

GROVE CITY REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 10, 2015 @ 7PM

ALL PRESENT

CONSENT AGENDA: Council member Nelson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Council member Halterman. Motion carried.

MINUTES: The minutes from July 13th, 2015 were not in the council members packets; therefore, they will be approved at the next council meeting.

VISITORS: Gaarett Raasch told the council that he had a visit from the deputy that afternoon regarding his motor home being parked on the street overnight. He explained that his RV was licensed and insured and he had every right to park it on a city street. The ordinance needs to be revisited and he will be contacting the County Attorney regarding the ordinance. Council member Peterka read the ordinance and said that last summer there were complaints from citizens that they could not see oncoming traffic at the intersection. Raasch said that there are many ordinances on the books that the City has never enforced and felt that enforcing this ordinance against campers and RVs was not right. Charley Findling approached the council on the same topic. Findling asked if would look better to have his camper parked in his yard? Council member Peterka said the City Council would find people a place to park their vehicles. Peterka went on to say they could park their RVs behind the city shed for free. Later on in the meeting Mr. Moreno also approached the council about why they had the officer come and tell him he couldn't park his vehicles on the street.

Sharon Larson spoke to the council about all of the sand washing into the storm sewer by her house. The heavy rains washed loads of sand from the alley down the street into the storm sewers and wanted the council and engineers to be aware of the situation.

OLD BUSINESS

TREE TRIMMING: The city retained three bids with significantly varying prices. The bid from Mr. Dirt did not include mulching. After some discussion Mayor Drange made a motion to approve the bid from Mr. Dirt if had a qualified license to work around primary power lines and would do the clean up after trimming and his bid was still lower than Asplen. If not, then Drange felt they should go with Asplen. The motion was seconded by Council member Peterka. Motion carried.

SIGNS: Gaarder informed the council that the bid for new street signs from Newman Signs was cheaper than Earl F. Anderson. Council member Nelson made a motion to approve the bid from Newman Signs and order the new street signs needed. The motion was seconded by Council member Halterman. Motion carried.

ELECTRICAL OUTLETS FOR SOUTH GROVE: No bids were received as of yet so this topic was tabled to the next council meeting.

BEAN BAG BOARDS FOR THE CAMPGROUNDS: Matt Dahl had not submitted a bid as of yet so this topic is table to the next council meeting.

UNAPPROVED

BASKETBALL COURT: Council member Nelson stated that Mike Webb is trying to raise funds to fix up the basketball court. Nelson said he has looked into the topic somewhat but you really need to find a company that does that specific type of work in order to get a real bid on what it would cost to fix the courts.

WINDMILL REPAIR: The City Clerk gave the council some names of who they could call to see about getting some bids on repairing the mill. Sharon Larson said that she would call the state historical society and try to get some information. Halterman mentioned that a member of the Litchfield City Council had done some work on trying to get the Opera House restored and they might be of some help.

NEW BUSINESS

WESTBURG EICHENS – 2014 CITY AUDIT: Dave Euerle presented the 2014 annual audit to the City. In summary: “In the general fund, the revenues have exceeded the expenses in the last three years. Cash balance at year end is sufficient to cover six months of expenses. The City’s fund balance policy is to maintain a minimum fund balance of 40 to 50 percent of subsequent year’s budgeted expenditures. At the end of 2014, the fund balance was equal to 98% of 2015 budgeted expenditures.

In the water fund, revenue has exceeded operating expenses each year; however, the fund is not generating sufficient operating income to cover debt service payments. Annual debt service payments are approximately \$82,000 each year and the debt will not be paid until 2027.

In the sewer fund, revenue has exceeded expenses in the past four years. The cash balance has been decreasing due to expenses related to the future sewer project. The final debt payment was made in 2013.

In the electric fund, expenses have exceeded revenues in the past four years. The cost of purchased power was up significantly in 2013. Euerle recommended looking into the rates that the City is charging its customers.

In the EDA-Senior Housing Fund, revenue has exceeded expenses in the last four years; however, the fund is not generating sufficient operating income to cover the debt service payments. The annual debt service payments are approximately \$70,000 and the debt will not mature until 2021.”

SPECIAL EVENTS AT AUGUSTFEST: Council Member Nelson made a motion to approve all of the special events listed on the Augustfest flyers. The motion was seconded by Council Member Peterka. Motion carried.

CITY CONTRIBUTION TO “WELCOME TO GROVE CITY” SIGNS: Bergstrom explained that the Lion’s Club is working on getting some welcome signs on each end of town. They would like to start with one on the east end first because there isn’t a sign of any kind at this time. Installing a new sign on the west side of town may wait until next spring due to funds. She said that they are willing to take donations from anyone who would like to contribute towards this project and wanted to ask whether or not the City wanted to make a donation. After some discussion, Council Member Peterka made a motion that the City should donate \$500 towards the first sign. The motion was seconded by Council Member Halterman. Motion carried. Council Member Nelson opposed.

UNAPPROVED

SOUTH GROVE: The council received three bids on carpeting for an apartment at South Grove. The bid from Tom's Carpet was chosen; cost was \$2,254.27. The motion to approve Tom's Carpet was made by Council Member Peterka. The motion was seconded by Council Member Drange. Motion carried. There were three bids also obtained to paint the same apartment. A motion was made by Council Member Peterka and the seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion carried. Mayor Drange abstained from the motion.

BOLLIG-UPDATES: Bollig presented the pay application from Kraemer Excavating and Trucking in the amount of \$279,676.80. Council Member Peterka made a motion to approve the payment to Kraemer. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion carried. Council Member Halterman asked Bollig about the core samples they were doing around town. Brian Bollig said they were done but did not have the results as of yet. Brian explained that task orders 1-8 were all in relation to the new sanitary sewer project and should match up with the preliminary engineering report and Rural Development's agreement. He presented the council with the owner engineering agreement which follows Rural Development's agreement and asked the council to approve the agreement. Council Member Peterka made a motion to approve the agreement. The motion was seconded by Council Member Halterman. Motion carried.

Brian Bollig presented the Council with an ineligible agreement. This pertains to the minimal amount of street improvements need Development financing and grants. Council Member Peterka made a motion to approve the agreement. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion carried.

Brian asked the council to set a date for a special council meeting in which David Drown would attend. This special meeting is scheduled for August 25th @ 6:30pm. At this meeting Brian wants the council to discuss the sanitary sewer project and which streets will primarily be involved and worked on and what additional streets if any the council wants to look at fixing and how to finance additional street repair. Around the beginning of September, he would like to see notices going out to all of the residents inviting them to an improvement/assessment hearing.

OTHER: Council Member Peterka explained that he had drawn out a design to build a 10' x 40' storage shed in the gym at South Grove and the cost would be somewhere around \$800. It was decided to table the decision until next month.

RESCUE: Chief Hudec reported that the department had 8 calls during the month. Upon approval from the council Hudec would like to offer a position with the department to Annette Ivey. Council Member Peterka made a motion to approve hiring Annette Ivey. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion carried. Hudec told the council that one of the batteries on a pager went bad and they would like to replace it along with purchasing an additional one. Cost for two batteries and the programming would be around \$198. Council Member Nelson made a motion to approve the request to purchase the batteries and programming. The motion was seconded by Council Member Halterman. Motion carried. One of the newest members of the department will be withdrawing her membership due to relocating.

UNAPPROVED

FIRE: Chief Jans reported that there had been one call during the month. On August 29th, he would be bringing the new tanker to Litchfield to help with the burning down of a house. Jans told the council that he had gone to Becker to help with the fire at a coal plant at the beginning of the month.

PUBLIC WORKS: Gaarder informed the council that Jans would like to attend a sub-station class in Marshall on the 15-18th of September. The cost of the class would be \$440 plus overnight stay at a motel. Council Member Nelson made a motion to approve contingent on whether or not the class was a requirement. The motion was seconded by Council Member Halterman. Motion carried. Jans would like permission to purchase 30 feet of quad-plex to be installed between Carlson's and Howey's building. Council Member Nelson made a motion to approve the purchase. The motion was seconded by Council Member Halterman. Motion carried. Gaarder said he would be gone Friday the 28th of August and the weekend.

DRANGE: Mayor Drange shared a "Thank You" card from the kids who participating in summer rec.

HALTERMAN: Council Member Halterman volunteered his time filling pot holes and said he was willing to do it again.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Halterman. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion carried.

UNAPPROVED