

Grant City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 15, 2010

The special meeting of the Grant City Commission was held on Monday, November 15, 2010, at the City of Grant Offices.

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Terry Fett called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
3. **Roll Call:**

PRESENT: Mayor Terry Fett, Commissioner Anne Pickard, Commissioner Cheryl Weeks, and Commissioner Terri Yeomans, and Commissioner Kevin Smith
Others Present: Doug La Fave-City Manager, Sherry Powell – Assistant City Manager/Clerk, Dan VanBelzen – Chief of Police, Shawn Botsford – Department of Public Works, Lori Gardner, Dan Graham, Jim Irvine, Mona Irvine, and Fleis & Vandenbrink Engineer Bob Wilcox
ABSENT: None
EXCUSED: Commissioners Julie Hallman and Matt Bouwkamp
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** Added under Other Business Item b. Audit the need for a motion to accept
Motion: Motion made by Yeomans, second by Weeks to approve the agenda.
Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Public Comment:**

None
6. **Consent Agenda**

a-f. 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. Planning Commission vacancies (2) – 1 must be filled by a City Commission member and the other recommended by Mayor Fett: We are required to hold two more meetings before the end of the calendar year.
8. **New Business**

a. Motion Item: Invoices for USDA Sewer project, \$13,264.07 for Engineering Services and \$23,888.45 for Contract 1
Motion: Motion made by Smith, second by Pickard to approve the invoices for the USDA Sewer Project.
Motion carried unanimously.

b. Motion Item: Motion to approve additional compensation proration of \$3,000 to DPW Supervisor, Shawn Botsford effective next full payroll.
Motion: Motion made by Yeomans, second by Pickard to approve the additional compensation.
Motion carried unanimously.

c. Resolution 10-36: Resolution providing for the appointment of the City Commission as the Zoning Board of Appeals.
Motion: Motion made by Weeks, second by Yeomans to approve Resolution 10-36.
Motion carried unanimously.

d. Resolution 10-37: Resolution approving display level of water tower level, display status of pumps for wells view panel and install costs for alarm auto dialer for the water system in an amount not to exceed \$5,700.
Motion: Motion made by Pickard, second by Smith to approve Resolution 10-37.
Motion carried unanimously.
9. **Other Business**

a. Ordinance #21-Dog Ordinance: Doug explained a recent dog bite incident that occurred a short distance behind City Hall a couple of weeks ago, and is bringing the existing dog ordinance back to the City Commission for review in case any modifications are determined necessary.
Pickard stated there are a lot of pros and cons when it comes to defining breeds and adding a muzzle requirement. She does not think we need to ban any breeds.
Weeks stated she is not a fan of banning breeds either. She thinks that this dog owner was neglectful, and that owners of properly licensed and vaccinated dogs should not face additional requirements by the City.
Pickard stated that she likes a requirement that dogs be fenced in and place a Beware of Dog sign on the door.

Yeomans thinks the owner should be held responsible.

La Fave commented that he tends to agree with these ideas, and stated that we should not over-react either.

Fett stated he does not agree with banning certain breeds, and would like us to tighten our existing ordinance up so owners are required to take care of these animals.

La Fave Stated the City is not properly equipped to deal with these types of incidents.

Pickard Commented that Newaygo County Animal Control will come out and check complaints of (inadequate) shelter and care.

La Fave Stated we can certainly take more time to decide the best approach.

The consensus of the City Commission is to take no action at this time and look at sample changes for muzzle and fencing requirements.

- b. 2009-2010 Audit: Commissioners Yeomans and Pickard expressed compliments for the job the Clerk and Treasurer were doing.

Motion: Motion made by Weeks, second by Yeomans to accept the annual audit.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. **Information Items / Updates**

- a. Neighborhood Watch: The new schedule is posted everywhere.
- b. Historical Marker: The last piece of information they need is the volume the tank holds.
- c. Newaygo County “work detail” – cemetery clean up: This worked very well, and we did not receive one complaint the entire day.
- d. Safe Routes to School sidewalk grant: We will have some meetings to discuss priorities and determine the responsibilities of all parties involved.
- e. Wastewater treatment plant project update – Bob Wilcox from F&V: Bob Wilcox gave an update and recap of the work done in the project, including the 6,500 lineal feet of sewer lines rehabilitated. Contract 1 (Davis Construction) is wrapping up now and they are working on the punch list. The project finished on budget and on schedule. Grant funding allowed the City to purchase some much needed equipment. The operators are doing a great job optimizing the plant. During the project, we were able to reduce influent flows by 25% and we improved the sludge digestion process. The improved polishing pond process was also noted. The SCADA system monitors all equipment functions at the treatment plant. Rural Development wants to do a final punch list and walk through. Bob thanked all of the City staff for making it an uneventful and smooth construction project.

11. **Public Comments:**

Jim Irvine commented about the dog ordinance and difficulty in accurately identifying a Pit bull. He handed out literature that shows twenty-five different dogs with only one accurately identified Pit bull on the page. Literature from the American Temperament Test Society, Inc. was also distributed for over 200 breeds of dogs, with no information provided on the Pit bull breed. He commented that the CDC has a publication on dog bite prevention.

Mona Irvine commented that there are programs available through schools to teach kids how to avoid trouble. She also commented that people need to train their dogs, and recommended a website for National Animal Interest Alliance for more information.

Lori Gardner commented that she has a Husky who used to be abused by a previous owner, and that she walks him through town from time to time. She feels that if he had to be muzzled, he might not respond well to it at all.

12. **Adjournment** without objection at 7:37p.m.

Mayor Terry Fett

Sherry Powell, Grant City Clerk