

Grant City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 16, 2018

The regular meeting of the Grant City Commission was held on Monday, April 16, 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, Kate Block, and Gerard Williams (7:25pm)
ABSENT:
EXCUSED:
Others Present: Ryan Rudzis - City Manager, Sherry Powell - Assistant City Manager/Clerk, Brad Wade - Chief of Police, Chris Wren - Newaygo County Administrator, Pam Schwallier - River Country Chamber, and Representative Holly Hughes.
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 Pickard, second by Block to approve the consent agenda.
Motion carried unanimously
7. **Unfinished Business**

None
8. **New Business**
 - a. River Country Chamber of Commerce: Schwallier stated there are preparations starting for Harvest Moon Festival and Christmas in Grant. We can do things to keep businesses prosperous during construction. They have formed a committee to discuss ideas to help with this. October 12th and 13th are the Harvest Moon Festival dates.
 - b. Chris Wren, Newaygo County Administrator introduced himself and stated he has been here nearly two years. He was previously a City Manager for thirteen years. Over the past two years, the County has made lots of positive changes. Good communication is key. It's budget season, and the County has a \$66.5 million budget. Major changes include indigent defense, which could increase the budget by over \$400,000. The State is considering changing seventeen-year olds to be considered "youth" and not adults. The County currently has 198 employees, and personnel costs are increasing. The County is working on recycling to be sustainable. The just finished a strategic plan with WMSRDC. He just met with the State Director of Transportation, and Newaygo County still has a huge void. We are likely the only County not offering public transportation. Chris encouraged people to reach out with any questions.
Rudzis stated we were hit with Headlee for the third year in a row.
 - c. Motion Item #1: Temporarily lift sign restrictions during construction: Rudzis stated this is for specific signs in the right-of-way and possibly on their construction signs. MDOT is currently working on improving the route.
Smith stated it would be nice to have two or three businesses to advertise together on one sign.
Motion made by Bouwkamp, second by Block to allow these signs in the right-of-way.
Motion carried unanimously

d. Resolution 18-03 Poverty Exemption Policy (Required for Board of Review): Hallman explained this is just for the Board of Review.

Motion made by Pickard, second by Smith to approve.

Motion carried unanimously

e. Resolution 18-04: Property Transfer Affidavits (Required for Board of Review)

Motion made by Pickard, second by Sanchez to approve.

Motion carried unanimously

9. **Other Business**

None

10. **Information Items**

a. Brad Wade, NCRESA Award: Hallman stated the on Thursday Brad will be awarded the "I Care" award. This award has to do with protecting kids.

b. MDOT M-37 Project Information: Hallman explained this project is changing. Rudzis explained the paving will be starting May 7th, and will take a month. 128th to lee will be done first, and hopefully completed by June 11th. Hallman stated she recently attended the "Small Towns and Rural Communities" Conference.

11. **Public Comments**

Representative Holly Hughes is running for State Senate. She is running for Rick Hansen's seat. Farming is very important to her. They have added \$175 million to road improvements. They provided free banners for Promise Zone in Newaygo and Muskegon County. They are working on the Marshall Plan the Governor has brought out. They are looking to reach out to millennials in other states to help fill job vacancies in Michigan. They are working on jobs and the economy.

Powell informed everyone that City Treasurer Melinda Harris will graduate from the Michigan Municipal Treasurer's Institute this week.

Pickard updated everyone on the gateway sign that had been driven into last year. We do not need new posts for the sign. Only new plywood and painting is needed.

Schwaller stated that this Wednesday night is the annual dinner, and invited anyone interested and available to attend.

13. **Adjournment**

Motion made by Pickard, second by Smith to adjourn the meeting at 7:28p.m.

Motion carried unanimously

Mayor Julie Hallman

Sherry Powell, Assistant City Manager/Clerk