

**Grant City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, May 21, 2012**

A Public Hearing of the Grant City Commission to receive comments on the City FY 2012-2013 Budget on Monday, May 21, 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 Anne Pickard, Commissioner Matt Bouwkamp, Commissioner Harold Portell, and Commissioner Kevin Smith  
Others Present: Doug La Fave – City Manager, Sherry Powell – Assistant City Manager/Clerk, Dan VanBelzen – Chief of Police  
ABSENT: None  
EXCUSED: Commissioner Cheryl Weeks and Commissioner Julie Hallman
4. **Public Comment on the City FY 2012-2013 Budget:**  
None
5. **Adjournment** without objection at 7:01 p.m.

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Others Present: Doug La Fave – City Manager, Sherry Powell – Assistant City Manager/Clerk, Dan VanBelzen – Chief of Police  
ABSENT: None  
EXCUSED: Commissioner Cheryl Weeks and Commissioner Julie Hallman
4. **Approval of the Agenda:**  
**Motion:** Motion made by Portell second by Smith to approve the agenda.  
Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Public Comment:**  
None
6. **Consent Agenda**  
*a-e. Approval of the Consent Agenda*  
**Motion:** Motion made by Smith, second by Bouwkamp to approve the consent agenda.  
Motion carried unanimously.
7. **Unfinished Business:**  
a. Board Vacancies-Planning Commission (1): We still have one remaining vacancy.
8. **New Business**  
a. Motion Item 1: Consideration: Citizen traffic signal request policy: We have always handled these requests on an ad hoc basis, and this is a more formal manner for handling these in the future.  
**Motion:** Motion made by Portell, second by Pickard to approve the policy.  
Motion carried unanimously.  
b. Resolution 12-14: Consideration: Adopt the City of Grant 2012-2013 FY budget, millage rates, fee rate schedule and capital items in the FY budget.  
**Motion:** Motion made by Smith, second by Pickard to approve Resolution 12-14.

Commissioners agreed in comments made that everything in the budget looks really good.  
Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Resolution 12-15: Consideration: For the replacement of the flow recorder meter at the City water plant/well house (\$2,582.44.)  
**Motion:** Motion made by Portell, second by Smith to approve Resolution 12-15.  
Bouwkamp asked how long we should expect the new one to last, and Doug explained the history of lightning strikes at the City's well house property. We are looking at options to help minimize future lightning strikes.  
Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Resolution 12-16: Consideration: Approving Community Center HVAC work for Main Hall (\$15,334.81):  
**Motion:** Motion made by Pickard, second by Bouwkamp to approve Resolution 12-16.  
This project will cost the City nothing out of pocket because of Mark Zimmer's donation and the grant from The Fremont Area Community Foundation for the rest of the costs.  
Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Other Business**

- a. Parking – City Commissioner requested item: Commissioner Pickard explained concern about the need to improve the City's image, and thinks it looks bad when people park vehicles in their front yards.  
Fett recommended that we wait until the sidewalks project is completed to look closer at this issue.  
By Unanimous Consent Commissioners agreed to hold off on this issue until after the sidewalks are done.
- b. Cemetery fencing – City Commissioner requested item: Commissioner Pickard stated that years ago when Tobi Lake was the City Manager, the City Commission discussed having a fence at Parkview Cemetery. She thinks a fence would look nice and would also keep the kids from walking through the cemetery.  
Chief Van Belzen stated that primary complaints are that some of the kids hide behind the cemetery building to smoke, but it does not happen very often.  
La Fave stated he was asked the schools to include comments in their announcements about being respectful in the cemetery.
- c. General City Ordinance – Ord. #1 Section 7 – Chicken Request: A request was received from residents on Lincoln Street to have chickens, and while our first ordinance strictly prohibits hogs, it does allow property owners to keep a cow or chickens as long as it meets the distance requirements. This is the oldest ordinance on the books, and we realize it is extremely outdated. We could repeal some of the language that no longer applies or even place a moratorium on sections. We will take a closer look at this ordinance at the next meeting.  
By Unanimous Consent the Commission placed a moratorium on the keeping of chickens in the City limits.
- d. Ashland – Grant Fire Board: Commissioner Pickard will be resigning from the Fire Board soon.  
Fett asked about the level of support to start holding the meetings in the evening.  
Pickard has spoken with each Fire Board member, and including herself, there are four who are open to the idea of holding the meetings in the evening so the public can attend.  
Fett stated he had a disheartening conversation with one of the Fire Board members who told him he does not want to hold meetings in the evening so that he does not have to deal with the public. He stated a concern about avoiding violations of the Open Meetings Act. He recommended that concerned individual might want to contact the Township Supervisors directly and encourage them to address the meeting times in the spirit of the Open Meetings Act.  
Pickard stated the next Fire Board meeting will be the last Monday in June (25<sup>th</sup>.)
- e. ORV Ordinance – County – City  
Fett stated he is up in the air about this subject. The young age allowed presents a problem and the parking issues yet another.  
La Fave stated he and Chief Van Belzen have met with Chiefs of Police from around the County to discuss concerns, and none of the other cities have done anything with this issue yet.  
Chief Van Belzen stated he would like to see strict criteria and requirements if the Commission decides to allow this in the City limits.  
Portell stated he would like to leave it banned.

By Unanimous Consent the Commission decided just to sit on this issue. They asked City staff to put out a notice so people know it is banned in the City limits.

10. **Information Items / Updates**

- a. Safe Routes to School: We are all set for construction, which will begin on September 4<sup>th</sup> and conclude by October 5<sup>th</sup>. We are still encouraging the local contractors to bid on the project. This entire project will cost the City of Grant taxpayers nothing out of pocket.
- b. 5 year parks and recreation plan update (DNR): We still have a public comment period, and the next meeting will be held on June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Festival 2012: The Grant Festival (formerly Grant Frontier Festival) will be held at 360 South Maple Street (M-37.) The Chamber of Commerce is looking to try something different, and they are hoping to grab more of the M-37 traffic. The City is a member like any other business, but as a reminder, it is not our Festival to coordinate.

11. **Public Comments:**

None

12. **Adjournment** without objection at 7:45 p.m.

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Mayor Terry Fett

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Sherry Powell, Assistant City Manager/Clerk