

**GROVE CITY REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 9TH, 2015 @ 7:00PM**

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT

AGENDA: A motion was made by Council Member Nelson to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Peterka. Motion carried.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Council Member Peterka to approve the minutes of October 7th and 12th. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

BMX TRACK – ED OSTREICH: Mr. Ostreich was not present but Council Member Nelson stated that he was working on his non-profit status.

CHANGES TO RESOLUTION 2015-01: The City Clerk stated that she had been informed by other Clerks and the League that the Mayor is supposed to be the Weed Inspector. She can appoint someone to be her assistant. Council Member Peterka made the motion to change Resolution 2015-01 reflecting the Mayor as the Weed Inspector and appointing Doug Pratt as her assistant. The motion was seconded by Council Member Walther. Motion carried.

SNOWMOBILE TRAIL: Brian Peterka spoke to the Council about creating a snowmobile trail that would come into town and described the exact trail he would like to create with the Council's permission. Council Member Peterka made a motion to allow the trail to be created and come into town and have signs put up. The motion was seconded by Council Member Halterman. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

WEST CENTRAL SANITATION – GARBAGE ASSESSMENTS: Don Williamson from West Central Sanitation came to the Council and presented the list of residents with outstanding garbage bills that he would like the Council to approve and send onto the Auditor's office. Council Member Nelson made a motion to approve the outstanding assessment list. The motion was seconded by Council Member Peterka. Motion carried. Williamson was asked about the co-mingled recyclable cans and he stated that they are now ready to implement them if Grove City would like to have them. The increased cost would be about \$2 per month for each customer. He would send out notices to the customers when the cans will be delivered. Council Member Peterka made a motion to approve implementing the co-mingled recycling cans for Grove City. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion carried.

2016 UTILITY ASSESSMENT LIST: The Clerk presented the Council with the list of utility customers with an outstanding bill. She asked the Council to approve the list so she could submit it to the County Auditor's office for collection. A motion was made by Council Member Peterka to approve and submit the list of outstanding utility assessments to the County for collection. The motion was made by Council Member Nelson. Motion carried.

UNAPPROVED

SOLAR PANELS at PRECISION FIBERGLASS: The Clerk informed the Council that the City will have its first solar panel customer. She told them that she had met with Steve Moses from Heartland and Council Member Halterman to discuss what needs to be done to set up this type of customer. Precision Fiberglass will not be generating more energy than it will be using; however, if they did, either the City of Grove City or Heartland would need to compensate and purchase back the excess energy created. She explained that there is no advantage to the City to purchase back the excess energy because the City has no way to store or resell this energy. Heartland will purchase any excess energy created. They have a resolution created that they would need the City to approve regarding the buying back of any excess energy created by any customer of the Grove City Electric. Council Member Halterman made a motion to approve the resolution by Heartland stating that they would purchase any excess energy from any Grove City Electric Solar Panel customer and be able to resell. The motion was seconded by Council Member Peterka. Motion carried.

MEDIACOM FRANCHISE AGREEMENT: The Clerk informed the Council that she had been working with one of the City's Attorneys about renewing the contract with Mediacom. When all of the paperwork is in order, there will need to be a Public Hearing before anything is signed and completed. Usually the contract is renewed for about 15 years. The question about getting free phone and internet service was brought up. The Clerk said that they would not be getting these services. The only free service they offer is free cable to a City Building. Council Member Nelson stated that the City should be allowed to get some free services. The Clerk told him he could call the Attorney and discuss it if he wanted too.

HIRING A LOCAL ATTORNEY FOR NUISANCE PROPERTIES: Council Member Halterman informed the Council that he had asked around Litchfield to see who they have hired to handle their nuisance issues and they told him that they have hired Rebecca Rue and she was very good. Council Member Nelson wanted to know what her rate was before approving hiring her because someone else might be cheaper. The Clerk said she could call and find out.

2016 BUDGET: The Clerk spoke to the Council about the budget and talked about some of the extra expenses that had occurred this year. She mentioned that she had been speaking with the Public Works Department about the condition of the mowers and within the next year or two, they should be looking at purchasing a new mower. There is only one more payment left on the McCormick Tractor which would free up around \$9,000 but in talking with the Public Works Dept. they might want to consider trading that in or selling it so they can purchase something that is more multi-functional. Bergstrom went on to say that in talking with Gaarder, they felt that they had gotten large increases last year and would be fine without raises this year. They are aware of the extra expenses that have been happening within the past few months and would be willing to wait until next year. Pratt's wage had been increased last year to match the other part time employees. Mayor Drange asked the Clerk about when there had been an increase to the Council's wage. Bergstrom said she did not know when the last increase occurred. Bill Houselog was asked about increases to the Council's wage. He said the wages are the same as when he went on in 2004. Mayor Drange said she thought the Council's wage increases had to take place around an election. The Clerk said she did not know about any rules regarding this matter.

UNAPPROVED

The Clerk indicated that she was still working on the budget but did not recommend raising it at this time. She felt the City could maintain the same levy it has for the past four years but that with the up and coming sanitary sewer and street improvement, extra expenses will have to be watched carefully.

EMPLOYEE REVIEWS: Council Member Halterman stated that he and the Mayor had sat down with each of the employees to discuss how things were going within their jobs and any issues or concerns that they might want to talk about with the Personnel Committee. During the review with Rita, she did indicate that she would like to resign from her position the end of March. A motion was made by Council Member Halterman to start advertising for Rita's position. The motion was seconded by Council Member Peterka. Motion carried. Halterman went on to say that in the reviews with Rita and Melissa, the need for a second computer for the office was greatly needed so they could both work within the Banyon System at the same time. A motion was made by Council Member Halterman to purchase a second computer for the City Office. The motion was seconded by Council Member Walther. Motion carried.

SOUTH GROVE: Council Member Peterka stated that he would like to purchase some motion lights for the bathrooms at South Grove because many times the lights are being left on and this might be a little more energy efficient. The storage shed was about 1/3 of the way of being built. The new Tenant's would like a copy of the Policy Handbook. CARE would like to purchase a solar light to have on the outside of the building at no cost to the City.

RESCUE: Chief Hudec reported that there had been 52 calls for the year; 3 during the month. The department is at eight members. The heater coil needs to be replaced in the truck and the cost will be around \$500. Hudec said that he had purchased some items and tools to have in the rig and would like to be reimbursed for these items. The cost is \$177.15. With more people added to the squad, Hudec said they could use more shelves to store each person's equipment and would like to purchase the supplies needed to build the additional shelves. He asked for permission to purchase the needed supplies and term in a receipt to the City for reimbursement. Cost would be about \$75-80. Council Member Nelson made a motion to approve both of the reimbursements. The motion was seconded by Council Member Walther. Motion carried. Hudec had one more request to be reimbursed for an ink cartridge set. He has been printing off of his personal ink cartridge. The cost is about \$28. A motion was made by Council Member Halterman to approve the reimbursement of the ink cartridge. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion carried. Ticket sales will go on until December 11th @ 7:30pm.

FIRE: Chief Jans reported that there were no calls during the month. The X-mas part will be at Ron and Judy's in Paynesville on the 5th of December. They do not know the actual date for the Santa Train as of yet. The free will offering spaghetti supper will be the same night as the Santa Train. Jans said he had been talking to a lady about writing a grant for the department to purchase new air tanks.

SHERIFF: Office Schutz asked that the reminder of the snow ordinance be put in the minutes. **NO PARKING** on the streets from 1:30 to 6:30am from December 1st until April 1st. When there is 2" or more of snow, you must remove your vehicles so the snow can be plowed. There have been some break-ins and thefts occurring around town so people need to be aware.

UNAPPROVED

CLERK: The Clerk reminded the Council about the meeting with the Townships on November 19th, 2015. She also mentioned that the contracts needed to be renewed this year.

PUBLIC WORKS: Gaarder said he was planning on attending a class on December 2nd in St. Cloud. The class is free and the hours will go towards his WW license. He would like to replace the lights in the shop. The street sweeper started sweeping today. Doug Joen's from EPS looked at Slinden's power. He thinks that the transformer being used is not big enough and might need to be replaced with a 3-phase.

HALTERMAN: Halterman said that Tom Fordyce from ACGC asked him about getting electric installed into a building at the school. Halterman made a motion to have Jans install the electric. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion carried.

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

UNAPPROVED

ON DECEMBER 11TH @ 5:30PM THE GROVE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT PASTA SUPPER – FREE WILL DONATION. THE SUPPER WILL BE AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER. ALSO, THE SANTA TRAIN WILL ARRIVE AT THE FIRE HALL AT 7:30PM ON THE 11TH OF DECEMBER.