

**Grant City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, July 20, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Grant City Commission was held on Monday, July 20, 2015, at the City of Grant Offices

- 1 **Call to Order:** Mayor Terry Fett called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
- 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, and Commissioner Harold Portell  
Others Present: Ryan Rudzis – City Manager, Sherry Powell – Assistant City Manager/Clerk, Janet Botsford - DPW Staff, Gary Nestle - IAI, Rich Ulrich, and Colleen Lynema  
ABSENT: None  
EXCUSED: Commissioner Matt Bouwkamp
- 4 **Public Comments on Agenda Items:**  
None
- 5 **Consent Agenda & Agenda**  
*a-e Approval of the Consent Agenda (With Budget Amendments) and Agenda*  
**Motion:** Motion made by Hallman, second by Weeks to approve the consent agenda and agenda with the addition of discussion of the evaluation form under Information Items  
Motion carried unanimously
- 6 **Unfinished Business:**  
a N/A
- 7 **New Business**
  - a Motion Item #1: Naming/Branding of Amphitheater  
**Motion:** Motion made by , second by to approve the motion  
Fett stated we have been entertaining the name "Lakeside Amphitheater."  
Hallman has heard some people suggest "Blanche Lake Park Amphitheater." She suggested we could always make a contest out of it.  
Pickard stated she likes "Blanche Lake Park Amphitheater" the best.  
Discussion and dialogue took place among the City Commission.  
**Unanimous Consent** to stick with "Blanche Lake Park Amphitheater."
  - b Motion Item #2: Approval for the use of Blanche Lake Park for the Heritage Celebration on September 19  
**Motion:** Motion made by Hallman , second by Portell to approve the motion.  
Motion carried unanimously
  - c Motion Item #3: Approval of proposed Family Dollar Plans  
**Motion:** Motion made by Weeks, second by Pickard to approve the motion.  
Motion carried unanimously
  - d Motion Item #4: Restructuring of Community Center rental rates  
Hallman asked to clarify the reasons behind the restructuring of the rental rates, and asked if it was related to rentals with alcohol.  
Rudzis replied that alcohol is not necessarily the reason behind this. He explained that residents within the City limits are oftentimes renting the Community Center for family and/or friends who reside outside of the City in order to get the reduced rental rate. We have had building damage during rentals where no alcohol is consumed, yet the City resident is on the hook for it.  
Discussion of the City Commission about looking at other rental rates and deposit rates in the area, as well as possibly making the security deposit higher to cover potential damages. Suggestions included doubling the security deposit for non-alcohol rentals and increasing it up to \$750 for rentals allowing alcohol.  
Weeks suggested that because confusion behind having rates for resident versus non-resident and alcohol versus non-alcohol, that perhaps we could just have a flat fee for alcohol and non-alcohol regardless of residency.  
Fett stated he could not recall ever having a problem with resident rentals before. He feels we need to have something in place to protect the City, and we return their deposit when they are good. We need to approve the Security Deposit and Rental Rate separately to eliminate confusion.  
Portell suggested we charge \$350 rental rate for Resident and \$500 for non-resident.

**Motion:** Motion made by Hallman, second by Smith to approve the motion to charge \$750 Security Deposit for all alcohol rentals, regardless of residency status.

Motion carried unanimously

**Motion:** Motion made by Pickard, second by Portell to approve the motion to charge \$350 for all rentals to City of Grant residents and charge \$500 for all rentals to Non-residents.

Motion carried unanimously

- e Motion Item #5: Purchase of de-chlorination system for the WWTP polishing pond

**Motion:** Motion made by Hallman, second by Pickard to approve the motion

Motion carried unanimously

- f Discussion Item: River Country Chamber of Commerce

Lynema introduced herself and provided an update on the River Country Chamber of Commerce. It currently has 275 members. Their goal is to develop the brand of River Country. They have hired someone to work twenty hours per week to help coordinate events. The biggest challenge is hearing from our members. Discussed the new proposed trail system encompassing Croton and Hardy ponds, as well as other currently separate trails. We want to promote events along the trail system. Newaygo Nationals is a non-profit organization. The entity name needs to be switched since the event has morphed. The requirement just to use the event name is expensive, and nothing tangible is returned for it. It is just money spent.

Fett thanked Colleen for helping with the Festival event.

Portell asked if the proposed trail, once completed, would be strictly a walking trail versus snowmobiling.

Lynema explained the trail would be used for biking and walking. No horses or motorized vehicles would be allowed on it. This project is definitely going to take awhile to complete.

- g Mutual Aid Agreement

**Motion:** Motion made by Portell, second by Weeks to approve the motion

Motion carried unanimously

8 **Other Business**

- a N/A

9 **Information Items / Updates**

- a Sale of DPW Equipment: A number of people donated for the amphitheater electrical upgrades. We are hoping it attracts more people to use the facility. Commissioner Hallman thanked Mayor Fett for helping to get this done.
- b Taste of River Country: Colleen brought some information on the Festival, including applications for events and food vendors.
- c Ashland/Grant Fire Board Minutes: Fett stated they look much more professional now than they used to.
- d. Discussion of Evaluation Form: Fett stated we are using the same format for Ryan's evaluation as we used for Doug's. Hallman said she thinks this particular form would be better suited for department heads to fill out since they work with the City Manager on a daily basis. The completed evaluations should be turned in, and the City Commission should then discuss them. Fett instructed the Commissioners to comment on items based on what you do know, and your own interactions with the Manager. He stated that we should include Lori's comments also, since she worked with Ryan for over a year. Then we will go into executive session to have a discussion. He reiterated that this is exactly what Doug's evaluation was scaled on.

10 **Public Comments:**

Powell informed the Commission that "Movie Night in the Park" was postponed to next Saturday, July 25th due to the tornado watch, and wanted to make sure the previous permission for relief from the noise ordinance was okay to continue for upcoming Movie Night events.

- 11 **Adjournment** without objection at pm

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Mayor Terry Fett

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Sherry Powell, Assistant City Manager/Clerk