

Grant City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 17, 2016

The regular meeting of the Grant City Commission was held on Monday, October 17, 2016, at the City of Grant Offices.

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Julie Hallman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
3. **Roll Call:**

PRESENT: Mayor Julie Hallman, Commissioner Tim Atwood, 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, SGT Brad Wade, and Jamie Baker.
ABSENT: None
EXCUSED: None
4. **Approval of the Agenda:**

Motion: Motion made by Portell second by Weeks to approve the agenda.
Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:**

Jamie Baker introduced himself as a candidate for Drain Commissioner as no party affiliation. Offered to answer any questions anyone might have.
6. **Consent Agenda**

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

a. N/A
8. **New Business**

a. Michigan Rural Water Presentation on Sewer Rates: Mike Engels explained a rate study is more about setting a budget. If we get the budget right, it's just a matter of a division problem. The rates then take care of themselves. A big part is a big loan payment. We will collect \$261,948 through RTS charges. 100% of loan should be collected through revenues so we can make our loan payment. Weeks asked if the base portion is per year. Mike stated it is quarterly. Under the base rate, we will take about ½ of it through RTS charge, which brings us to \$95.00 per REU. Mike broke down expenses per REU per quarter, which is \$1.45 per month per REU. The per 1,000 charge is exactly where it needs to be at \$3.76 per thousand. Rates are going up proportionally among customer class. The gallons of sewage fluctuated over previous years, so we built in contingency in case usage sales are less than expected. Mike is not recommending anything. This is just a presentation of our budget. A lot of communities are setting rates where they appropriately should be, and setting a COL index increase annually automatically. If you raise it 2% annually, you're keeping pace with inflation. Still come back every three years and evaluate it. The worst thing we can do is short change something. Weeks asked about contracted services looks like, and Mike explained we were looking for a nice friendly even number.
Pickard asked when this would begin.
Rudzis stated the \$95 would curb the trend starting next fiscal year. Wants to educate the public and give time to prepare the public for the increase.
Bouwkamp asked about a ten million gallon swing, and what might cause it.
Engels explained several factors are involved in determining this.

- b. Motion Item #1: Police Chief Personnel Committee We know Bob is leaving, and we have a couple options here.
Weeks prefers option two, and Smith stated he prefers option two also.
Motion: Motion made by Smith, second by Weeks to approve option two.
Pickard asked when this would start.
Smith asked if we would have more information before the next meeting.
Rudzis stated we believe that there are some important questions we need to answer as well.
 Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Motion Item #2: Green Energy Technologies Invoice: Hallman explained the wind turbine problems. We have a letter of opinion from the insurance company adjustor.
Motion: Motion made by Bouwkamp, second by Pickard to approve the motion to discuss it.
Hallman stated Mike billed us over \$14,000 for services the insurance adjustor believes we should have been billed \$5,000. We will be back to square one.
Smith asked if he sent proof of completing this work, and Rudzis stated he has not received anything from him.
Bouwkamp stated the taller they are, the more likely are to get struck by lightning.
Hallman stated that's \$14,000 of our money, and he needs to justify that.
Smith stated this verification should be easy to do.
Rudzis stated in the past, he got the work when there was a problem through an insurance claim. We can prove it, and it will cost us.
Hallman stated we have to weigh the legal fees versus the benefit.
Weeks stated we should pay him part of it.
Bouwkamp suggested we should pay him a portion of it.
Portell suggested \$7,500 until very thorough documentation is provided for every last penny.
Motion: Motion made by Bouwkamp, second by Pickard to pay 50% of invoice, unless he can provide thorough documentation with a detailed breakdown of every dollar.
 Motion carried unanimously.
Weeks asked if we can give him something stating this is it, and consensus of Commission to have Ryan do so.
- d. Motion Item #3: Police Body Cams
Motion: Motion made by Weeks, second by Atwood to approve the motion for \$948.
 Motion carried unanimously.
9. **Other Business**
 a. None
10. **Information Items / Updates**
 a. None
11. **Public Comments:**
Powell reminded everyone the 2016 Grant Trunk-Or-Treat event is October 29th.
Smith asked Wade if there was any news on the break-in suspect, and Wade briefed the Commission on the case.
12. **Adjournment**
 Motion: Motion made by Portell, second by Bouwkamp to adjourn 7:38p.m.
 Motion carried unanimously.

 Mayor Julie Hallman

 Sherry Powell, Assistant City Manager/Clerk