

Grant City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 15, 2018

The regular meeting of the Grant City Commission was held on Monday, January 15, 2018, at the City of Grant Offices.

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Julie Hallman called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
3. **Roll Call:**

PRESENT: Mayor Julie Hallman, Anne Pickard, Matt Bouwkamp, Kevin Smith, Gabe Sanchez, and Kate Block
ABSENT: None
EXCUSED: None
Others Present: Ryan Rudzis - City Manager, Sherry Powell - Assistant City Manager/Clerk, Brad Wade - Chief of Police, Justin Salisbury - DPW, Russ Johnson - Infrastructure Alternatives, Dale Twing - Drain Commissioner, and Pam Schwallier - Chamber of Commerce
4. **Approval of the Agenda**

Motion made by Bouwkamp, second by Smith to approve the agenda.
Motion carried unanimously
5. **Public Comment**

None
6. **Consent Agenda Items**

Motion made by Smith, second by Pickard to approve the consent agenda.
Motion carried unanimously
7. **Unfinished Business**

None
8. **New Business**
 - a. Discussion Item: Sewer Plant
Hallman stated that several officials have checked out the noise complaint made by one person. This same person has made contact about it again, so we have invited Russ Johnson to discuss the issue.
Johnson explained the blowers provide air to the digesters. The aspirators we used to use did not provide enough air, so we switched to these blowers. The blowers are actually two decibels quieter than the aspirators were, which the blowers replaced.
Bouwkamp asked if both of the blowers run at the same time, because the complaint seems to be they run continuously for thirty minutes.
Johnson explained only one blower runs each cycle. The process blowers, which are original to the plant, run about thirty minutes at a time. These have been running for at least twenty-six years, and have not changed.
Hallman stated she has never heard anything from the plant.
Rudzis stated that only the pond needs to be upgraded now.
Consensus that this is a non-issue.
 - b. Motion Item #1: Approval of purchase of new tasers and radar unit
Hallman explained the tasers are thirteen years old. The nearly \$5,000 will be used from a windfall of money that came in after the budget was approved.
Motion made by Pickard, second by Block to approve the \$4,920 purchase.
Motion carried unanimously
 - c. Newaygo County Drain Commissioner Dale Twing: Drain Project Update

Twing explained this project was broken into four sections, because we probably won't do it all. The bids will be open soon, and the main concern is that the costs not being a burden. The biggest problem is boring under the railroad. They have a permit ready to go once the bids are awarded. After the assessments are set up, there is a review. MDOT's project will start in June. We can't fix all of the drainage problems, but we will fix a lot of them. It's not fun to tax people

d. Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget Discussion

Hallman stated that Ryan is working on the budget. We would like to incorporate an electronic sign board, banners, and crushing the concrete pile.

Rudzis explained we will need to distinguish between wants and needs. It will cost around \$14,000 to crush the concrete pile off-site. We would ask for about forty yards of crushed material back.

Hallman explained why we are pushing for a new sign board and how difficult it can be to open.

Rudzis asked that everyone get budget requests submitted to him by March. He stated the sewer system needs to be cleaned out every five years.

9. **Other Business**

None

10. **Information Items**

Hallman introduced Justin from the DPW and asked for an update.

Salisbury stated the LED streetlights have been postponed until we have three staff available at the same time to work on them. Right now he is taking care of snow and everything else he can. He has about 60% of the lights done.

Pickard thanked Justin for plowing and doing a good job.

Hallman has been discussing the possibility of clearing snow off sidewalks once each week on the main routes pedestrians are using daily, and is wondering if that would be doable.

Salisbury explained it would probably take a full day to do all of them due to the manpower issues. He spoke with Chief Wade today about how difficult it is to clear sidewalks along M-37. The equipment is too big for those sidewalks. You have to turn the mirrors in, you can get caught on guide wires, and the equipment pivots in the center. It can be hard to turn when the snowblower is eight feet in front of you.

Hallman stated she e-mailed the School Superintendent inquiring about clearing sidewalks.

Wade asked if the inquiry was about school sidewalks or City sidewalks. We make contact with residents about clearing sidewalks, but it's difficult when a resident points across the street and asks why the schools are not required to clear their own but the residents are required to clear theirs.

Schwallier said the Chamber had a very successful Christmas event. This year we have tentative dates. This Wednesday is the quarterly membership meeting at Ridge Cider Networking is 5:30-6pm. It's a great way to mingle. April 21st is the annual Home & Garden show in Newaygo. March 24th it's in Fremont. May 23rd is the annual Chamber golf outing. April 18th is the annual meeting. The tentative date for Harvest Moon Festival is October 13th, November 24th is Small Business Saturday. December 8th is the Grant Christmas event. We are looking for sponsors.

Hallman stated that after many conversations with local residents, they almost all prefer to have it earlier than October. Julie asked Pam if our Festival could be earlier this year, preferably in warm weather.

Schwallier said she would pass along the request to Colleen to discuss it some more.

11. **Public Comments**

Hallman stated reminded everyone about the Parliamentary training, and that sign-ups would be great.

12. **Adjournment**

Motion made by Smith, second by Bouwkamp to adjourn the meeting at 7:35pm.

Motion carried unanimously

Mayor Julie Hallman

Sherry Powell, Assistant City Manager/Clerk