



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION



Held: August 12, 2019

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 7:00 P.M. to 7:38 P.M. in the Grand Rapids Town Hall. Mayor John Berry called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

Carol Steck – Present
Mark Sarkan – Present
Bob Krabill – Absent

Rachel Smith – Present
Jody Donsbach – Present
Jeremy Treen – Present

Treen arrived at 7:05 pm.

EMPLOYEES: Chad Hoffman and Kristel Beyer

VISITORS: Lynn Sylvain

MINUTES:

Donsbach stated a correction for the July 22, 2019 meeting minutes, under the Reading of Communications. When she mentioned about the Nixel, she was saying that she received an email message, stating Nixel was going to CodeRed not that we would be automatically switched.

Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Smith to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 22, 2019 with corrections as stated.

BILLS:

Smith made a motion, seconded by Donsbach to approve the bills dated July 31 – August 9, 2019.

Votes were: Sarkan - yes Smith – yes Donsbach- yes
Steck - yes

MOTION APPROVED

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL: Mayor stated Ms. Sylvain is here to speak. Ms. Sylvain stated several weeks ago she came to Council to ask if she could have a community vegetable garden. Mayor stated the approved topic was public records request. Ms. Sylvain stated she had two topics. Mayor stated you have brought the community vegetable garden to Council and at that point it was discussed for you to find a place of your own to do that. Ms. Sylvain stated she just wanted to know what hurdles she needed to overcome for next year in order for her to have a community vegetable garden. Mayor said you received an email from Fiscal Officer stating what you were going to speak on tonight. Ms. Sylvain asked Fiscal Officer if she specifically said public records, Fiscal Officer said yes, Ms. Sylvain asked when that was sent. Mayor replied that Fiscal Officer sent it on Friday, Ms. Sylvain stated she clearly didn't read it. She asked for two topics and assumed she was approved for both. Ms. Sylvain stated, so the

Council will edit what I am allowed to ask, so I can't just come in to discuss what I want in my 5 minutes, so I can't come to the Council with issues, Mayor said yes you can. Ms. Sylvain asked Council what hurdles she has to overcome to have a public vegetable garden next year. Mayor said Council did tell you that. Ms. Sylvain said she is not aware of her being told anything, what she heard was Rachel having a liability issue. Smith clarified that her concern was vandalism. Smith remembered the issue was irrigation, Ms. Sylvain wanted the town to pay for something to water it with, that was your issue. Ms. Sylvain wants to know if she has to show source of water or security for vandalism. She stated these vegetable gardens are very popular in other communities and we are such an in need community for fresh vegetables. Ms. Sylvain stated her second topic is public records and she had asked Kristel for public records on who approved Dave LaRoe for planting flowers on the canal and she received back that there was a verbal agreement. She then asked her who was involved in that, then there was no name given. She is interested in that because if we end up having to go to court she needs to know who those people are. She stated her intent was to show that Council has in the past allowed people to plant flowers on community property with no issue. Ms. Sylvain understands from her attorney, that Council may discuss that as a group and there may be an offer to leave the flowers but remove the trees because your concerned about utility lines. She stated first of all water lines are not under those trees and Suburban Natural Gas has signed off on the fact that they don't feel those trees are a liability.

Mayor wanted to clarify that over the last 6 years he has allowed Ms. Sylvain to come in front of Council and speak, whenever she wanted to but you tend to go out in the public and tell people that you don't get the opportunity to speak here. Also when you request public records you fail to pick them up. Ms. Sylvain stated that wasn't true. Mayor said, then you let them sit there for weeks before picking them up. Ms. Sylvain stated she is deeply interested in those records and needs them.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor stated he received notification on turning the town teal for ovarian cancer, they have received the okay to put ribbons on posts in town.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator read his report and it will be attached to the Official Minutes.

Donsbach asked Ms. Sylvain to put her phone on silence because it is being very distracting.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Gave Council the July 2019 Bank Reconciliation with accompanying Bank Statements. Gave Finance Committee Appropriation Status, Revenue Status and Fund Listing. Also in Council Packets is an application from the Grand Rapids Little League to use Pirates Park for Applebutter Fest, someone will be in attendance next meeting.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: Steck stated the Finance Committee met in regards to contracts and the suggestion was to do four more years at 3%. The Finance Committee minutes will be attached to the Official Minutes.

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Smith to extend the January 1, 2014 employment agreement between the Village and Chad Hoffman as amended by Council on May 9, 2016 for four years ending December 31, 2023 with a 3% salary raise per year.

Votes were: Sarkan – yes Smith – yes Donsbach – yes
 Steck – yes Treen – yes

MOTION APPROVED

ORDINANCES: Fiscal Officer gave the second reading to Ordinance 2019-5: An Ordinance Amending the Zoning District Map of the Village of Grand Rapids, Ohio

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Sarkan has been thinking about getting information out to village residents such as CodeRed and the applebutter passes. Sarkan contacted Kristel a few weeks ago on how much postage it costs to send out a flyer. He thinks if its not a liability issue it would be a great idea to have an organization like the Arts Council, Boy Scouts or even the Pool hand deliver the flyer. We could give them a donation which would be cheaper than postage. We could save some money and support an organization. He thinks its something to think about. Treen stated it would be worth the research. Administrator said he would contact the Insurance Company and Mr. Marsh.

NEW BUSINESS:

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Smith to go into executive session to include Council, Mayor, Administrator and Fiscal Officer to discuss litigation and legal matters.

Votes were: Smith – yes Donsbach – yes Steck – yes
 Treen – yes Sarkan – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Smith made a motion seconded by Donsbach to leave executive session and go back into regular session.

Votes were: Donsbach – yes Steck – yes Treen – yes
 Sarkan – yes Smith – yes

MOTION APPROVED

COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Smith made a motion, seconded by Donsbach, to adjourn.

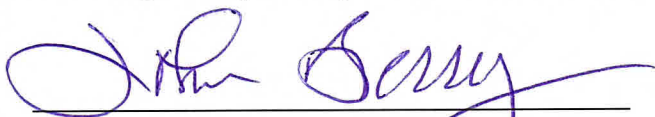
Votes were: Steck – yes Treen – yes Sarkan – yes
 Smith – yes Donsbach – yes

MOTION APPROVED

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is August 26, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. at the Grand Rapids Town Hall.



Kristel Beyer, Fiscal Officer



John Berry, Mayor