

GROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 8TH, 2014

PRESENT: DRANGE, PETERKA, JOHANNECK, NELSON

TRUTH-N-TAXATION portion of the meeting started at 6:30pm. No one came to address the Council regarding their property taxes.

CONSENT TO AGENDA: A motion was made by Councilmember Johanneck to approve the consent to agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Peterka. Motion carried.

MINUTES AND CLAIMS: A motion was made by Councilmember Peterka to approve the minutes and claims. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Johanneck. Motion carried.

VISITORS: Member of the ACGC School Board and Sheri Boderius came to address the Council and visitors regarding the changes and progress made within the school system over the past year. They talked about the Elementary School in Atwater receiving the National Blue Ribbon Award and hope to put some information regard this on the City's website. There was some discussion about the County Sheriff's office being moved to the school now that the City has sold the Laundry Mat.

FIRE: Chief Jans reported that they had two calls and one accident during the month. There is a drain in the fire hall on the rescue side that fills up with water and leaks outside. The bathroom by the fire trucks should either be condemned or repaired. The Council's Building Committee needs to look at the situation. The Department purchased an air compressor and battery tender for the new tanker; however, they need a bigger amp in the electrical box. Jans informed the Council that he had attended some of the Emergency Management Service meetings with the County. The department has two members retiring; Marle Gaarder and Tim Dragt. There are now 18 members on the department at this time. Jans informed the Council of the Pasta Feed they were going to be having on the 12th of December; free will donation open to the public. The City Clerk informed everyone that the Public Health Inspector had been out checking up on the mobile park in town and noticed the Pasta Feed listed on the sign by the highway. She discussed how these community organizations need to obtain a yearly permit for their food sales to the public and the cost is \$90 per year.

RESCUE: Chief Munoz reported that they had seven calls during the month. The department was going to participate in "ice and cold water" training with Litchfield on Lake Ripley on December 9th. On December 12th, the department was going to host a "craft ornament" get together for kids from 5:30-7pm. The next Rescue meeting is on December 22nd at 6:30pm. Munoz stated that the new generator that fire purchased was kicking the breaker's on and off on the Rescue side. It seems to be too much power for one line.

OLD BUSINESS

WATER METER/RADIO READER UPGRADE PACKAGE: There was more discussion on the costs and need to upgrade the radio reader and what options would be available if the City runs into problems with the current system. Councilmember Peterka made a motion to table the discussion until problems start to occur. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nelson. Motion carried.

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NEW BUSINESS

PARCEL 25-0075000 106 SUNSET RIDGE AND PARCEL 25-0032000 108 & 110 3RD STREET NORTH: The City Clerk informed the Council that they needed to sign off on these parcels to the County stating that the City did not have or want any interest in these properties and the County was free to go forth in their Public Auction Process. Councilmember Peterka made a motion to relinquish all interest in both parcels. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Johanneck. Motion carried.

RENEW LIQUOR LICENSES FOR 2015: The City Clerk informed the Council that since the Sunday Liquor License passed on the ballot, they needed to decide what the additional cost for a Sunday Liquor License would be and what time a business would be allowed to serve alcohol on Sunday's. It was decided to charge \$100 for a Sunday Liquor License and that a business could serve until 1am. Along with that, Councilmember Peterka made a motion to renew the liquor licenses for The Roadhouse Bar & Grill, The HogN-the-Road and Roger's Liquor Store. The motion was made by Councilmember Johanneck. Motion carried.

INSULATION OF COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING AND LIGHTS IN THE CARDINAL AND BLUE BIRD ROOMS AT SOUTH GROVE: The City Clerk reported that she had put together numbers showing what the City pays for electrical and heating costs on the Community Center, South Grove and the Fire Hall per month. She obtained a bid from an Holly Insulation for just the Community Center Building but suggested that the Building Committee which at this time is Karl Nelson and Dawn Johanneck should look further into these areas in order to find ways to make the City buildings more efficient. She also explained that the lighting in the Cardinal and Blue Bird Rooms at South Grove were in bad shape and that new LED lights should be considered sometime in the near future.

NEW WALLPAPER AND BLINDS FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTER AND PAINTING OF THE CARDINAL AND BLUE BIRD ROOMS: The City Clerk talked to the Council about needing new blinds in the Community Center, the current ones are falling down and very old, and now that the new LED lights really show off the wallpaper in the entry way of the Community Center you can see all of the glue marks and seams. The wallpaper is more than likely the original and is very old and in bad need of replacing. The money received from renting out the buildings should go to cover these costs. The bid she received on the wallpaper is \$1500.00 and the blinds would cost 575.00. She is still working on trying to find someone to do the wallpapering as that is a lost art and hard to find someone. Furthermore, the Cardinal and Blue Bird Rooms at South Grove are in bad need of a face lift. She suggested hiring the gal who has been painting the apartments to remove the old borders and do the painting. She went on to explain that nothing has been done with the buildings since they were built and are dated. Putting a fresh coat on these buildings will do a lot in advertising and showing that the City cares about keeping the buildings maintained. Mayor Drange made a motion to go ahead with the wallpapering and blinds for the Community Center and hiring Loriee Barnes to paint the Blue Bird and Cardinal rooms. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Peterka. Motion carried.

FIRE AND RESCUE OFFICER SALARIES: A question was brought up to the Council as to why there was a difference in the Secretary/Treasurer position's pay between the Fire and Rescue. Currently the Fire's Sec./Treasurer is paid \$700 per year and the Rescue is paid \$400. Due to the small number of members within the Rescue Department, Chief Munoz has been taking on the roles of Chief, Assistance Chief and Training Officer. It was decided that these roles need to be delegated out in the upcoming year but for 2014, he would be paid \$1000 for the Chief's salary and \$400 for the Training Officer's salary but not paid for the Assistant Chief's salary. After some discussion,

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Councilmember Peterka made a motion to increase the Secretary/Treasurer pay for the Rescue Department from \$400 to \$700. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nelson. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RAISES: Due to some research needed regarding pay equity among the pay rates of some of the City Employees, the issue of raises for the City Employees will be tabled until next month.

CHANGES TO EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: The City Clerk asked the Council to consider increasing the life insurance coverage on the City Employees. The coverage at this time is only \$10,000 at a cost of \$2 per employee per month. An increase in coverage up to \$25,000 would only cost around \$2 more per employee per month. The Clerk asked the Council to also consider increasing the sick leave to one full day per month from the half day per month that they now receive, explaining that only obtaining six days a year is so minimal and with only being able to accrue up to 4 weeks instead of the 8 weeks that is needed to bridge to short term disability doesn't really meet industry standards. A motion was made by Mayor Drange to approve the increase in life insurance coverage and increase the sick leave to one full day per month and accrue up to 8 weeks of sick leave. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Johanneck. Motion carried.

APPROVE THE 2015 BUDGET: After some discussion among the Council and input from the visitors present, it was decided that the levy should remain at \$195,000 and instead of lowering it now and having to possibly increase it next year with the large costs coming regarding the sewer ponds and street repairs. Councilmember Nelson was concerned about the possibility of assessing the people living on Third Street for street repairs since that seems to be the main street where water and sewer pipes need to be replaced as well. There has been no talk of assessing certain areas of town at this time.

RESOLUTION No. 2012-19 FINAL LEVY CERTIFICATION OF \$195,000: A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER PETERKA AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER JOHANNECK. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION No. 2012-20 GENERAL OPERATING BUDGETS FOR WATER, SEWER, ELECTRIC AND SENIOR HOUSING: A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER PETERKA AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DRANGE. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION No. 2012-21 ELECTRICAL FRANCHISE FEE: A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER PETERKA AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER JOHANNECK. MOTION CARRIED.

SOUTH GROVE: The next EDA Board Meeting is scheduled for January 8th at 6pm. Two of the three empty apartments have been filled.

SHERIFF: Officer Schute's reported that there have been 33 calls during the month. He informed everyone that if you are in an accident you should stay in the vehicle and not get out and start walking around. You are more likely to get hit by an oncoming vehicle. He checked on the garage that supposedly had excessive garbage and there was nothing in the garage. Regarding the snow ordinance, use common sense since we haven't had much snow. The streets do need to be cleared so the City Employees can plow.

CITY CLERK: The Clerk reported that she would be at a Clerk's training on the 16th of December and that she had been attending all of the County's Emergency Management System meetings and working on Grove City's portion of the plan.

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PUBLIC WORKS: Gaarder reported that a new door opener in the fire hall would cost \$596 and we would need an electrician out to install another outlet. He asked if the Council wanted the City logo on the new truck or just "Grove City Maintenance". The Council decided to leave off the logo. Gaarder requested new seat covers for the new truck however the cost is \$230 and a tool box for the new truck would be \$500. The Council agreed to purchase these items for the new truck. Regarding the sludge license, there is a class in April, it is a license and Dave Martin will need to renew his license if the Council wants him to sign off any paperwork until Gaarder obtains his license. In order to control some of the water leaks at South Grove, Gary Palmer thought installing a pump to control the circulation of water would cost \$650. Councilmember Johanneck made a motion to approve the purchasing of the pump and Councilmember Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Gaarder told the Council that he ordered a flag for the outside of the Community Center Building. It was brought up again about looking into our part-time lineman coverage. Gaarder told the Council that he would take Brad Jans along and go talk to the City of Litchfield.

MAYOR: Mayor Drange said that the LMC has Council training in January or February and Dawn should go to the training.

JOHANNECK: Councilmember Johanneck wanted to thank the Fire and Rescue personnel for the work they did with the accident. Everything went smoothly.

PETERKA: Councilmember Peterka asked about selling the old light fixtures. He thought they should only charge \$5. Nelson said he put the lights on Craig's list and put a price of \$20 because that was the information given to him.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilmember Johanneck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Peterka. Motion carried.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS:

January 31st, CARE has their annual "SOUPER BOWL" party at the Community Center. Cost is \$6.00.