

Grant City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 20, 2009

The special meeting of the Grant City Commission was held on Monday, July 20, 2009 at the City of Grant Offices.

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Pro Tem Harry Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
3. **Roll Call:**
PRESENT: Mayor Terry Fett, Commissioner Julie Hallman, Commissioner Anne Pickard, Commissioner Harry Robinson, Commissioner Terri Yeomans, and Commissioner Kevin Smith
OTHERS PRESENT: Doug La Fave-City Manager, Sherry Powell – Assistant City Manager/Clerk, Lori Gardner-City Treasurer/Utility Billing Clerk, Dan VanBelzen–Chief of Police, Officer Mitch Rood, Officer Ed Alvarado, Officer James Fragale, Laurie Breuker–Newaygo County Clerk, Dan Graham, and Pat Gardner.
ABSENT: None
EXCUSED: Commissioner Cheryl Lake
4. **Approval of the Agenda:**
Motion: Motion made by Robinson second by Yeomans 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 Yeomans, second by Smith to approve the consent agenda.
Motion carried unanimously.
7. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a. Water Reliability study request from Moore and Bruggink: Doug explained the DPW crew was conducting hydrant flushing when Moore & Bruggink arrived. He thinks the breakdown in communication was with both parties equally.
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Pickard to take necessary action to get the amount requested down to a reasonable amount to resolve the matter.
Motion carried unanimously.
8. **New Business**
 - a. Resolution 09-25: Resolution providing for the 2009 candidate petition filing deadline.
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Yeomans to approve Resolution 09-25.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - b. Resolution 09-26: Resolution authorizing removal of tree services.
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Pickard to approve Resolution 09-26.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - c. Resolution 09-27: Resolution authorizing the City Manager to sell City property.
Motion: Motion made by Robinson, second by Hallman to approve Resolution 09-27.
Mayor Fett explained to the board that the concern involves the use of City property at the end of Lincoln Street right before it curves around to Western.
Doug La Fave explained that Ms. Merchant first approached the City desiring to determine actual property lines for resolve a dispute with the neighbor. After this initial visit, Mrs. Hilbrand stopped by the office to clarify the same property lines. She expressed an interest to purchase the property from the City to resolve some parking-related problems. Doug later contacted the County and was given the recommendation to either provide an easement to both parties, to split the property 16.5' and offer it to each along with survey costs, or to sell it to the highest bidder once the survey is done. He concluded that we always have to remain fair and impartial when making these decisions.
Justin Hilbrand stated he had invested \$400 in dolomite placed on this property since he moved into the home six years ago, and he does not want to lose their driveway and needed access to his garage foundation.
Motion: Motion made by Robinson, second by Pickard to table the Resolution 09-27 until August.

Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Resolution 09-28: Resolution authorizing payment of the Ryan Benson Memorial Skate Park Grant.
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Smith to approve Resolution 09-28.
 Motion carried unanimously.
 - e. Resolution 09-29: Resolution authorizing the City Manager to make City purchases.
Motion: Motion made by Yeomans, second by Hallman to approve Resolution 09-29.
 Motion carried unanimously.
 - f. Resolution 09-30: Resolution saluting and commending City of Grant Police Officer Mitch Rood for his act of selfless heroism.
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Pickard to approve Resolution 09-30.
 Motion carried unanimously.
 - g. Resolution 09-31: Resolution authorizing the purchase of way-finding signage.
Motion: Motion made by Robinson, second by Yeomans to approve Resolution 09-31.
 Motion carried unanimously.
 - h. Resolution 09-32: Resolution authorizing officials to sign streetscape contracts.
Motion: Motion made by Yeomans, second by Hallman to approve Resolution 09-32.
 Motion carried unanimously.
 - i. Resolution 09-33: Resolution providing for the placement of the ballot proposals for the renewal of fire protection millage proposition and fire equipment millage proposal on the November ballot.
Motion: Motion made by Yeomans, second by Pickard to approve Resolution 09-33.
 Motion carried unanimously.
 - j. Resolution 09-34: Resolution providing for the placement of a ballot proposal for public safety millage proposition on the November ballot.
Motion: Motion made by Yeomans, second by Robinson to approve Resolution 09-34.
 Motion carried unanimously.
 - k. Resolution 09-35: Resolution saluting and commending Paul VanWieren for his achievements and positive impact on the Grant Community.
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Smith to approve Resolution 09-35.
 Motion carried unanimously.
 - l. Ordinance #35-2: Amendment to section 403 of Ordinance #35-First Reading
Motion: Motion made by Yeomans, second by Hallman to accept the first reading of Ordinance #35-2.
 Motion carried unanimously.
 - m. Motion Item: Amendment to City Personnel Policy Regarding Certification Compensation for DPW
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Pickard to approve the amendment to the City Personnel Policy.
 Motion carried unanimously.
9. **Other Business**
- a. Employee Recognition: John Lapree has been employed with the City of Grant for 30 years now, and staff thought it would be appropriate to name the DPW facility in his honor as well as install a plaque near the entrance. By unanimous consent, the commission agreed we should move forward with this.
 - b. Ordinance #45: With the adoption of this new ordinance, Commission pay would be based on attendance of meetings. Yeomans commented about the importance of attending all of the meetings since little more is expected of each member.
 - c. Ashland-Grant Fire Contract: The current fire contract allows fire department to collect the voter approved tax millage, and in addition to that they are billing each municipality for all calls within their jurisdiction. Because we cannot properly budget for these monthly bills, we need to look at possibly having the fire department bill directly to the customers that use their services rather than the city paying for these. The current billing process and result is more than simply a perception of double dipping on the part of the fire department.
10. **Information Items / Updates**
- a. Streetscape update: The start date is scheduled for August 10, 2009. We have scheduled an open house on August 6th at 5:00pm so the businesses can talk with the engineer about any concerns they might have. Staff has already

mailed each property owner affected a detailed plan showing placement of trees, lights, stamped concrete, etc. and took their comments and concerns into consideration with the final design plans. All concerns were addressed, and each business has been involved throughout the entire process. There should be no concern over design at this point, but this will allow businesses to address any construction concerns.

- b. Sewer Project update: The discharge permits process has finally been resolved. The end of September the project will likely begin, and will continue into the winter months.
- c. Community Building update: The roof is under construction now, and the architect is finalizing bid documents. The project will go out for bid soon, with construction early this fall. The holes are now plugged where the bats were coming in the building.
- d. Electronic payment options for water/sewer bills and taxes: Residents will be able to pay their bills online with a debit or credit card. They will soon also be able to make a payment over the telephone, and this should help some of our residents.

11. **Public Comments:**

Mayor Terry Fett clarified some rumblings that he may have had something to do with a previously scheduled fire training exercise on Lake Street that will no longer be allowed according to the Fire Department. He said somehow his name was attached to the decision of the fire board, and he had nothing to do with it.

Laurel Breuker came to give a brief update on her office as County Clerk. She indicated that last year people were very pleased with a voter turnout of about 68% countywide, and mentioned that it slightly higher several years ago. She informed everyone that as of now, there have been no countywide proposals for the November General election, although there is still time. She asked that we provide her with information from the ballot printer so her office could program the AutoMark for us. She informed everyone that she is authorized to perform marriage ceremonies at the county building at a cost of \$20, although she has done a few outside of the county building. She informed everyone that she serves as a chairperson of a vital records committee for the state association, and that Newaygo County will be one of only five counties piloting an electronic death certificates program.

Commissioner Pickard commented about several residents having a preference for police protection between 4pm and midnight instead of during the day.

Doug La Fave responded court is only open during the day, and there is a great deal of administrative work that needs to be handled regularly.

Pat Gardner thanked Officer Mitch Rood for his heroic efforts and the entire Grant Police Department staff for their dedication to the Grant community.

12. **Adjournment** without objection at 8:04p.m.

Mayor Terry Fett

Sherry Powell, Grant City Clerk