



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION



Held: January 10, 2022

Page 1 of 7

The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 7:00 P.M. to 7:53 P.M. in the Old Fire Hall. Mayor John Berry called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

Mayor Berry gave the Oath of Office to Jody Donsbach, Martha Frantz and Lynn Sylvain.

Council Drew Seats:

1. Sylvain
- 2.
3. Tolles
4. Frantz
5. Donsbach
6. Smith

Rachel Smith – Present
 Lynn Sylvain – Present
 Jody Donsbach – Present

Martha Frantz - Present
 Rick Tolles – Present

Mayor explained to Council that a President of Council needs to be nominated. Donsbach nominated Rachel Smith for President of Council. Lynn Sylvain nominated herself for President of Council. Sylvain would be open for a public debate and/or putting it on ballot letting the community choose. Frantz motioned to go to a vote and Donsbach seconded. Mayor stated we will go to a written vote.

Written votes were Smith - 3 votes and Sylvain - 2 votes. Mayor stated there must be 4 votes to pass. No Council President was approved. Sylvain moved to table Frantz seconded.

Votes were: Tolles - yes Frantz – yes Donsbach – yes
 Sylvain – yes Smith – yes

MOTION APPROVED

EMPLOYEES: Chad Beyer and Kristel Beyer

VISITORS: Bob Krabill, Matthew Snyder, Angie Miller and Monica Thompson.

MINUTES:

Sylvain has a request of order and a request of inquiry. Sylvain said in the meeting minutes from December 3rd there was a motion made that the finance committee authorized \$70,000 for Chad Hoffman. The request of order is because Sylvain thinks it should have been taken to executive committee and Chad Hoffman should not have been present. The second is the request of inquiry, Lynn would like to see the math behind this because it is regulated by section 124.29. Also, the employee handbook has some guidance on that and she wants to make sure we are matching those things

up. Sylvain stated at the December 13th meeting she has a call to order and inquiry. On the open Council seat, Sylvain stated she thinks Council has already discovered that the open Council seat should not have been voted on and should be an open issue now. Mayor stated yes. Sylvain stated we have 3 inquiries Matthew Snyder, Bob Krabill and Angie Miller. Sylvain stated she wanted to mention that Waterville also has someone very young on their Council. He is only 22 years old and she thinks that is what we are looking for as well, is a diverse group on the Council. Sylvain stated Matthew Snyder was the first person to show interest and did so in writing, she welcomes a younger perspective on Council. Mayor asked Sylvain how she would like to proceed. Sylvain stated we should discuss it as a Council or take it to committee. Donsbach stated we are actually at the approval of the minutes right now. Lynn stated yes, she is taking issue with the order and has an inquiry on the minutes. Once we get passed those we can reissue them and then can get approved.

Sylvain made a motion to discuss the open Council position and the candidates that are present.

Bob Krabill introduced himself and is currently in a sales position, previous to that he has been in both retail and sales management. He has a lot of background in being able to help guide projects. He has been a Council member for the last 4 ½ years. He has a good idea of the upcoming projects to be completed, of where we are at and where we are going with them. He thinks he has been a solid voice in the last 4 years of helping to guide Council in the right direction. Especially during the last two years we had to make some difficult decisions during the covid times that we are in. He believes he can help to continue the process moving forward. Sylvain asked if there was a reason for not running in the election. Bob said yes, he travels for a living and covers a very large territory. He talked to his boss and he is fully behind him to create his own schedule to be available for Council meetings and committee meetings.

Matthew Snyder introduced himself and stated he may not have the experience that Bob has but he thinks it would be really great to have a younger view point. We do have a lot of new people coming into town and he thinks it would be good to have that younger view point. Sylvain stated you are going to college and have a recommendation from a teacher also is that right. Matthew stated yes, he is in college and Mrs. Danko from Otsego has recommended him since he did really well in her government class.

Angie Miller introduced herself and stated she has lived in the Village for a year and a half now. She has 20 years' experience in retail management and 8 years in human resources and accounts payable. Since she has been

in the Village she has joined many committees that include Historical Society, founded the Grand Growers with Kathy Trame, joined the Chamber of Commerce, and she has taken a lead role in the Applebutter Fest. She thinks her position here would be a benefit to everybody knowing what is going on throughout the other areas. There is a lot of miss communication and lack of communication that her being on different committees could help. Sylvain asked if there was a reason she didn't run for Council. Angie stated she was still getting her feet wet and wanted to see where we fit. Sylvain asked Matthew why he didn't run for Council. Matthew stated he was in college and super busy with day to day life. He just wanted think over if it would be good for him, he then decided it would be good for him to be on Council.

Mayor thanked all of them. Sylvain made a motion to vote for Council member, seconded by Frantz.

Votes were: Frantz – yes Donsbach – yes Sylvain – yes
 Smith – yes Tolles – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated we will go to a written vote.

Written votes were: Bob Krabill – 3, Matthew Snyder – 2, Angie Miller – 0. Mayor stated it takes four votes to make this happen, so the seat is still vacant. Frantz made a motion to table seconded by Smith.

Sylvain motioned to discuss Chad Hoffman's \$70,000 and would like to take this to executive committee to see the math behind the decision seconded by Tolles.

Votes were: Donsbach – no Sylvain – yes Smith – no
 Tolles – yes Frantz – no

MOTION FAILS

BILLS:

Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Smith to approve the bills from December 10, 2021 – December 31, 2021 and January 1, 2022 - January 6, 2022.

Votes were: Smith – yes Tolles – yes Frantz – yes
 Donsbach – yes Sylvain – no

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor Berry stated approval of bills have passed.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Monica Thompson just moved back to the Village and came to the meeting to see if she would like to be on Council and how to go about doing that. Interesting enough she came to the right meeting but was also here to meet Council. She now knows she needs to write a letter. This is something she is interested in, not now but in the future.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor said he will assign Council Committee's once we have a full Council. Mayor stated we are lucky to be watch dogs of the Village making sure things are safe as possible and the works of the Village remain well. We have to not be in this for personal gain, but we need to listen to the voters that have put us in this position to take care of this Village. He thinks they appreciate us for what we have done and he sure appreciates the Village residents that have voted us in the position and try to do the best things we can for them on an equal basis. Mayor thanked everyone and he is looking forward to a great year.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Chad Beyer stated the Wapakoneta Road and Rt 65 project is still in the works. We are still waiting on the limitorque out at the plant. We do need a new handheld unit for reading water meters. He does have a price using same company for \$12,446.23. He did get a price from another company but we would need to change all the meter heads which is not very cheap. To get started with new company there is a retrofit program that starts us off with 28 units, cost would be \$31,800. We have 671 total that would need changed. If interested in this he can look further into this. Sylvain asked if he talked to other Administration on what they are doing. Chad stated yes he talked to the Village of Liberty Center and they are switching over to the new company but it is taking time to switch everything because they need to get inside homes to change it over. Sylvain asked Chad to talk to the Waterville Administrator, he has a lot of experience. Chad asked Sylvain to get him his phone number. Chad stated we have been using Sensus since he has been with the Village, it is a lot cheaper to get a new handheld and he is unsure if people would want them entering their homes right now. Chad stated we are currently borrowing one to use to read meters and this is only temporary until we come up with a longterm solution. Frantz asked what we are using right now, Chad stated our current company Core & Main has loaned us a unit temporarily. Frantz stated we don't currently go into homes, Chad said no but if we change to the new company we would need to. Donsbach asked if the price for \$12,446.23 is the company we currently use now. Chad said yes. Smith stated if we went with this handheld would this last us at least 5 years. Chad stated he cannot predict that but he is hopeful it will last longer. Chad said the handheld is like a laptop and things change or need updated. Sylvain asked what the reason is for looking at that. Chad said our handheld stopped working. Sylvain asked if it can be rebuilt, Chad said no they no longer make parts for it. Sylvain asked if we can go into a lease agreement to pay the manufacturer over time. Chad said he could ask. Donsbach asked if we would do the new unit that would get us back up and running as is. Chad said yes it will take probably two weeks to get everything up and running once the handheld is received. Donsbach stated but we wouldn't need to go into homes at this point. Chad said no we would not with this new handheld. Chad stated the new employee Jeremy Weaver has been here for over three months now and has been working out great. He couldn't asked for anyone better.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Gave Council a copy of the Finance Committee Meeting minutes that was discussed at the last Council meeting. Also, a copy of the Planning Commission meeting minutes for Councils reference. On the agenda tonight, there is an ordinance amending the pay schedules.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: None

ORDINANCES:

Mayor gave the first reading to Ordinance 2022-1: An Ordinance Amending and Establishing Pay Schedules for the Village of Grand Rapids.

Smith made a motion seconded by Donsbach to waive the three readings and declare an emergency to Ordinance 2022-1.

Sylvain has inquiry of an emergency. Smith stated it has to do with wages for jobs employees are doing right now. Sylvain stated it can be retroactive she doesn't feel its an emergency, it is not empeding their ability to do work, if it is owed in past we would make it retro active it wouldn't be harmed in anyway. She doesn't see it as an emergency. Donsbach stated we will vote on it, the Mayor is running the meeting and he will ask if there are questions.

Votes were: Sylvain – no Smith – yes Tolles – yes
 Frantz – yes Donsbach – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Smith made a motion seconded by Donsbach for passage of Ordinance 2022-1: An Ordinance Amending and Establishing Pay Schedules for the Village of Grand Rapids.

Votes were: Smith – yes Tolles – yes Frantz – yes
 Donsbach – yes Sylvain – no

MOTION APPROVED

Fiscal Officer stated Ordinance 2022-1 passes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mayor talked to the Historical Society and the Arts Council they will be having meetings coming up soon about the Town Hall elevator. They were interested in somehow coming together in keeping the Townhall elevator up and running. Mayor told them the town people do not need to pay for something to be operable when it is not being used. Smith stated over the last six years we have paid \$8,848.51, annually it costs \$1,300 in inspections. Sylvain asked if it is required based on a disabilities act. Mayor stated no it is not. Sylvain asked why it was installed. Smith thought it was purchased with a grant. Frantz stated the Town Hall was used a lot more in the past with plays. Sylvain stated so we are not talking about removing it. Mayor stated no. Sylvain stated we can put a lock out tag on it so it cannot be used. Mayor said yes.

NEW BUSINESS: Donsbach since talking with Chad on the new handheld for meter reading, Donsbach made a motion seconded by Smith to purchase the \$12,446.23 handheld for reading water meters.

Votes were: Smith – yes Tolles – yes Frantz – yes

Donsbach – yes

Sylvain – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Donsbach thanked Chad for his work on that. Sylvain stated she knows we have Chad Beyer as the new interim administrator, she thinks it is fantastic except that you can not have a spouse reporting directly or indirectly to each other. So, we cannot have Kristel and Chad in that relationship, so the Village is in a quandary here. She knows Kristel has been in the position for a long time and Chad is probably a good candidate for the position but you cannot create that scenario. She states it is against common sense and it is in the employee handbook, she states it is not ideal for the Village. Mayor stated right now that is the way it is going to stay. Sylvain doesn't think he can decide that on his own. Mayor stated we can vote on that but we can do that. There are many places that have wives and husbands work at the same place in governmental jobs. Sylvain stated to look at the employee handbook and to contact the Village Solicitor on this. Mayor said sure. Smith stated it is on an interim basis. Sylvain stated if we advertised there would have been other candidates, she thinks it is unfortunate because Chad is a good candidate. He is very polite and easy to work with but we set the Village up for an improper reporting relationship. She doesn't know how to fix it. Sylvain would like to review the status of Chad Hoffman and his relationship with the Village. If there is a contract still existing, if we have gone through a termination checklist, if we recovered all the assets, the credit cards, keys, have we changed locks on the Town Hall, have we changed access to computers and sites. Sylvain made a motion to review what we have done for the exit of Chad Hoffman. Mayor thinks what we can do for Chad Hoffman is to wish him a good life for the 45 years of service he gave the Village. Mayor stated motion dies on lack of second. Sylvain stated the website looks profoundly out of date and she would like it refreshed. She doesn't know whose responsibility it is and she is looking for advise or suggestions. Kristel stated we send information to our website developer and he updates it. Sylvain stated it still lists Chad Hoffman on there and it is functionally not very developed. She would like it to be more sophisticated than what it is. Kristel stated last year the website got redone. Sylvain asked if its in the budget to revamp the website again. Mayor stated it was suggested to get linked to Historical Society and others at our last meeting. Sylvain made a motion to look at updating the website seconded by Frantz.

Votes were: Tolles – yes

Frantz – yes

Donsbach – yes

Sylvain – yes

Smith – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Sylvain stated her next item is communication on Council Meetings and she has talked to other adjacent communities on this. Many of them put the Council meeting on Skype or Zoom so the community can watch but at a safe distance. Sylvain made a motion that we make our meetings more public using Skype and/or Zoom. Mayor stated motion dies on lack of second.

Sylvain would like the Ordinances on the website. Kristel stated the Ordinances are

on there. Sylvain stated not all of them are on there. When we update the website, she will make some suggestions.

Sylvain asked the other Council members if this Council has a vision for what they want to accomplish in the next two to four years, is this something we would like to discuss. Sylvain made a motion to look into a vision for the Village and what we would like to accomplish in the next two to four years, seconded by Tolles.

Votes were: Frantz – yes Donsbach – yes Sylvain – yes
 Smith – yes Tolles – yes

MOTION APPROVED

COMMENTS: Frantz stated she is happy to be on Council. Sylvain stated she is as well.

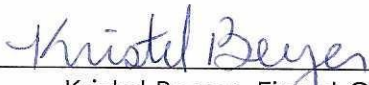
ADJOURNMENT:

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

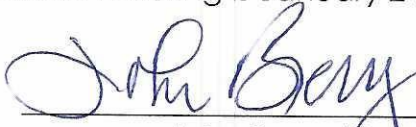
Votes were: Donsbach – yes Sylvain – yes Smith – yes
 Tolles – yes Frantz - yes

MOTION APPROVED

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is January 24, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. at the Old Fire Hall.



Kristel Beyer, Fiscal Officer



John Berry, Mayor

All formal actions of the Council of The Village of Grand Rapids concerning and relating to the adoption of resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.