

Grant City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 16, 2012

The regular meeting of the Grant City Commission was held on Monday, July 16, 2012, 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: Mayor Terry Fett, Commissioner Julie Hallman , Commissioner Anne Pickard, Commissioner Cheryl Weeks, Commissioner Kevin Smith, Commissioner Matt Bouwkamp, and Commissioner Harold Portell
Others Present: Doug La Fave – City Manager, Sherry Powell – Assistant City Manager/Clerk, Officer Bob VanBelzen, Gary Nestle – Infrastructure Alternatives, Inc., Shawn Botsford – DPW Supervisor, Pat Gardner, Lori Gardner, Sam Scholtens, and Bob Mendham.
ABSENT: None
EXCUSED: None
4. **Approval of the Agenda:**
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Portell to approve the agenda.
Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**
Bob Mendham announced that he is a candidate for Newaygo County Sheriff. He commented that he has a well rounded background for the job of Sheriff, and he offered to answer questions while he distributed campaign material.
Pat Gardner announced he is seeking re-election for County Commissioner, and he feels he is the best person for the job.
Sam Scholtens stated he is running for County Commission, and he appreciates the support.
6. **Consent Agenda**
a-e. Approval of the Consent Agenda
Motion: Motion made by Weeks, second by Smith to approve the consent agenda.
Motion carried unanimously.
7. **Unfinished Business:**
a. Board vacancy remaining-Planning Commission (1): We still have one vacancy to fill. Please help us find a candidate.
Motion carried unanimously.
8. **New Business**
a. Motion Item 1: Consideration: City of Grant 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Policy.
Motion: Motion made by Portell, second by Weeks to approve the Sidewalk Replacement Policy.
Portell asked if this is a new program or a continuation of an existing program.
La Fave replied with the history of this existing program and how we are modifying the policy so that the City Commission can approve each request within budget constraints.
Motion carried unanimously.
b. Motion Item 2: Consideration: City of Grant Irrigation meter Policy.
Motion: Motion made by ____, second by __ to approve the City of Grant Irrigation Meter Policy.
La Fave explained that due to the high initial expense, we probably will not get a lot of requests for these. Residential users are capped at 20,000 gallons for their sewer, but this could help non-residential users better control their water usage costs. This policy was created largely due to a request by the Library.
Motion carried unanimously.
c. Resolution 12-19: Consideration: For confirmation of the Mayor's appointment to the Fire Board.
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Weeks to approve Resolution 12-19.
Mayor Fett asked Commissioner Pickard if she would be willing to continue on a short-term basis, and she agreed.
Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Resolution 12-20: Consideration: To sell 1990's police car light bar.
Motion: Motion made by Portell, second by Pickard to approve Resolution 12-20.
Pickard asked how we would go about selling it, and Doug replied that he would accept sealed envelope bids.
 Motion carried unanimously.
- e. Resolution 12-21: Consideration: To approve maintenance inspection of City elevated storage tank/water tower (not to exceed \$2,800 to Nelson Tank Engineering) .
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Smith to approve Resolution 12-21.
Portell asked if this is mandatory, and Doug replied that it is something we are required to do.
 Motion carried unanimously.
- f. Resolution 12-22: Consideration: To allow regulations of Ord. #44-Noise Ordinance-to be waived for City Officials for the purpose of non-lethal geese control at Blanche Lake Park.
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Pickard to approve Resolution 12-22.
 Motion carried unanimously.
- g. Resolution 12-23: Consideration: To allow regulations of Ord. #44-Noise Ordinance-to be waived for Grant Festival live music event.
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Pickard to approve Resolution 12-23.
 Motion carried unanimously.
- h. Resolution 12-24: Consideration: To authorize water treatments of Blanche Lake (not to exceed \$1,500 to PLM Lake and Land Management.)
Motion: Motion made by Weeks, second by Hallman to approve Resolution 12-24.
Pickard asked if we have been doing this before, and Doug replied that PLM has treated the Lake a few times for invasive species, and commented that it is working well.
 Motion carried unanimously.
- i. Ordinance: First Reading: Consideration: For the repeal of Ord. #1, Ord. #1a, Ord. #10, Ord. #15-1 and Ord. #15-2.
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Weeks to approve the first reading.
Portell asked if we have considered excluding certain breeds of domesticated animals, and Doug replied explaining the process we went through last fall. He said that the ordinances slated to be repealed are now obsolete.
 Motion carried unanimously.
- j. Ordinance: First Reading: Consideration: Amending Ord. #21-1, Title, Article 1 Section 1(a) and Article III Section 1
Motion: Motion made by Weeks, second by Pickard to approve the first reading.
La Fave explained the existing Dog Ordinance title would be amended along with sections to make it more inclusive in ensuring certain animals are not allowed within the City limits.
 Motion carried unanimously.
9. **Other Business**
- a. NCATS – AirGrant – Lease Proposal: NCATS is buying AirGrant, and they are offering us 3%. Mayor Fett suggests that we agree to \$250 or 3%, whichever is greater.
Pickard asked how many years this agreement would be for, and Doug replied that their proposal is for five years.
La Fave stated he would like a minimum guaranteed amount in the agreement.
Motion: Motion made by Weeks, second by Smith to approve an agreement with \$250 or 3%, which is greater.
 Motion carried unanimously.
10. **Information Items / Updates**
- a. Safe Routes to School-sidewalks: Contracts are all signed, the bid letting was July 6th, and the project should be wrapped up in October.
- b. Blanche Lake Swim Beach: We received the permit and have one quote in. The new swim beach location will be adjacent to the dock, and the old location was too shallow and more weedy.
Weeks asked if there will be any additional liability for the City by having a swimming beach, and Doug replied that as long as we post the appropriate signage, there is no additional liability.
- c. Wind Turbine claim: The second insurance claim was approved, and the project should be taken care of in the next couple of months.
- d. WWTP aspirators: Gary Nestle of Infrastructure Alternatives, Inc. stated we have been struggling with two combination mixer/aspirators. This is in the solids handling portion of the treatment process. Now that all

of the project warranties are expired, we are needing to fix them. Since this is a Rural Development funded project, Doug suggested to Gary to contact Rural Development for assistance. A Rural Development representative will be here Wednesday morning to take a look at the problem that essentially boils down to one three year old unit showing twenty-five years of wear to it.

Weeks asked what the replacement cost is, and Doug explained they are about \$29,000 each new. We have a retrofit repair option that could be much cheaper, and we are leaning on Rural Development for help to resolve this issue.

- e. MDOT Streetscape audit: The State of Michigan is behind in their own audit, and throughout the streetscape project, they would send us invoices for our 30% match, without any details explaining what it was specifically for. This resulted in the State of Michigan mailing us a \$14,800 refund check after they overbilled us.
- f. DDA: We are not going to have any money as our values are down about a million from when the DDA was originally created at the beginning of the recession. Now it is just a waiting game for those values to recover.

11. **Public Comments:**

Pickard asked if we have any money for an irrigation system at the City Offices, and Doug responded that while we could place a couple of sprinklers out there, we do not have the funds for an actual irrigation system. Comments were made that experts are recommending to leave lawns alone, let them go dormant, and they will eventually begin to recover again once we start getting more rain.

12. **Adjournment** without objection at 7:34 p.m.

Mayor Terry Fett

Sherry Powell, Assistant City Manager/Clerk