**

The Fire Department explained that he has got the command vehicle striped, and the Fire Department was awarded fifteen thousand dollars from GESA Credit Union on a grant they applied for.

## **MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Hilda Gonzalez thanked Councilmember Stonemetz for running the meeting as Mayor Pro Tem. Mayor Gonzalez also explained she learned quite a bit about different items at a conference she attended in

## GRANGER CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Lake Chelan. Because she attended the City Received a five hundred dollar grant for prevention loss and we will be buying supplies for the Id Machine to make employees ID badges. It would help identify employees as city employees, where there has been impersonation so that would prevent something like that. Mayor explained the preliminary budget is in front of them and reminded them of our meeting on Saturday at eight in the morning. The mayor announced the city-school joint meeting tomorrow at five thirty at the middle school library. Mayor Gonzalez also announced we did not receive the ROC Grant for the past, but we will reach out to the grant manager to see what we missed and learn from it. Mayor Gonzalez announced statistics from library usage. Mayor reminded about the trunk or treat on October 31<sup>st</sup> from five to seven. Mayor Gonzalez also reminded about the take back medication event on October twenty-six at ten in the morning at the KDNA. Mayor Gonzalez provided council and department heads with thank you notes that we received from third graders that took a tour of city hall and the court, she will display them in the foyer of city hall.

### COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Stonemetz explained at a YVCOG meeting there was discussion about all police dept and fire dept will be all on the same dispatch so everyone can be in the loop of calls and that would be paid for their taxes. It will be something that will be voted on. The Fire Chief explained that Fire District 5 will probably not be interested in something in that, and they will continue to have their own dispatch. Mayor asked if anything they can opt out of, and Fire Chief responded he does believe they can. The Police Chief explained they only can hear some channels not all, we can hear Toppenish or Sunnyside because they are on different channels. Councilmember Bustamante asked do we pay for the dispatch right now and Chief explained yes, and it cost forty-nine thousand. Bustamante asked so would we pay for that new system and Mayor explained that no it would be paid from taxes because it is on the ballot.

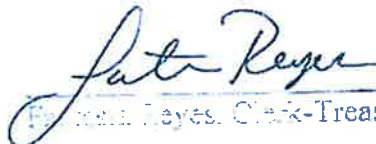
### ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilmember Stonemetz to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Bustamante.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 PM.

ATTEST

  
Patricia Reyes, Clerk-Treasurer

 11.14.24  
Mayor Kilda Gonzalez

APPROVED TO FORM:

  
Secretary, Granger City Attorney

# GRANGER CITY COUNCIL

October 22, 2024,  
7:00 p.m.

City Hall  
102 Main Street

## MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hilda Gonzalez called the meeting of October 22 ,2024, to order at 7:00 p.m.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGEINCE

Councilmember Bustamante led the Flag Salute

### COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Susie Muñoz	Frank Tijerina, Public Works Director
Israel Bustamante	Juan Ceja, Chief of Police
Judi Montes	Terry Carter, Fire Chief
Ryan Stonemetz	Fantasia Reyes, Clerk-Treasurer
Alfredo Reyes	

### CONSENT AGENDA

- A** Approve Minutes of Workshop dated October 22, 2024
- B** Approve Minutes of Council dated October 22, 2024
- C** Approve the accounts payable dated for October 22, 2024, in the amount of \$48,668.40
- D** Approve payroll dated October 18, 2024, in the amount of \$63,688.32

It was moved by Councilmember Stonemetz to approve the consent agenda with items A-D as follows. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Munoz.

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

### AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Noemi Cuevas 811 Sharon lane- This is the first time I am here. First of all, I do not understand the process and that's why I am here to understand. I don't think that it was fair what you decided to on be increasing the water bill. She was explaining to me that a little but every time we come we get a different story, so I just want to know how it exactly works. One of the city ladies told my husband that for the last twenty years they will be being charged a dollar a year or something like that. Another story that I got from her yesterday is that the city has loan/debts and that is why we decided to increase the water bill, and you also reduce the water we can use. We would like more of a straight answer and how it works. I know as city council you guys have to vote for this and there is only six of you guys against the whole community. Only four of us because other people ae afraid because of immigration or other situation or time. Or maybe their like me thinking what's the point coming here for it if the council Is going to do what their want. We live in community that are farm workers don't have stable job, and I think the extra forty dollars is too much. Is there anyway we can see the video of the last meeting because when I came by there was no one here. Mayor explained that we have a process, and meetings can be done in five minutes depending on what is on the agenda. That meeting ended very quickly because there was not a lot on the agenda. Noemi asked can we have that video, Mayor explained that she can find them on Facebook or MVTV.com. Mayor explained all the meetings you can find online along with the utility rates and the explanation of why we raised the rates. What Fantasia provided you yesterday was accurate. Mayor gave Noemi a brief explanation on why we needed to increase the utilities. Noemi responded

## GRANGER CITY COUNCIL

that when we have to pay more bills at home we have to work more or financial cutting. Have you guys tried to do financial cutting for city employees. Mayor explained we are short staff as it is and we have to maintain our team members that we have now to provide safety, maintenance. Councilmember Munoz explained she thanked them for coming and encouraged everyone to come to the meetings to be informed. Councilmember Munoz explained how she made a decision and asked questions. Council member Stonemetz explained that you can come at six so we can talk more about this. The community not being financially stable we had to raise the rates since there has been no raise for years. The increases affected all of us up here not just you guys. Unfortunately, we look like the bad guys because nothing was one in the last sixteen years. Councilmember Stonemetz explained if we didn't raise rates we would go bankrupt and would go over to that state and the bills you're paying now would be quadrupled. Mayor explained she is in the office between nine and six if you have any other questions.

Saida Birrueta 712 Matthew Ave-We hear a lot of complaints about the increase of the bills. You guys haven't increased in sixteen years as Ryan Said and it is a big increase. I was paying sixty-seventy dollars; now I am paying two hundred eighteen dollars and there is only two of us in the house. Then there is people out there that have finished working and no longer working and they have a family of three to four kids. Those families are the ones that are suffering. Those families are scared to show up to say something because they are afraid of immigration. But there is a lot of cases of families talking about the increase of the water bill. Mayor Gonzalez responded with thank you and that we also receive those complaints on a daily basis, and we listen, and we explain to you and everyone in the audience. I understand and I can relate to the struggles of the community. Sitting in the chair doesn't yield me the salary I get is probably not even what you get in the month so I can relate to the struggle of the community. Councilmember Munoz thanked the audience for coming and it would be better for them to come to the workshop so we can have a better discussion because time at council is limited.

Silvia Zarate 313 D ST- I'm hearing that we have to tough it up and pay the bills. Next time when I do come, I want to go back to the people and show them that I met with administration, and they have a plan have a plan this are the resources instead of telling them we have to tough it out. Thank you.

Jaime Birrueta 712 Matthew Ave- You raised the utility bill, but did you guys lower the amount of the minimum usage of gallons. Mayor explained that most of the community was using less than five thousand gallons of water. Councilmember Bustamante explained in that video the explanation of rates and explained that not lot of people would go over that amount. Jaime explained well mine comes out expensive. Councilmember Bustamante explained that the account wanted us to lower it more than that and the city said no that it was to low. Mayor explained that the city wasn't going to go that low on the minimum usage. Councilmember Montes explained that he was worried to get billed double, but Mayor explained that there is only a charge if per thousand for sewer and water it's a small amount but not doubled.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **City Hall**

#### **Resolution 2024-11**

It was moved by councilmember Munoz to approve Resolution 2024-11. Motion was seconded by councilmember Bustamante. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

# GRANGER CITY COUNCIL

## Resolution 2024-12

It was moved by councilmember Montes to approve Resolution 2024-12. Motion was seconded by councilmember Reyes. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

### ***Fund Totals 10/22/2024.***

Current Expense	\$ 19,377.74
Parks & Rec	\$
Streets	\$ 11,175.45
Criminal Justice Fund	\$ 2,602.70
Fed Housing Rehab Grant	\$
Crime Prevention	\$ 79.96
Festival/Float Fund	\$ 79.96
Bell Memorial Fund	\$
EMS Fire Trauma	\$ 528.13
Public Safety	\$
Water	\$ 8,014.73
Sewer	\$ 5,456.83
Garbage	\$ 1,151.89
Consumer Deposit Refund	\$
Irrigation	\$ 201.01
Court Bound Fund	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 48,668.40</b>

**Accounts Payable Checks for October 22, 2024: 48935-48967**

**Payroll for October 18, 2024: ACH \$63,688.32 (includes vendor payments).**

### **COUNCIL**

### **MAYOR**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Councilmember Montes to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Stonemetz.


**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39p.m.

  
Fantasia Reyes, City Clerk Treasurer

 11.14.24  
Hilda Gonzalez, Mayor

APPROVED TO FORM:

  
Seann Mumford, City Attorney