

**Grant City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 17, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Grant City Commission was held on Monday, August 17, 2015, 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 Julie Hallman , Commissioner Anne Pickard, Commissioner Cheryl Weeks, Commissioner Kevin Smith, Commissioner Matt Bouwkamp, and Commissioner Harold Portell

Others Present: Ryan Rudzis – City Manager, Sherry Powell – Assistant City Manager/Clerk, Gary Nestle - IAI, Scott Foster, and Holly Moon - Newaygo County Treasurer.

ABSENT: None
EXCUSED: None
4. **Approval of the Agenda**

Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Smith to approve the agenda.
Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Holly Moon gave an update on her Newaygo County happenings. She stated the City of Grant has the lowest delinquency rate in the entire county. There were none in the City of Grant last year. Legislation was passed last year to allow work with the DNR on creating more marketable parcels. They are using GovPay at the window, and public enjoys it. They are collaborating with the Register of Deeds. Individuals who are unemployed or underemployed for twelve months with a 12% or more reduction of income are eligible for the Step Forward program.
6. **Consent Agenda**

a-e. *Approval of the Consent Agenda*
Motion: Motion made by Weeks, second by Hallman to approve the consent agenda.
Motion carried unanimously.
7. **Unfinished Business**

a. N/A
8. **New Business**
 - a. Motion Item #1: Approval of WIC Contract.
Motion: Motion made by Portell, second by Pickard to approve the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - b. Discussion Item: Ordinance 21-1 in regards to allowing chickens.
Unanimous consent to suspend the rules
Portell is not in favor of allowing chickens in town. He thinks people who want them should buy a farm.
Bouwkamp stated he was in agreement with Portell.
Smith stated that having chickens would be annoying. Chickens are not allowed by the condominium association.
Weeks is concerned what it could snowball into if it were allowed.
Rudzis explained we cannot justify the expense for only a handful of people who want chickens.
Mendham stated the added expense and time spent would be a factor to consider.
Hallman expressed concern about predators and a lack of parameters set.
Pickard said it would be nice to have chickens.
Discussion among Commissioners about what happens if chickens get loose, and about space parameters.
Bouwkamp stated that if you want chickens, live on a farm. Let the current ordinance stand.
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Bouwkamp to approve the motion.
 - c. Discussion Item: Revising community center rental rates.
Unanimous consent to suspend the rules
Rudzis stated that after last month's decision, a potential rental for a charity event left due to the high rates. Our rates have to match what we have to offer. He thinks we should have discretion at the office staff level. He would like us to go back to how we had it before. He thinks the rates are too high. Discretion to make it half what it used to be for

certain fundraisers.

Motion: Motion made by Pickard, second by Weeks to approve the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Other Business**

a. N/A

10. **Information Items / Updates**

a. N/A

11. **Public Comments**

Scott Foster lives on Commerce Street. Stated a few weeks ago a police officer stopped by with a complaint about their pet potbellied pig. As it sits now, they have to get rid of her in the next two days. She lives indoors. He is not sure where to go from here. They have had her two years now.

Fett stated a pig is a pig is a pig, but he would be the last person to separate someone from their pet. He thinks council would allow this to go a bit longer while they gather more information.

Rudzis referenced the City's Ordinance #21-1, and explained that the DNR does not consider these animals to be domestic.

Foster stated this is a different sub species of pigs. He stated they are waiting to receive information to present to the City Commission, and that it has not arrived yet. This information would show their pet pig is domesticated. He will bring in paperwork as soon as they get it.

Rudzis inquired about the pig's rabies vaccination and other vaccines that might be necessary.

Weeks expressed concern that they would not even know about this if the owner was not here.

Unanimous Consent to allow this to continue until more information is made available, before the September meeting.

12. **Closed/executive session**

Motion: Motion made by Pickard, second by Weeks to approve the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Fett-Yes, Hallman-Yes, Pickard-Yes, Weeks-Yes, Smith-Yes, Bouwkamp-Yes, and Portell-Yes

Return from Closed Session at 8:10pm

13. **Adjournment** without objection at 8:13p.m.

Mayor Terry Fett

Sherry Powell, Assistant City Manager/Clerk