

GROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 12TH, 2015

PRESENT: DRANGE, PETERKA, NELSON

SWEARING IN THE MAYOR MELISSA DRANGE FOR 2015-2016

SWEARING IN COUNCILMEMBER BILL PETERKA FOR 2015-2018

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

MINUTES: A motion was made by Councilmember Peterka to approve the minutes of December 8th, 2014. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nelson. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2015-01 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: There were no changes made to the resolution. A motion was made by Councilmember Nelson to approve resolution 2015-01. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Peterka. Motion carried.

FEE SCHEDULE: The Clerk informed the Council that she updated the fee schedule to reflect the lifetime animal license to \$5.00, the Rescue Secretary/Treasurer's annual salary to \$700 and removed the City Clerk's Treasury Pay. A motion was made by Councilmember Peterka to approve the updated fee schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nelson. Motion carried.

VISITORS: None.

OLD BUSINESS

PAUL MARTIN: Paul Martin came to address the Council in regards to his loss of crop yield due to the delay in the completion of his irrigation system. Councilmember Nelson informed the Council that he had met with Martin earlier to discuss the situation and seek out what Martin was asking for in compensation. Councilmember Peterka told Martin that he would like to post pone the discussion and making a decision until the rest of the Council could be in attendance and a full Council decision could be made on the subject. Martin said that he was fine with that and was willing to work with the Council and hoped to come to an agreement soon so the issue could be settled.

LIGHTS AND INSULATION IN CITY BUILDINGS: Councilmember Nelson said he hadn't looked into the insulation issues of the City Buildings. He had looked at the lighting and there was definitely a need to upgrade the lighting to LED lights in several places. Bids will be obtained for the lights.

BATHROOM IN THE FIRE HALL: Councilmember Nelson informed the Council that the bathroom was in a condemned state and greatly in need of many repairs. He went on to say that there were many other issues that needed to be looked into such as the ceiling and walls in the kitchen and meeting room need to be painted – soot on everything, cabinets could use a little maintenance, the electrical situation is not up to code and needs to be looked into. The hall is old and like many other areas, there hasn't been any attention paid or maintenance done for the last 20-30 years. The Clerk told the Council that the Building Inspector said Grove City's Fire Hall is probably the oldest one in the area; even Lake Lillian has a new hall. Nelson obtained some bids from Dave

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Pautzke on fixing the bathroom of \$1,045.00 but it did not include any plumbing work. Pautzke also submitted a bid for fixing the cracks in the walls all over the hall; \$1,485.00, painting the ceiling and walls in the hall; \$785.00 and fixing the cabinets shelves; \$280.00. After some discussion it was decided to table until more bids and information could be obtained.

WALL REPAIR IN BLUE BIRD AND CARDINAL ROOM: Councilmember Nelson said that in inspecting the rooms at South Grove there were some cracks and areas where the walls needed to be repaired before the painting could start and Dave Pautzke presented a bid of \$250 to fix them. He explained to the Council that the walls in those rooms and everywhere at South Grove are of a textured nature and that is why the bid might seem high. It was decided to go ahead and have Dave fix those cracks since the painting had been approved because if they weren't they would be just as noticeable after the new painting.

EMPLOYEE RAISES: The Council received information from the Attorney on Pay Equity and discussed that they need to create a pay scale. It was discussed that the City of Atwater has hired the City Administrator from Cosmos to help them with their pay scale and updating the job descriptions and that the City of Grove City should look into getting a bid for the same type of services. The City Clerk will contact Cosmos's Administrator regarding the estimate.

NEW BUSINESS

BOLLIG – UPDATE FROM RURAL DEVELOPMENT and WATER MAIN PROJECT: Bollig came to inform the Council that everything is still on track in seeking out the funding for the new sewer project. Focus is on the WIF \$\$\$. Also, they are still pursuing the \$600,000 small cities grant. Bollig presented the Council with the two options around the water mains currently located on Highway 12 between 2nd street and 4th street. If the mains on Highway 12 are replaced it will cost the City \$378,000. If the mains are moved to the alley behind the businesses the project will cost \$277,000. The project will occur the same time as the MNDOT project this coming summer. If the mains are moved to the alley, the businesses will accrue some expense in repiping their water if their main is not already located in the alley. A suggestion was to have a special meeting with the businesses to discuss both options on January 26, 2015 at 10am in the Community Center. The City would need to take out some temporary financing for this water main project possibly with MN Rural Water.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS: The City Clerk informed the Council that as of November 2014, businesses are no longer allowed to pay their employees a stipend for health insurance. The City has been paying their employees a stipend for many years. These new rules are coming from the Department of Labor. After having a conference call with the consulting firm that the League has hired to help Cities understand what their options are the Clerk told the Council the City can either try to get into a small group policy; however, they will have no control over the premium costs and many Cities has indicated that their rates went up this year significantly and we currently have two employees who get their insurance through their wives employer for a cheaper rate and would more than likely not choose to be in a group policy with the City. The other option is to calculate out a rate per hour to pay each of the three full-time employees, this has to be a separate line item but cannot be labeled as health insurance and an explanation of what this pay is for and which employees are eligible for the additional pay needs to be put into the employee policy handbook. Due to a lack of understanding the Council wants the Clerk to look into it more and table to topic to next month.

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SOUTH GROVE: The Board is going to be contacting a new resident here in town that is a hair dresser to see if she would be interested in working at South Grove. Councilmember Peterka mentioned again that we need to get bids on putting in handrails down one side of the hallway at South Grove. There is one one-bedroom apartment still available. Two new renters moved in the end of 2014. Peterka also mentioned that he would like to get a sign to be put up outside of South Grove that would indicate when apartments are available.

OTHER: Councilmember Nelson brought up the fact that the City needs to make a motion approving to host Augustfest in 2015. Councilmember Peterka made a motion to approve hosting the Augustfest Celebration in 2015. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nelson. Motion carried. Mayor Drange said that the next Augustfest meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 28th at 6:30 at the Community Center.

FIRE: Chief Jans told the Council that they were going to be interviewing two people who had applied to be on the Department. They met with the Training Coordinator at Ridgewater to plan for different training sessions and many of these could be free. Jans reported that there is talk of requiring all firefighters to have First Responders training within two years. The reason behind this is for department safety and it would help to provide better support for the Rescue Department. The cost might be around \$300 per person.

RESCUE: Chief Munoz reported that the department had five calls during the month. The "Ice and Cold Water" training with Litchfield went well. He asked about an anti-virus protection for the Rescue's computer. Several people advised him to look into AVG or AVAST; they are both free. Munoz asked about the policy of spending \$500 per month without Council approval. There was some discussion that this needs to be clarified. Councilmember Peterka told Munoz that even regarding small amounts it's nice to have the departments bring them up at Council Meetings. Munoz asked about purchasing turn-out gear for the department's five members. He wanted to purchase three sets and use money from the 2014 budget and purchase two more sets with 2015's budgeted money. Councilmember Peterka made a motion to approve the purchase of turn-out gear for the five department members using funds from both the 2014 and 2015 budgets. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nelson. Motion carried. The new officers for 2015 are as follows: Chief Ruiz Munoz, Assistant Chief Dawn Johanneck and Secretary/Treasurer Tammy Knudson.

SHERIFF: Office Schute's reported that there were 33 calls during the month. The new Sheriff Brian Cruz and Deputy Sheriff Dan Miller would be willing to come to the next Council Meeting. Schutes stated that the deputies will now be working their scheduled holidays. Councilmember Peterka asked to receive a copy of his monthly scheduled hours.

CLERK: Bergstrom informed the Council that she had a Clerk's training in Benson on Tuesday, January 20th. She went on to explain that she is working on getting a list of more people willing to have the "control monitor boxes" installed in their homes if they have an electric water heater or central air. The electricians have some time again to do more installing. She asked the Council to mention this to people and try and get more people to volunteer. In regards to the boxes that have already been installed, they need to be inspected and the inspector would like to do this on the last two Friday's of February.

PUBLIC WORKS: Gaarder told the Council he had some training sessions he would like to attend. Cross-training for Public Works and Electrical Groundsmen in Marshall from February 25th-27th. The cost would be \$440. Councilmember Nelson made a motion to approve sending Gaarder to the training. The motion was seconded by

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Councilmember Peterka. Motion carried. There is a wastewater class D training in St. Cloud from March 3rd to the 5th and the cost is \$225. He mentioned that there was bio-solids class in April as well. A tire blew out on the maroon truck. Gaarder told the Council that all of the tires are in real bad condition. He asked for permission to purchase all new tires for the truck. The Council agreed to purchase new tires. The McCormick tractor needs to be repaired. It wasn't steering and the hydraulics weren't working so Gaarder sent it in to be fixed.

NELSON: Councilmember Nelson brought up that fact that we have an old bug sprayer sitting in the shed taking up room. The City isn't going to be using it and that they should look at trying to sell it. He mentioned that there is an old generator that the City should look into sending back or getting rid of it somehow. Nelson went on to talk about how the City should look into hiring a grant writer to try and get some grants. There are many things needing attention such as the Windmill in the park.

PETERKA: Councilmember Peterka asked about a few of the accounts listed on an outstanding utility list put together by the Clerk. He stressed how the City needs to stay on top of these people and shut people off when they don't follow through with the payment agreements. Peterka mentioned to Gaarder that there are some scrubby Ash trees in the park that need to be taken out and a tree that is next to his neighbor's property that needs to be removed as well. Peterka told the Council that some of the park/playground equipment really needs to be looked at and possibly replaced. The sled at the old football field is cracked and should be taken down.

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

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COMING EVENTS:

JANUARY 28TH AT 6:30 IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER WILL BE AN AUGUSTFEST MEETING. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING A PART OF AUGUSTFEST THIS YEAR, PLEASE COME TO THE MEETING OR CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

JANUARY 31ST THE C.A.R.E. HAS THEIR ANNUAL "SOUPER BOWL" PARTY AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER.

FEBRUARY 12TH AT 2PM IN THE DININGROOM AT SOUTH GROVE C.A.R.E. INVITES PEOPLE TO COME TO THE MONTHLY FRIENDSHIP CLUB WHERE THE SPEAKER WILL BE KRISTI QUITNEY FROM MEEKER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PHYSICAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT. SHE WILL BE SPEAKING ABOUT A NEW HOME-BASED FALLS PREVENTION PROGRAM KNOW AS "OTAGO".