

Grant City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 19, 2018

The regular meeting of the Grant City Commission was held on Monday, February 19, 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:
EXCUSED:
Others Present: Sherry Powell - Assistant City Manager/Clerk and Scott VanSingel - State Representative
4. **Approval of the Agenda**
Motion made by Bouwkamp, second by Smith to approve the agenda.
Motion carried unanimously
5. **Public Comment**
VanSingel provided a quick legislative update on the biggest highlights. The Governor's budget recommendation is provided after he personally goes through it page by page. Then the Legislature goes through it. The proposed budget increase is under 3%. We are one full year ahead of the phase in of the road plan, which will be great for local units. We will have some additional money for personal property tax replacement, but no bump up for State Revenue Sharing. Schools have a \$240 per student bump up proposed. We see more growth in school aid than elsewhere. We have a \$29 billion in debt in school pension problem. We expect to be paying it off by 2038 on this current track, which comes out of the school aid fund. Currently up to 36% of payroll goes into the pension fund, and doesn't even make it into classrooms.
Hallman asked if charter schools are getting the same allowance.
VanSingel explained that cyber schools are rolled back to 75%, but it will possibly get put back in. The flat, across the board formula doesn't work well.
6. **Consent Agenda Items**
Motion made by Smith, second by Block to approve the consent agenda.
Motion carried unanimously
7. **Unfinished Business**
None
8. **New Business**
 - a. Jason Vanderstelt - Newaygo County Clerk: Jason was placed on the agenda, but was not present.
 - b. River Country Chamber of Commerce update: The Chamber was placed on the agenda, but was not present.
 - c. MDOT Performance Resolution: This is just a matter of protocol.
Motion made by Bouwkamp, second by Pickard to approve the resolution.
Motion carried unanimously
 - d. Ordinance No 45 Discussion on Salary of Elected Officers:
Hallman explained that Commissioner Pickard called Ryan a few weeks ago and asked if they are ever getting a raise.
Pickard asked if we could modify the Ordinance by Resolution. She asked other Commissioners if they felt they were doing nothing important?
Bouwkamp stated he just does not see a need.
Pickard asked if we are all just sitting here, or are we doing something.

Hallman replied that it's not about the money. It's about participating. She does not like the idea of giving ourselves a raise.

Smith stated that to him it's community service.

Sanchez believes we are doing something.

Pickard expressed displeasure from her conversation with the City Manager and being laughed at.

e. Assessor's Office Contract Renewal

Motion made by Bouwkamp, second by Sanchez to approve the Contract Renewal.

Motion carried unanimously

9. **Other Business**

None

10. **Information Items**

Hallman stated some playground materials were on the tables to take a look at. Informed the Commission that United Way may be interested in doing a service project in Grant. It would be nice to work together and get a playground behind the old County Garage for ages two through twelve on the other side of M- 37.

11. **Public Comments**

None

13. **Adjournment**

Motion made by Bouwkamp, second by Pickard to adjourn the meeting at 7:21p.m.

Motion carried unanimously

Mayor Julie Hallman

Sherry Powell, Assistant City Manager/Clerk