

**Grant City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 18, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Grant City Commission was held on Monday, July 18, 2016, at the City of Grant Offices.

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Julie Hallman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
3. **Roll Call:**
PRESENT: Mayor Julie Hallman, Commissioner Tim Atwood, Commissioner Anne Pickard, Commissioner, Commissioner Kevin Smith, and Commissioner Harold Portell
Others Present: Ryan Rudzis – City Manager, Sherry Powell – Assistant City Manager/Clerk, Janet Botsford - DPW, Matt Biolette, Ken Page, Holly Moon, and Jason VanderStelt.
ABSENT: Commissioner Matt Bouwkamp
EXCUSED: Commissioner Cheryl Weeks
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** Added Item B. Visit from Holly Moon under New Business.
Motion: Motion made by Portell, second by Pickard to approve the agenda.
Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:**
None
6. **Consent Agenda**
a-e. Approval of the Consent Agenda
Motion: Motion made by Portell, second by Atwood to approve the consent agenda.
Motion carried unanimously.
7. **Unfinished Business:**
a. N/A
8. **New Business**
 - a. Motion Item #1: Purchase 11 of a truck for the DPW
Motion: Motion made by Smith, second by Pickard to approve the motion.
Pickard: 25,000?
Motion carried unanimously.
 - b. Holly Moon's annual visit. Most exciting news is self-fund delinquent taxes this year instead of borrowing. 80% of The Counties are self-funded. 2nd most exciting is 21 foreclosures turned over voluntarily 97 in total this year. Most in Merrill Twp. Means we're getting message out on the small lots. Also had 56 asked for extension thru Aug 12th to pay taxes, then another pmt plan to help get caught up. Delinquent rate has been approx 10-12%, and this year it's 8%. Local Treasurers have done a great job. Grant City is 4.52%, with only 3 or 4 Aug sales planned for Aug 4th. Catalog with info on her website. September 15th auction for anything that is not already sold or did not successfully redeem. Step Forward Program was reinstated. It's re-opening and is a lot simpler this time. Have to be homesteaded, no more than \$10,000 in bank accounts, and have a qualifying event. They can apply online, but not through Holly's office. Holly provided a poster for this also, and requested each person pass along the half size folder. Debit & credit card pmts are doing great. Glad to answer any questions.
Hallman: Thanks for coming.
Pickard: Asked about Merrill Twp
Moon: 25x100' lots established by zoning. Working on legislation to change zoning so she can combine parcels for sale.
Pickard: How big will the properties be then? Moon said they would be a bigger piece.
 - c. Jason Vanderstelt: Candidate for Newaygo County Clerk: Jason introduced himself. Grew up in Hesperia. Was in the Air Force and worked as an electrician. Military sent him back to college to be an accountant. Worked at Hackley Hospital until merge with Mercy. Went to Powers motorsports for a few years. Has been at County Treasurer's Office the past four years. Service, Community, Volunteering are important to him. Coaches sports also. Duties include cross-training to fill in for various positions. A few years ago he started thinking about applying for the County Clerk position when L Breuker retired, but it was too busy in the Treasurer's Office then.

Very important to stay in tuned with the communities and the cities. Plans to attend a meeting at least once a year. Has been asked about most important job in this position. It's governed by over 596 statutes in four divisions. Has a lot of experience with analysis, and intends to analyze all 596 of those statutes. Handed out pamphlets and encouraged questions.

- d. Discussion Item #1: Presentation from A-Waste regarding our expiring contract: Ken Page, Jr. introduced himself as co-owner of A-Waste. Have been in business for almost 11 yrs. Was a huge stepping stone for their business in order for it to grow. Building the business has been fun, and they have learned many new things. They also work closely with City of Newaygo, and they have come to realize that inserting themselves into the public has been the key to grow. The feedback has been very beneficial. The crew is amazing, and dedicated to their work. BJ takes care of all the drivers and ensures maintenance is kept up. They are re-doing two new trucks out of Tennessee, with plans to separate residential from commercial services. The 5 Corners facility is 17 acres, and they are working to move everything off the road. Making the transfer station into their own entity to make things more economical. This will help eliminate fuel surcharges and improve rates here. Requested feedback about how they can make things better for City.

Pickard: 64 gal is \$10/month.

Page: Prefer to discuss that later, but may be less.

Hallman: Offer recycling bins, right?

Page: About \$4/month.

Hallman: Doesn't have to be separated out?

Page: It's single stream, and one truck will

Powell: What is the tipping fee?

Page: For the dumpsters, which they won't have. No other fees beyond weight restrictions.

- e. Discussion Item #2: Ordinance Enforcement : Hallman stated we've had some discussion lately about ordinance enforcement. Rudzis feels we should have this conversation at least once per year. Brad is here to address questions and expectations. Ultimately this board sets the standard.

Portell: WE should go talk to them first before issuing a ticket.

Wade: Currently we are sending a letter to the address. A follow-up letter will be given. The third time a citation is issued to that owner.

Hallman: Second one is hand-delivered?

Wade: No. Would prefer to go talk to them and get it resolved, and save fifty cents per stamps. What a better way to get to know the community better. The letters, ticket books, etc. Certain ordinances we deal with more than others. Some people go really far with certain ordinances, and others do not. At the third time he sees someone having trouble mowing their grass, he would prefer to lend them a mower to cut their grass. We are the only entity in the County to have an ordinance officer. We need to switch some hours around to catch people at home. There is no reason why we cannot have our second shift person go speak with the person one-on-one. Has discussed this several times with Ryan and Chief Mendham about Ordinance Enforcement. When he has spoken with property owner and given warning, he still had the chickens. He believes some of these ordinances could be revamped a little bit.

Rudzis: stated the police department should be called, rather than the City Offices.

Wade: This position is a line on our budget that could easily be used elsewhere.

Rudzis: Any ordinances not being enforced enough?

Pickard: We have a Manager that can do that.

Wade: That's not his job.

Hallman: He may have done that, but it's the police department's job. Appreciates the discussion before the letter.

Pickard: We have something going on in the City. A pick-up truck that cannot move when it does not have wheels.

Hallman: I think it was being dealt with.

Wade: It was dealt with today.

Hallman: He is going to have to make it operable.

Pickard: The lady with the chickens and the person with the pig were only given two months. This truck has been there for a year.

Rudzis: It has to have a plate and it has to be able to start.

Hallman: The discretion piece has to include those with hard times.

Wade: We can use discretion. If we stop someone for speeding 70, we can write them for less. Using discretion, this is a vehicle. They are parked in every driveway. Chickens rooting up the grass is a little different than a vehicle parked in a driveway. A state law ticket could be written right away if needed, but the last thing we want it to start writing everyone tickets for grass that's just a little too high, where there vehicle is parked, or where their plate is

located. We are in progress of changing. Asked if there is anything really bothering anyone?
Rudzis: stated we are pretty satisfied with things.

9. **Other Business**

a. N/A

10. **Information Items / Updates**

a. N/A CIPP Project construction starts Monday at night. Should not interfere with traffic. Will be out until 2am.

11. **Public Comments:**

None

12. **Adjournment**

Motion: Motion made by Portell, second by Pickard to adjourn at 7:37 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Harold Portell

Sherry Powell, Assistant City Manager/Clerk

Unofficial Minutes