

Grant City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 20, 2015

A Public Hearing of the Grant City Commission - Noise Ordinance on Monday, April 20, 2015 at the City of Grant Offices.

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Terry Fett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
3. **Roll Call:**
PRESENT: Commissioner Matt Bouwkamp, Mayor Terry Fett, Commissioner Julie Hallman , Commissioner Anne Pickard, Commissioner Harold Portell, Commissioner Kevin Smith, and Commissioner Cheryl Weeks
OTHERS PRESENT: Ryan Rudzis - City Manager , Sherry Powell - Assistant City Manager/Clerk, Bob Mendham - Chief of Police, Shawn Botsford - DPW Supervisor, Janet Botsford - Grant DPW Staff, Gary Nestle - IAI, Lisa Fought- RCAP, Kent Trierweiler- IAI, Rich Ulrich, Tomi Dausman, Janet Gilmore, Dave VanHouten, and Mike Weeks.
ABSENT: None
EXCUSED: None
4. Approval of the Agenda:
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Pickard to approve the agenda with addition of discussion of order of public comments within the rules under new business.
All in favor. Motion carried.
5. **Public Comment** on Noise Ordinances:
None
6. **Adjournment** without objection at 7:02 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Grant City Commission was held on Monday, April 20, 2015, at the City of Grant Offices.

1. **Call to Order – Regular Meeting:** Mayor Terry Fett called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**
Ulrich Asked why the City runs the agenda items under public comment after they vote on it.
Weeks Asked to clarify the process for citizens to address the Commission.
Ulrich Introduced himself, stated his business was relocated to the City of Grant. He explained he speaks with the residents, and many are afraid to come to a meeting and say anything.
Fett Stated we are going to discuss this.
3. Consent Agenda Items:
Motion: Motion made by Weeks, second by Hallman to approve the consent agenda.
All in favor. Motion carried.
4. **Unfinished Business**
None
5. **New Business, Consideration for:**
 - a. Waste Water Plant proposed future plans and available funding
Nestle Made a presentation to gauge any interest in moving forward with a sewer project. Several years ago we started on an income survey. We were below the low to moderate income level, but the response rate was determined too low to use. RCAP has recently reassigned our file to Lisa fought to handle the survey. We met with engineers and Todd MacLean of USDA Rural Development, and Todd automatically certified with us as low to moderate income. This qualifies us for a 45% grant.
Fought Introduced herself. She explained the low to moderate income comes from U.S. Department of Agriculture using Census data. We received about 100 surveys have been returned. The low to moderate income status qualifies us for State monies, like facade grants. Lisa helps to facilitate projects through RCAP. hey will finish survey at no charge. USDA finances up to 40 years, and are the lender of last resort. MEDC took a huge hit with reductions in funding. DEQ is 20 years on average, and for some cases up to 30 years. The State Revolving Loan Fund is once a year to apply versus USDA at any time. Any environmental work required for grants could be done at no cost by Lisa.

Trierweiler The 2013 feasibility study focusing on replacing the polishing pond with tertiary filtration and ultraviolet disinfection due to noncompliance. The influent sample point is a problem. The collection system has some problems. Todd MacLean said these grants are going away. There are a significant amount of work to be done on the engineering reports to get it ready for submission. Todd recommended we lump it all into a project and submit it in an application. There are a lot of forms and paperwork required for a USDA Rural Development grant submission.

Nestle Stated that with the smaller (sewer) bond getting paid off, we would replace it with a new bond to get our system improved and in compliance.

Fett Answered yes, we are interested. We just don't want to have to raise rates.

Rudzis Stated we have a drain coming for the taxpayers already. We would have to get the entire 45% in order to go after this project. He said he is apprehensive about this due to the lawsuit we are involved in with IPR.

Fett Asked for some basic information to be provided to the Commission

Fought Recommended that the City not pursue a USDA submission for less than a million dollar project.

All in favor. Motion carried.

- b. Motion Item #1: Approval for the purchase of a sampler for the WWTP:

Motion: Motion made by Portell, second by Weeks to approve the motion.

Pickard Clarified information about the purchase.

All in favor. Motion carried.

- c. Ordinance #57: Noise Ordinance and the repeal of Ordinance #44. Discussion with Police Chief prior to vote:

Motion: Motion made by Fett, second by Weeks to approve Ordinance #57 and repeal Ordinance #44.

Mendham State he went over this ordinance, and he wants to ensure we are all clear on some things. He discussed the phrase "a reasonable person", and asked "Who is that?" He stated that last year, Old Iron put a speaker in a vehicle for customers out on the deck to enjoy a little music. He said that could be a problem. Under "sound amplifiers", it is up to the responding officer. Under "community events", we would then require a permit before each football game, for marching band practice, and for each parade.

Hallman Asked how use of the amphitheatre would be impacted.

Fett Replied that we have provisions for special events to cover this.

Hallman Stated she can hear school announcements while at home now.

Mendham Asked if we could be sending officers into a situation where it could escalate. He further explained that we are coming into graduation season soon, and we would have to enforce that kind of noise equally.

Hallman Asked if the noise ordinance we originally had was more enforceable.

Mendham Stated that it was, and it worked fine.

Fett Stated that Ordinance #44 worked for us. This was Ryan's first ordinance, and in using the City's Attorney for advice, it was written and approved to involve all various forms of potential noise violations cities face.

Portell Asked Chief Mendham about this issue in White Cloud.

Mendham Replied that White Cloud has a similar ordinance and we have no trouble enforcing it.

Ulrich Asked how much the City has spent on attorneys for this.

Bouwkamp Stated he was bothered by their noisy gathering on the lake. Last year they got a permit for their event, but this year they did not.

Hallman Stated they were practicing. It was not a planned "event".

Pickard Commented that it was too bad we started this whole deal.

Fett Stated that he has to vote for this because he made the main motion, but the person who offered the second did not have to vote for it.

Roll Call Vote: Bouwkamp-Yes, Fett-Yes, Hallman-No, Pickard-No, Portell-No, Smith-No, and Weeks-No
Motion failed.

- d. Resolution 15-02: Filing of County Drain Petition:

Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Pickard to approve the Resolution.

Rudzis Explained that this is just standard procedure.

All in favor. Motion carried.

- e. Motion Item #2: Amending sick, personal, and vacation time in City Personnel Policy:

Motion: Motion made by Weeks, second by Smith to approve the motion.

Rudzis explained that the City Treasurer is looking to reduce her hours from 25 per week down to 17-18 per week. We are already setting up interviews for four candidates to fill some of these hours.

Fett Stated that with savings, we can use those funds to pay for this person.

Rudzis Explained she would get less benefits according to the percentage of full-time hours worked.

All in favor. Motion carried.

- f. Motion Item #3: Approval to purchase a used police vehicle not in excess of \$10,000:
Motion: Motion made by Portell, second by Hallman to approve the motion not to exceed \$10,000
Rudzis Explained one of our Police Officers was responding to an assist to Michigan State Police, and a vehicle failed to yield, causing an accident that totaled the car. We have been looking, and found an Impala and a Charger.
Mendham Explained that Chargers have higher maintenance costs. Impalas are much less to maintain.
Fett Asked why we do not want to spend the \$11,555 to get moving on this so we don't have to bring it back to the Commission.
Original Motion Amended: Motion made by Portell, second by Hallman to amend original not to exceed amount up to \$11,555.
 All in favor. Motion carried.
- g. Motion Item #4: Changing the Grant Police Department Logo/Insignia:
Motion: Motion made by Pickard, second by Hallman to change the insignia.
Mendham Stated he likes the C4 design the best.
Commissioners Discussed the different logos and what they liked about each.
 All in favor. Motion Carried. to approve the C4 design.
- h. Discussion of Ordinance 21-1. It has been requested to allow for residents to keep chickens for agricultural purposes.
Motion: Motion made by Pickard, second by Hallman to discuss chickens.
Fett Stated that Grand Rapids is very restrictive.
Pickard Said she would like to have six chickens, and allow no roosters.
Fett Stated we don't have enough evidence to do anything with this tonight.
Rudzis Stated he would like to send a survey out to the residents about chickens.
Original Motion Amended: Motion made by Pickard, second by Hallman to table to the next meeting.
 All in favor. Motion carried.
- i. Discussion of events at the Blanche Lake Park Amphitheatre:
Rudzis Stated we currently have some leftover funds within the Manager and Assistant City Manager/Clerk's departments that we are willing to put towards to an inflatable movie screen and movie projector.
Hallman Asked if we have any dates for anything planned at the amphitheatre.
Fett Replied that we have several bands, and that we are bringing the festival to Blanche Lake Park on August 14th and 15th this year. He stated that at the Lake, Nick from Newaygo Brewing will have a beer tent with food brought in.
Commissioners Expressed numerous comments about having festival at Blanche Lake Park.
- j. Public Comment on Agenda Items (Rules of Decorum)
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Smith to take public comment on agenda items at the beginning of the meeting.
Commissioners Expressed different opinions on when we should allow public participation during meetings.
 All in favor. Motion carried.
6. **Other Business:**
 None
7. **Information Items:**
 None
8. **Public Comments:**
 None
9. **Adjournment** without objection at 8:12 p.m.

 Mayor Terry Fett

 Sherry Powell, Assistant City Manager/Clerk