

Grant City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 20, 2008

The special meeting of the Grant City Commission was held on Monday, October 20, 2008, 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 Harry Robinson, Commissioner Cheryl Lake, and Commissioner Terri Yeomans
Others Present: Doug La Fave-City Manager, Sherry Powell – Assistant City Manager/Clerk, Officer Jose Ontiveros, Dan Graham, Gene Sorden, and Grant Public Schools students: Glen Meadows, Brandon Dory, Chelsea Jensen, Taylor Powell, Edwin Hernandez, Andy Rocheleau, Julia Rav, Bianca Hernandez, Amanda Williams, Paige Kosti, Kevin Atwood, Justin Merriman, Ty Hollman, Ryan Gardner, Dakota Campbell, Dillan Bonter, Jack Carrier, Jake Miller, Andy Bouwkamp, Cassie Boyd, Landen Vandever, Kristin Vankoeving, Sam Pascoe, Emily Howe, Bridget Brisbin, Chantal Farrell, Paula VanLente, Emily VanLente, Patricia Sevarns, Francisco Villagomez, a Sara Howe, Tiffany Grover, and Ashley Plate.

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

Motion: Motion made by Robinson second by Yeomans to approve the agenda.
Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Public Comment:**

Gene Sorden is concerned with the police protection in the City. The family store was burglarized two times. The first group was in court today and will get two to four years. Mr. Sorden's fence has been vandalized several times, and recently he has had gas stolen from his vehicle. His son has had tires slashed and a window smashed out. He is wondering how the City Commission is dealing with these types of issues.

(Rules suspended by unanimous consent) Mayor Fett replied to Mr. Sorden that the City is working on installing multiple surveillance cameras here in the City to deter these types of activities.

Officer Ontiveros informed everyone present that the police department is working diligently to solve these problems, and that extra patrols have been authorized. He encouraged anyone with information pertaining to these or other illegal activities to contact the police department or Silent Observer at (231) 689-0800 for a "Fast Cash \$50" reward.

Various students asked how much the cameras would cost, who will monitor them, and who actually pays for them.

Mayor Fett explained we have already spent about \$7,000 to get started with the cameras. The taxpayers ultimately pay for the cameras, and the police department and City staff will be monitoring the cameras 24 hours a day seven days a week from any computer with internet service.
6. **Consent Agenda**

a-e. *Approval of the Consent Agenda*
Motion: Motion made by Yeomans, second by Lake to approve the consent agenda.
Motion carried unanimously.
7. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a. Planning Commission Vacancy
The Commission agreed by unanimous consent that everyone should bring candidates forward by the December meeting.
 - b. City Commission Appointment
The Commission agreed by unanimous consent that everyone should bring candidates forward by the December meeting.
8. **New Business**

- a. Resolution 08-49: Resolution for legal counsel work related to USDA Rural Development sewer project.
Motion: Motion made by Robinson, second by Hallman to approve Resolution 08-49.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - b. Resolution 08-50: Resolution approving payment of funds for streetscape engineering work.
Motion: Motion made by Yeomans, second by Lake to approve Resolution 08-50.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - c. Resolution 08-51: Resolution approving finishing off the DPW storage building (amended amount.)
Motion: Motion made by Lake, second by Robinson to approve Resolution 08-51.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - d. Resolution 08-52: Resolution approving building police storage garage (amended amount.)
Motion: Motion made by Robinson, second by Pickard to approve Resolution 08-52.
Commissioner Yeomans asked if these funds were budgeted for. Doug said they were originally within the DPW Capital Outlay, and since not much of it will be used this fiscal year, they will be transferred to Police Capital Outlay.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - e. Resolution 08-53: Resolution approving engineering for sewer main and road repair.
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Pickard to approve Resolution 08-53.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - f. Resolution 08-54: Resolution approving surveying, appraising and negotiating potential sale of City owned property for economic development purposes.
Motion: Motion made by Yeomans, second by Robinson to approve Resolution 08-54.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - g. Resolution 08-55: Resolution to rescind property tax abatement for parcel #62-55-51-004-549.
Motion: Motion made by Yeomans, second by Lake to approve Resolution 08-55.
Commissioner Yeomans asked if it would be rescinded right now, and Doug assured her it would.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - h. Resolution 08-56: Resolution to authorize payment for placement of restroom at Blanche Lake Park.
Motion: Motion made by Lake, second by Pickard to approve Resolution 08-56.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - i. Resolution 08-57: Resolution to authorize payment for security cameras.
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Pickard to approve Resolution 08-57.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - j. Resolution 08-58: Resolution authorizing engineering agreement for USDA Rural Development Sewer Project.
Motion: Motion made by Yeomans, second by Robinson to approve Resolution 08-58.
Commissioner Yeomans asked if the dollar amount is available for this. Doug said it is included within the body of the resolution itself.
Motion carried unanimously.
9. **Other Business**
- a. Amendment to Air Grant-City of Grant Lease Agreement:
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Pickard to approve the amendment to the lease agreement.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - b. Recycling for Newaygo County:
Motion: Motion made by Yeomans, second by Hallman to approve paying \$375.00 this year.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - c. Cross-Connection Control Plan:
Motion: Motion made by Robinson, second by Lake to approve the Cross-Connection Control Plan.
Motion carried unanimously.
10. **Information Items / Updates**
- a. Skatepark grant update: The project is moving along, although Milt Barr was injured while working there recently. Milt has indicated the previous problems at the skatepark have been getting better, and we are all hoping it will be completed next spring.

- b. Water Tower Park Update: Most of the work has been done by city staff, including painting the Caboose. The logo and series number were painted by hand, and staff have volunteered to do these projects. Shawn Botsford's wife volunteered to handle all of the landscaping, and it has come together nicely. Original quotes obtained for painting the Caboose were over \$40,000.00, and this money was a big savings to the City.
- c. Alltel: The contract has finally been signed.
- d. City Master Plan: Lots of updating has been done, and surveys went in with the quarterly water/sewer bills. This should be complete by March 2009.
- e. Streetscape Update: We are currently working on getting necessary easements now.
- f. Blanche Lake restroom facility update: The installation went well, and we are certain park users will appreciate having the new restroom.
- g. Bailey Sewer: In the summer of 2007, we met with engineers and Casnovia Township officials to discuss options for a sanitary sewer collection system. We have heard nothing more since then until about two months ago. We are on the sidelines watching the situation and are only listening at this point. We are proceeding forward with just our own project. Things could change in the future, but the City is not involved in anything pertaining to the Casnovia Township sewer project.

11. **Public Comments:**

Students asked what projects do we have planned for the skatepark. The Mayor replied that our rebuilding includes making the park safer by removing screws and nails from the existing surface welding the surface to the structure underneath.

Students asked if any extension to the skatepark has been planned. The Mayor explained that the Commission nearly decided to tear it down, but instead decided to rebuild it as planned, then sit back and see how the users treat it. If it is taken care of and respected, expansion might be considered in the future

Students asked what the City is doing at the Water Tower Park. The Assistant City Manager/Clerk replied that we are working on restoring and repainting the caboose, adding decorative landscaping, park benches, picnic tables, and making it into an inviting park for people to enjoy.

Students asked what we are doing with Alltel. Officials explained we are allowing them to install a large tower to improve cell phone coverage.

Students asked if the Commission has considered cleaning up the lake. The Mayor replied that a few of us have been trying to find ways for years to restore it naturally, but nothing official has been planned at this point.

Mayor Fett addressed the students in the audience, encouraging them to bring information to us when they see or hear about people breaking the law. He further commented that the City has spent lots of money on the skatepark, and it's unfortunate that we have had so many problems with it.

Commissioner Hallman commented that it is great to see the increase in the School Liaison Officer's hours.

Officer Ontiveros addressed the audience and urged students to not feel like they are ratting anyone out when they provide a tip to the police department. He encouraged everyone to contact Silent Observer, which is anonymous and provides a \$50 reward for useful information.

12. **Adjournment** without objection at 7:53 p.m.

Mayor Terry Fett

Sherry Powell, Grant City Clerk