

## **Grove City Regular Council Meeting**

**March 9th, 2015 @ 7pm**

**ALL MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MINUTES:** A motion was made by Councilmember Peterka to approve the minutes from January 26<sup>th</sup> and February 9<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Johanneck. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**PAY EQUITY:** Councilmember Nelson presented the other Councilmembers with paperwork showing how he evaluated the City Employees and a pay schedule he create for ten years. He mentioned that he did not have all of the updated job descriptions or performance evaluations.

Councilmember Miller reported that he did contact Atwater and asked them why they hired a third party to do the pay equity study. Atwater felt they had no real pay equity system in place, they did not do employee evaluations or reviews and they had no pay rate schedule in place. The third party that Atwater hired compared the wages Atwater was paying to other cities, he provided recommendations of wages using a 7 step pay scale, the cost was around \$3,000 and they were satisfied.

According to the pay scale Nelson showed the other Councilmembers, Doug Pratt's wage was quite a bit lower than the other employees with a similar class rating. Drange and Peterka thought that Doug had been given a raise. The Clerk informed them that they had talked about it but never brought it to a Council meeting for discussion or approval. Councilmember Peterka made a motion to increase Pratt's wage from \$9 per hour to \$11 per hour. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Johanneck. Motion carried.

Bergstrom asked Nelson what points he had assigned all of the employees according to the state job match and at what rate of pay she was listed on his pay scale in comparison to Gaarder's rate of pay. Nelson stated that Gaarder was at \$20 per hour and that Bergstrom was at \$19.47 per hour. She asked Nelson if his pay scale reflected the possible \$1 and .50 cent per hour increases that Gaarder was likely to get if he passes his next examines and Nelson replied that he did factor those increases into the pay scale.

Miller state that all of the job descriptions should be updated and that the employees should have had a chance to look over the updated job descriptions before the Council approves them.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**REPAVING SECOND STREET:** Ron Mortenson, the County Engineer attended the Council Meeting to inform the Council that Acton Township was going to be voting on whether they wanted to repave most of Second Street. He also brought some estimates on what it would cost if the City wanted to repave the section of Second Street from the edge of the City to past the land that the City rents. Second Street is going to be the detour for the Highway 12 project and due to the additional traffic this summer, the Council decided not to do anything with Second Street until after the Highway 12 Project is completed and the City possibly received additional grant money from the sewer project.

### **UNAPPROVED**

**BOLLIG – UPDATE:** Bollig Engineering was out to give the Council an update on the progression of the sewer pond project. They also talked about the timeline of the water main project. Bollig requested that the Council hold a special meeting to approve the plans for the water main and sanitary sewer project. The special meeting has been scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm. Councilmember Nelson stated that he had talked with both Chuck Carlson and Gene Hoekstra about putting in water mains in their buildings since they are located in the same alley that is going to be dug up anyway. They also wanted to know if the City would contribute towards the cost in the same manner as the other businesses whose mains are being relocated from Highway 12 to the alley. The estimate of what it would cost the City to connect water mains into Carlson and Hoekstra's buildings would be around \$5,000. Having water mains installed into these buildings would add to the value of the buildings for the owners and prevent the City from having to dig up the alleys in the future should the buildings get sold and then the new owners request water connections. Councilmember Miller made a motion to approve spending up to \$5,000 to install water mains into the Carlson and Hoekstra buildings. If the cost is more than \$5,000, the council would need to reapprove the motion with the new amount. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Peterka. Motion carried.

**SOUTH GROVE:** Councilmember Peterka reported that the EDA Board did apartment inspections before their last meeting and all of the apartments looked really nice. It was mentioned to the tenants to try and stay away from using the electric heaters because they use so much more electricity. They are trying to keep up with the water pipe issues.

**OTHER:** Councilmember Nelson told the Council that instead spending money on ordering new lights for the two rooms off from the gym at South Grove, he thought they should try and use the old light bulbs for now from the Community Center. Gaarder said there is still an issue with at least one row in the Blue Bird Room. It could be a baluster issue. Councilmember Peterka informed the Council that the new wood trim boards that were going to be purchased and used in the Cardinal Room at South Grove will not work because there is no frame to nail it too. The trim will have to be replaced with the same rubber trim that is in the rooms now.

**FIRE:** Chief Jans reported that the department had five calls during the month. One was a mutual aid in Cosmos regarding a barn fire and the other four were at South Grove. A couple of the South Grove calls were false alarms due to the alarm system. Water leaked down onto the fire alarm and set off the alarm. Some of the members of the department have been working on the bathroom in the fire hall. They are going to be purchasing the plastic board from Holmquists. Jans informed the Council that there seems to be a bandit in the fire hall because items such as the new buoys and ropes that were donated to the department along with a roof ladder and two sets of boots are missing.

**SHERIFF:** Officer Schutz reported that there had been forty six calls during the month. Councilmember Peterka asked about his neighbor's dogs always getting loose and wanted to know if a person can file a complaint. Officer Schutz said all he has to do is call in a citation will be issued to the owner of the dog. The Clerk told Officer Schutz that several people had been asking about parking on the streets and she has told them that they are okay to do so since there is no snow. Someone mentioned that people are parking in the yellow zones on main street on Friday and Saturday nights and asked if Office Schutz could monitor the situation. Councilmember Peterka asked about the cat house sitting outside the door of the apartment next to the Post Office. He stated that it didn't look very good.

**UNAPPROVED**

**CLERK:** Bergstrom informed that Council that she is busy with various projects right now. The upcoming Audit is of high priority. She also told the Council that she would be taking vacation on Friday April 10<sup>th</sup> but Rita would be working so the office would be open.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Gaarder showed the Council a list of items that Brad Jans needed and/or wanted to purchase and was questioning the \$50 spending limit that the Council approved last month. The Council asked if prices could be obtained for the items on his list. They said they wanted to be informed of items that are being purchased and not just have them show up on the bills they are approving for the month. Gaarder said he would like to purchase some new cones. The price for six would be around \$108. Gaarder brought up the situation with being on-call and having coverage mainly on weekends. He told the Council that a person should be able to go away one weekend of the month and know that you don't have to think about getting a call and having to come back to town. His main concern is with the electrical situations. The part-time linemen that we have now don't sit around waiting for us to call. Councilmember Nelson talked about the getting a service contract with some other utility company. He said the Utility Committee should be out talking to people and seeking out the possibility of getting coverage arranged. Councilmember Miller told Gaarder to just use common sense and look at the weather. If there isn't the possibility of bad weather and you want to be gone out of town, just call the Council and notify them that you'll be out of town. People will just have to wait.

There was more discussion on using and/or purchasing Dave Martin's generator to use in times when someone is without power. Councilmember Nelson brought up the situation on County Road 11 last summer and said the Council should look at replacing the old lines. Councilmembers Peterka and Miller said they didn't feel the City needed to consider spending the \$11,000 to do that until the situation occur again.

**DRANGE:** Mayor Drange said she had received the contract from Frank Marshall for the Kiddie Tractor Pull he sponsors. The cost would be \$25 again this year. Drange talked about the advantages of facebook but asked the Council about how they felt when a City Employee posts something on facebook that is negative to the City. She talked how everyone be it Councilmembers, Rescue, Fire and such are all employees of the City but wanted to know how the others felt about handling a situation when one of the employees posts negative statements on social media. She told them that a City Employee had posted a statement about how City Ordinances don't have to be follow by everyone in town as a result of who they are and who they know. Councilmember Miller state that it is insubordination plain and simple and it should be made clear that insubordination will not be tolerate under any circumstances. After some more discussion it was decided that a verbal warning needed to be issued to the employee.

Drange also brought up the topic of combining the Rescue and Fire Departments. The Rescue department only has five members. In other towns, the departments are combined. Councilmember Nelson asked the Clerk what benefit there would be if the departments were combined. Bergstrom stated that the amount spent on officer salaries would be less because you wouldn't need as many officers. Councilmember Johanneck voiced her objections as a member of the Rescue Squad if the departments were combined. Bergstrom told the Council that Dassel calls their Rescue personnel "First Responders" and not "Rescue" but that both departments are under the Fire Chief and only those on Fire are eligible for the Fire Pension. After some more discussion, no decision was made to change the status of the departments.

**UNAPPROVED**

**JOHANNECK:** Councilmember Johanneck wanted to clarify for everyone that when receiving emails regarding City Business, if Councilmembers "Reply All" that is a violation of the open meeting law. The other Councilmembers told her they knew that rule already. The Clerk told Johanneck that she will send out emails informing them of different items but does not expect or always need a reply back.

**PETERKA:** Councilmember Peterka told the Council that he ordered ten trees. Some of the trees can be planted to replace trees on the boulevards and the rest could be put in the park. MN Dot is holding the next meeting on the Highway 12 project with the contractor in Hutchinson on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. and Peterka said he was going to plan on attending the meeting.

**MILLER:** Councilmember Miller said he looked into ordering jackets and there are so many kinds and styles he told Gaarder that he would have to work with him on what to order. He asked about the one can recycling container. The Clerk said she did not get a chance to call West Central Sanitation.

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

#### **UNAPPROVED**

**APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup> AT 7PM "LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION" MEETING WITH THE COUNTY ASSESSOR AT THE GROVE CITY COMMUNITY CENTER. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR PROPERTY TAXES OR VALUATIONS OF YOUR PROPERTY, PLEASE ATTEND.**

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**MARCH 28<sup>th</sup>, SATURDAY, AUGUSTFEST FUNDRAISER – BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT IN THE GYM AT SOUTH GROVE. CONTACT MATT DAHL IF YOU WANT TO REGISTER A TEAM.**

**MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>, SUNDAY MORNING, GROVE CITY LIONS SPRING BREAKFAST AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER**

**MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> IS THE DEADLINE TO TURN IN YOUR REGISTRATION FORMS FOR SUMMER REC ACTIVITIES TO THE CITY OFFICE. YOU CAN PICK UP THE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION FORM AT THE CITY OFFICE, THE GROVE CITY LIBRARY, OR AT SCHMIDTY'S.**