



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION



Held: September 13, 2021

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 7:00 P.M. to 8:50 P.M. in the Old Fire Hall. Mayor John Berry called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

Bob Krabill – Absent	Jody Donsbach – Present
Mark Sarkan – Present	Carol Steck – Present
Rick Tolles – Present	Rachel Smith – Present

EMPLOYEES: Chad Hoffman

VISITORS: Vance Weaver, Chuck Thomas, Cathy Hoffman, Tim Brown

MINUTES:

Smith made a motion, seconded by Donsbach to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 23, 2021.

BILLS:

Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Steck to approve the bills dated August 20 – September 9, 2021 in the amount of \$39,553.24.

Votes were:

Tolles - yes	Donsbach – yes	Sarkan – yes
Smith – yes	Steck - yes	

MOTION APPROVED

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Vance Weaver distributed a summary report for his Eagle Scout Project to Council members. Mayor stated we realize you are trying to get your Eagle Scout Award and you worked diligently at it. To achieve an Eagle Scout award, you do have to follow some instructions, we weren't clear on the color of the cannon. I believe the Administrator had sent you two or three emails about army green, Vance stated yes, he did. Where it could possibly be bought and what type of army green were you going to present. Vance stated he tried his best. Vance's father stated we have all the emails and Vance sent the color to the Administrator on August 2nd and August 4th we painted. We did send the inverness green color to the Administrator we did not get a reply and we painted on August 4th. Vance's father stated there is no such thing as army green. Mayor stated the issue is the communication on the color and painting happening so close together. Kathy Bomer spoke and stated someone had painted the cannon 10 years ago and they asked an American Legion member on what color they wanted it painted. So that person chose a color, she couldn't remember who it was from the American Legion but remembered them stating that there isn't an official army green color. Mayor stated that he wished the color information was cleared up prior to painting. Vance's father doesn't know what the problem is with the color. Mayor stated it was the lack of communication on the color prior to painting. We had requested the paint information months ago to review. Vance's father stated we got the

closest match as we could find. Vance's grandfather asked if it looks better, Mayor stated yes, the fence looks great. Vance's father asked the Administrator what color he would have chosen. The Administrator stated in WWII there were 3 different OD greens, he did mention that to Vance at the first meeting to contact the Armory or the 180th and they could have given him ideas of where to find it. Mayor stated at our last meeting we thought the cannon color looked much lighter than before. Vance's father stated he is not sure what Council wants after 160 hours of labor. Vance stated the one issue with painting it right now is that he is going to school and doing sports. He stated it would probably take about a year for him to paint the cannon. Smith stated first off no one is trying to disrespect your efforts or work and it was never about that. We know you worked hard and it does look fantastic, we really do appreciate it. I just think the initial reaction on the color was surprising, it is sort of a lime green color. Smith stated we know you reached out to the Administrator to provide the color but it was sent out after business hours and only giving one day for a response was a bit of a reach. Vance's grandfather stated he has 7 grand children and 5 of them are boys and ever one of them have Eagle Scout awards. Mayor stated nobody is trying to not give Vance an Eagle Scout award. Vance's grandfather asked what the problem is, Mayor stated it is the color and the lack of communication to the Administrator about the color chosen. Vance's grandfather asked who supplied the money for this project. Vance's father stated Vance raised money from their church and the Historical Society. Chuck Thomas asked what will be suggested by Council to proceed to get the job done. Chuck Thomas thinks the Administrator should find the right color and then we can paint it to get the job done. Mayor stated if the Village supply's the paint would Vance be willing to paint it. Vance said it would take a year. Kathy Bomer stated she is the Wood District Chairman for Boy Scouts of America, she is the one who approves projects and decides whether they completed the project the way it was supposed to be. She has been listening and it sounds like there were issues with communication but let me tell you about teenagers, you are not hiring a contractor and you are not even hiring a boy scout. You are getting free labor. Kathy Bomer stated even if you say no he will get his Eagle Scout Award whether you say yes or no. If you ask him to paint it and he cannot, we will probably have to find someone else to paint it. There are dispute boards and it sounds like this is where it is going. Kathy Bomer stated she had a number of those for various reasons. Kathy Bomer stated they are learning through this process, Mayor agreed that is the purpose of it. Kathy Bomer reiterated he will have his Eagle Board whether you sign it or not. She tells the kids if they put effort in then they will receive the award. Kathy Bomer stated the word has got around that Eagle Scouts don't want to do projects here. Mayor stated we have had several and this is the first time it has been disputed. Kathy Bomer stated it was a while back, she stated she has been doing this for 22 years. Donsbach asked what project was she referring to. Kathy Bomer stated the welcome sign down near Kellogg. Kathy Bomer said this is what is going to happen she is going to get him a board review whether you sign it or not, this is her job. Kathy Bomer warned him in

the beginning to have the right people in charge of the cannon because she remembers when our troop did it, it was a legion contact at our troop, the legion got the paint and the legion had us do it. Vance's dad stated we did follow up with the legion on that and Harm Benschoter had no idea on paint color and was glad Vance was doing it. Mayor stated we can search for the paint whether it would get painted or not but it sounds like you will get your Eagle Scout regardless. Lisa Hatfield stated she thinks the town should back him up to finish the project and that is really important to the Eagle Scout project. Her expectation is that he gets signatures on his form, he put in the hours needed but may not be exactly what was wanted. She thinks that if Council approves him going forward it opens up the door for continued communication and help coming up with the solution. Mayor stated this is the first time we came into this circumstance. Sarkan asked if anyone heard any complaints on the color. They stated no. Mayor stated it boils down to lack of communication on getting the paint color information. He is not disputing the effort he put forth, he thinks he did a nice job and looks good. Mayor stated we had asked for the color three different times and got no response. Vance's father stated it wasn't multiple times. Mrs. Bomer stated he gets reviewed by some district board members and some members from his troop and they decide whether he did what he was supposed to do. Sarkan thinks this is a big learning experience and he would be satisfied if Vance and the Administrator can get together, Administrator would be like his mentor to get the correct color. Sarkan is tremendously impressed with what he has done but the communication issue is the issue, so if Vance could show us that he could get together and communicate that would be great. Mayor said that would be a good gesture, and asked Vance to finalize this thing up will he do that, work with the Administrator to find a color? Vance said no, maybe in June. Mayor stated he would sign the paper because whether I do or not Kathy Bomer will push it through. Kathy stated she doesn't push it through. Mayor stated you make suggestions to people to get it approved, Kathy Bomer stated because that is what Nationals tell us to do. Mayor stated he appreciates all he has done. Mayor would like the names of the people that helped to send a thank you. Vance's father stated Vance needs both those pages signed and he needs them back now in order to put back in his notebook. Kathy Bomer offered coming down to Council to discuss what to expect out of an Eagle Scout project. Mayor stated to Kathy Bomer he hopes she still directs scouts to Grand Rapids for projects. Mayor thanked Vance for all his efforts.

Chuck Thomas stated Nick Punches also redone the cemetery in 2005 and asked who is responsible for the cemetery maintenance and upkeep since then. Chuck stated since Vance redid the fence who will maintain it or who do we go to with questions. Mayor stated it is the Village's.

Tim Brown was in attendance to hear Council's decision on the request to vacate the alley next to his home. He wanted to be here to answer any questions that Council may have. He wanted to make sure Council knows this would be

beneficial to them and the Village. They would maintain it if vacated and then it would be placed on the property tax roll.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor received a request for a cardboard dumpster on the southside of the business district for use by the businesses only. He stated Karen Kingston asked him if this would be possible. Administrator stated Bob Trame called the office and talked to Kristel. They want to place the dumpster on private property behind the lodge building. Kristel told him to contact the Wood County Solid Waste since the recycling is their program not the Village's.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator stated there is an emergency final Resolution for the ODOT project to pave Rt 65 and Wapakoneta Road. We need to get this back to ODOT asap. ODOT is requesting that we send our portion of Wapakoneta Road estimated at \$58,192. We assume by passing the Resolution it allows Kristel to write the check to ODOT.

The recycling bins at the Administration Building the asphalt is getting totally destroyed by the recycling trucks. The hydraulic systems on the truck leak really bad and is destroying the asphalt. He will contact the county to see if they will move the dumpster to Third Street by the Old Water Treatment Plant. The dumpsters would be placed on stone over there and would alleviate the issue. Donsbach asked if that area would allow for more dumpsters to be placed there. Administrator stated we can probably get a fourth one over there but we requested one before and didn't get it. Donsbach stated Weston has a lot more dumpsters than we do, Administrator stated Weston has twice the population. Administrator stated he will ask.

Administrator sent pictures of the Town Hall roof to Council. The Mayor was notified by someone that at the top of the bellview some of the boards were coming down. He had Chad and Darin Pogan check it out. There is some rotting and the flashing is gone by the bell tower. Darin stated he would repair the wooden ceiling. Administrator asked him to do a temporary patch on the roof to keep the water out. Administrator stated then he will be contacting a commercial roofing company to inspect the entire roof. This may be a good use for the leftover township funds as well.

We received notification from the Wood County Public Defenders Office that they will no longer represent Villages in Wood County in court ordered cases. Since its such a time consuming financial obligation on their part to send out the yearly contracts. Administrator stated Mr. Marsh has been trying to get them to do a five year contract. Now if we have any cases that come up with a court appointed attorney we will have to pay the bill, which we paid a flat rate before.

The backflow device that needs to be installed on King Road that he has been talking about, he contacted Poggemeyer they looked at it and we have to sign a

contract with Poggemeyer for \$8,300 to design and install the backflow device. We got notified from General Motors that the pickup truck we ordered a year ago through the state bid, they are not awarding any bids for 2021 trucks, they will transfer the order for a 2022 double cab 6.5 foot bed which is an increase of \$482. It may be a year before we get the truck.

We did get a separate price for replacing sidewalks the first price was \$10.69 sq. ft and the second price was \$12.50 sq. ft., he is still looking for other contractors to get a more reasonable price.

The operating valve in the vault on Kellogg Road that controls the height of the water into the water tower, we had to manually fill for two weeks. We got it fixed now and we will order a complete valve operating kit for \$3,372 so we will have everything to make a fix fast.

John and the Administrator interviewed applicants for the public utility position. The top candidate was Jeremy Weaver. He will be a probationary employee for 6 months. He has experience with public streets, parks, etc. Administrator needs Council to set a pay rate for him to get the paperwork started. He is suggesting \$18.50/hour, once he receives the operating licenses he will get a 7.5% raise for each. Donsbach asked if Jeremy had any operating licenses currently, Administrator stated no.

The Administrator has another request from Council concerning Chad Beyer. He has worked 7 days a week since August 12th and will continue until the new employee starts. This is the third time that Chad has had to do this. This totally disrupts your holidays, timeoffs and activities at home. He has no knowledge that he is requesting this tonight. He requests he gets a one time merit bonus of \$1200. He thinks we have all realized in last few years that as employees and employers it is a whole new world out there. Its been three times now that we have tried to find another good employee and we don't want to lose our current employee. There are a lot of nearby places hiring. He would also like to request a finance meeting to go over our entire wage ordinance.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Gave Council the August 2021 Bank Reconciliation with accompanying Bank Statements. Gave Finance Committee Appropriation Status, Revenue Status and Fund Listing. Explained to council we have a final reading on an ordinance tonight, we have a first reading on a Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as determined by the Budget Commission. This gets sent to use every year telling us the amount of property taxes we will receive from the County. This just needs a motion for passage since it is for finances. We have an emergency Resolution that needs to be back to ODOT. Kristel also gave Council a copy of the Safety & Welfare Committee Meeting Minutes submitted by Bob Krabill.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: Mayor stated the Festival is still happening and there was a big lack of communication there that Chuck, Steve and him are straightening out. Since they talked Friday, the nursing home is now on lock down. He hopes everyone is careful with all the festivals going on. Chuck and Steve said they would be working diligently with the Health Department. He sent an email to Chuck and Steve to see

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Sarkan sat down with Tim Brown and had a long discussion. He suggested to him that he bring to Council some alternative ideas. He wanted to let Council know that this took place. Tim Brown didn't bring anything this evening. Since Council decided not to vacate, the issues they have still stand regarding raised elevation, spraying it and we would like to get off the funeral homes parking lot. We noticed that the extension on the same alley was occupied by two vehicles, unlike his neighbors they respect the process and would like Council's consent. Tim Brown stated he would probably ask Council if they would give him permission to park there. This is something Council would have to think about. Tim Brown stated they don't want to fence it, they are simply looking for a place to park. If someone is parked in the funeral home lot in front of their garage it is almost impossible to get out of the garage. We understand Councils position to not vacate so it remains Village property for future use and utilities, they understand and respect that. Tim Brown stated they want to park there so that would be up to Council. Smith stated we would be open to additional discussion on this. Tim Brown asked if he should make it an official proposal. Mayor asked what the other residents did. Administrator stated they asked to vacate the alley and it was denied. Then they asked to sod it and Council approved it as long as they maintained there sod area and understood it was still a public alley. Administrator stated he would ask Mr. Marsh Wednesday. Tim Brown stated he will check back with Chad after Wednesday. Mayor asked if we got a card out to Day Spring for doing a great job at the Elementary, Administrator stated not yet. Kristel will create an appreciation certificate. Sarkan asked Administrator how he came up with the \$1200 amount for Chad. Administrator stated he thought it was a comfortable number, ultimately it can be higher or lower its up to Council. He feels we need to recognize his work. Donsbach asked how long each time did Chad work 7 days a week. Administrator stated probably a month or more each time. Steck asked if he gets overtime. Administrator stated yes 2 hours per week at time and a half. Donsbach feels the amount is too low. Smith agreed, he is doing a job for two people. Smith suggested doubling the amount, Rick stated \$1500, Donsbach suggested \$1,800. Smith stated somewhere in between, Council agreed on \$2,000. Smith made a motion seconded by Donsbach to approve a one time merit bonus in the amount of \$2,000 for Chad Beyer.

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

MOTION APPROVED

NEW BUSINESS: Tolles asked the Administrator who is responsible for the corner of Kellogg at Rt 65, there is a big limb sticking out on the side of the road. Administrator stated the County since it is a county road. Tolles asked what time are the restrooms supposed to be locked, isn't it at 8 pm. Tolles stated they were locked at 6:30 pm last week. Kristel can contact the cleaning company again to remind them to go clean at 8 pm and then lock up. Sarkan asked the Administrator if he heard anything on the tree in front of the Town Hall, Administrator stated not yet.

