

**GROVE CITY REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**JANUARY 15, 2014**

**ALL MEMBERS PRESENT**

**CONSENT AGENDA:** A motion was made by councilmember Peterka to approve the consent agenda. The motion was made by councilmember Cram. **Motion carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. PHASE 1 AGREEMENT WITH BOLLIG ENGINEERING:** A motion was made at the last council meeting to approve the agreement after the Attorneys had approved the agreement. Councilmember Peterka recinded this motion due to the fact that the changes had not been made and the council did not have a final copy of the agreement with all the changes included. A new motion was made by Councilmember Nelson to allow our Attorneys to work with Bollig Engineering directly in making the changes and then when the council receives the final copy to approve the agreement with the changes recommended and agreed upon by the City Attorney and the City Engineer. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Peterka. **Motion carried.**

**B. BACK-FEED STUDY:** A proposal was submitted to the council by Power System Engineering (PSE) regarding the back-feed study of electrical power from the lines on County Road 11 into Grove City. The Proposal stated that it would not cost more than \$3,000. PSE also presented the council with a proposal regarding the City's electrical facilities. This study would look into the financials of the electrical fund for the past five years and a forecast of five years into the future as far as revenue generated and the projections of what the electrical fund will make in the next five years. This study will cost no more than \$5,000. The council discussed looking at having the electrical fund study at a later date. Councilmember Peterka made a motion to hire PSE to do the electrical study regarding back-feeding power into Grove City should the City encounter another situation where the City is without power do to future storms at a cost of no more than \$3,000. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cram. **Motion carried.**

**C. BOLLIG:** The City Engineering firm came to inform the council that letters had been sent out to several land owners in regards to possibly purchasing more land for sewer ponds. They also wanted the council to know that they were going to be creating an action list which they will present at the next month's meeting along with updated forms from 2008 and new applications.

**D. GYM:** The City Clerk informed the council that they claim regarding the scratches on the gym floor had been approved by our insurance from the League and they paid the City \$1,320. This amount reflects the difference between the City's deductible and the entire amount to have the gym floor rebuffed and refinished. The insurance agent is still going to try to collect from the home owner's insurance of the individual who children put the scratches into the gym floor.

**E. WATER ISSUES:** The Baptist Church had excessive water usage for a couple of months due to constant running toilets. They did notify the clerk of the issue and worked with David. Eventually they did find the cause of the problem and were asking if they could receive any relief on the water bill. Councilmember Cram said that she felt since it was their fault equipment then they should have to pay the bill. It was also brought up that Marion Allen had a water pipe that burst on the resident's side of the water meter. David did state that he could say for sure the water did not go down the sewer. It amounted to about 1500 gallons or a cost of about \$8.33. It was decided that the amount Allen was requesting relief on was so small and it the pipe was on the resident's side that they should pay but since David could state that the water did not go down the sewer, they would not have to pay for the sewer charge. After some more discussion regarding the Baptist Church's water issue, Councilmember Cram

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made a motion to leave the bill the way it is, the Church is responsible for their faulty equipment. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nelson. Motion carried.

**F. Employee Wages and Benefits:** Councilmember Nelson presented the proposed policy by the Attorney's and explained some of the items within the proposal. Councilmember Peterka stated that he had not received a copy and had not seen it. As the council was about to approve the proposal, Councilmember Nelson pointed out that there were some things within the proposal that needed to still be decided as to what the council wanted included in the policy. It was discussed that the Personnel Committee should work with the Attorney's on the policy and then bring back the final proposal to the next meeting. The City Clerk asked if the employees would be receiving a copy so they could see what the proposals were going to be.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. RESOLUTION 2014-01 ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES:** A motion was made to approve the following appointments of councilmembers to the following committees by Councilmember Peterka and seconded by Councilmember Cram. Motion carried.

<b>APPOINTMENT</b>	<b>2014</b>
Weed Inspector	Brad Jans
Acting Mayor	Gwen Cram
Health Inspector	Meeker County Public Health
Buildings Commission	Karl Nelson and Gwen Cram
Utilities Commission	Melissa Drange and Bill Peterka
Official Newspaper	Litchfield Independent Review
Official Depositor	Firsts State Bank of Grove City and 4M Fund
Parks and Playgrounds	Melissa Drange and Gwen Cram
Streets	Karl Nelson and Melissa Drange
EDA	Bill Peterka and Gwen Cram
Police Commission	Karl Nelson and Terry Miller
Personnel Committee	Bill Peterka and Terry Miller
Finance Committee	Melissa Drange and Terry Miller
Data Practices Compliance Official	Melissa Bergstrom
City Attorney	Amy Mace, Rupp, Anderson, Squires & Waldspurger
City Engineer	Bollig Engineering

**B & C. 2014 WATER/SEWER MONTHLY ACCESS CHARGES AND WATER ACCESS CHARGE – LESTER JOHNSON'S RENTER.** The Clerk informed the council that Lester Johnson had called about his renter's bill being higher than it should. After looking into the matter the Clerk saw that the renter was being charged 1.5 access charges, this accounted for the additional \$12.50 every month on the renter's bill. It was discussed that he is probably being charged this amount because this property is a farm utilizing additional water every year. The Clerk tallied up the water used on this property for 2013 and divided it by 3900, the average gallons of water per household access charge. The result was 1.77 and the council decided to leave the charge of 1.5 water access fees per month.

The City Clerk provided the council with a list of businesses and a few residents that are the higher water users in town. It was decided several months ago that we were going to look at the water usage every January based on the previous year's water usage to determine how many access charges of water and sewer to charge each business. It was also decided that the council would make the changes slowly and gradually by only raising and lowering the access fees up or down by one so it would not dramatically impact a customer's bill every month.

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Base on the information provided by the Clerk, Councilmember Miller made a motion to leave the school at 15, raise Carlson Meats by 1, raise Schmidty's Car Wash by 1, Lower the Roadhouse Bar by 1, lower the HogN-the-Road by 1, leave Lester Johnson's rental property at 1.5 and to lower Midwest Metal by 1. Precision Fiberglass could be lowered by 1 by had stated he would pay the additional access fee to help out Carlson Meats. The Clerk needs to speak with Matt Dahl about continuing on with this agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Peterka. Motion carried.

**D. WATER ISSUE – ALLEN RESIDENTS:** The issue was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**E. SOUTH GROVE UPDATE:** Councilmember Peterka informed the council that the covers for the hot water heaters are too long. The apartments are cold. In the spring he would like to have a plumber come out and add sections of heating pipes with fins. There had been a furnace man from Eden Valley out to tweak the furnace and it seems to work a little better. Wilbur Hedtke volunteered to check on the gym and birds rooms after they have been rented to make sure people are cleaning up after themselves and putting things back in the proper place. The Clerk needs to get him a schedule on regular basis. The security system is down and we have someone coming out to take a look at it.

Mr. Moreno came in to the meeting and requested to speak with the council about his high utility bill. The Mayor said that they would set up a time to meet with him.

**F. OTHER:** Councilmember Nelson requested that the council approve sponsoring Augustfest this year. Councilmember Peterka made a motion that the City Council should again this year sponsor the Augustfest Celebration. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Miller. Motion carried.

Councilmember Nelson asked the council if we should have the City Attorneys look over the agreement with PSE regarding the back-feed study. Councilmember Miller said no because it was only a \$3,000 contract. The City Council approves spending more than that on hiring someone to patch our roads and we never make them fill out a contract that ends up with the Attorneys looking it over. Miller said that not everything needs to go to the Attorneys for approval.

**FIRE:** Chief Jans said that there were two calls for the month; a garage fire and a false alarm at South Grove. They received the DNR grant and have ordered equipment which the grant funds will help to cover the cost. They have some new members and are now short pagers. The department would like to purchase one more pager. The department did not purchase any turnout gear last year and would like to purchase gear this year. Jans stated that you get 10 years out of a set and then they are outdated. They would like to purchase two sets per year to stretch out the costs. As far as an update on the tanker, the truck is done but the tanker portion is not; however it should be ready for pick up soon.

**RESUCE:** R. Munoz reported that they had five medicals and one motor vehicle call during the month. The newest member decided to relocate so she will no longer be able to serve on the department. They are going to be posting the old rig on Craig's list first because it is free and then if it doesn't sell, they will list it on K-bid. Councilmember Miller said that there is a member of another department who works here in town. This individual would be willing to help out and go on calls in Grove City during the day. He asked the Clerk to check with our insurance agent on how this could work and whether or not any paperwork would need to be filled out for worker's comp.

**SHERIFF:** Officer Thoma informed the council that they have hired a new deputy, Ryan Schuttles. He needs to finish some training but will become our new regular officer here in Grove City shortly.

**CLERK:** Clerk Bergstrom informed the council that there is another Clerk's Training in Cold Spring on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January. The cost is \$15.00.

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**MAINTENANCE:** David Martin told the council that due to the extreme cold we did have some crustations in the water tower but nothing like other communities. Pollution Control will be out next week to check on compliance issues regarding the wastewater plant. He would like to take vacation, about one week mid-March.

**MAYOR:** Mayor Drange wanted to remind the council that there will be an Augustfest meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm at the Community Center. Everyone is welcome.

**CRAM:** Councilmember Cram informed the council that she had received a letter from Renae Capistrant regarding their utility bill for the Garden of Eating. Some of the issues she has with her bill have been discussed at previous meetings and the Clerk said she did send her letters explaining why she was being charged two water and two sewer access fees. Councilmember Miller said he would talk to her.

**NELSON:** Councilmember Nelson brought up the fact that people who use our on-line billing system are being charged 3.61% per transaction and wanted to suggest that maybe the City should pay for part of this cost which might encourage more people to use it. He asked the Clerk how many people had used it and she replied that only one customer so far but it is really new. The system has only been up and running for a month. After some discussion, it was decided that the City would not pick up any of the transaction charges; that is what people pay for convenience.

**PETERKA:** Councilmember Peterka said that the snow ordinance hours are from 1:30am until 6:00am and wanted to look into whether or not we should look into changing the hours. Officer Thoma said they do have officers on during the hours of 1:30am to 6:00am and they are giving out warnings and tickets during those times. He asked Martin if someone upgrades their electrical service, what does the City pay for and what does the customer pay for? Martin replied that if there is underground wiring put in, the homeowner pays for wire and trenching. Primary wiring is the City's responsibility and secondary wiring is the customer's responsibility.

Peterka asked the council about meeting to go over the applications for the part-time office clerk position. It was decided to hold special meeting on Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm.

Peterka brought up dropping the price of the lot the City owns in the trailer court. Miller made a motion to drop the price to about \$2500 from \$7000. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Peterka. Motion carried. Peterka said he would like to see the council discuss selling the parking lot over by the bank and the laundry mat. Miller said he would talk to Chris from the Hogn-the-Road about any interest in the laundry mat.

**MILLER:** Councilmember Miller informed the council that when he and Peterka met with Sheriff Norlin is was discovered that the City had been shorted many hours of officer coverage and the City would be seeing a refund or reduction in the bill of somewhere between \$7,000-\$8,000. It was asked of Officer Thoma if the City could get an officer to stop in and deliver the council packets every month.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Councilmember Peterka to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Miller. Motion carried.

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**Augustfest meeting at the Grove City Community Center on January 29<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm.**

**Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9am-1pm at the Atwater Community Center. The Atwater Lions are having their annual waffle breakfast and pre-school bake sale. Proceeds benefit the "Cash for Kids" scholarship program.**

**Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 11am to 1pm at the Grove City Community Center. The Grove City CARE Program is hosting their annual "Soup-er Bowl Party". Proceeds go towards the Grove City CARE program.**

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