



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION



Held: May 9, 2022

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 7:00 P.M. to 8:02 P.M. in the Old Fire Hall. Mayor John Berry called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

Rachel Smith – Absent	Martha Frantz - Present
Rick Tolles – Present	Lynn Sylvain – Present
Jody Donsbach – Present	Bob Krabill – Absent

Mayor stated Rachel Smith is excused for the evening. Mayor read resignation letter from Bob Krabill. Mayor asked Council to search for another person to fill the seat. Council has 30 days to fill the position and it does take four votes to approve the position. If Council does not fill the seat then the Mayor can appoint someone after the 30 days.

EMPLOYEES: Chad Beyer and Kristel Beyer

VISITORS: Lisa Hatfield, Joe Pemberton, Angie Miller, Kevin Vollmar

MINUTES:

Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Tolles to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 25, 2022.

Sylvain had a point of order and stated she was asked to read the employee handbook aloud at last meeting. Her question is if Council wants her to read employee handbook aloud. Donsbach stated no but she doesn't recall that. Frantz and Tolles didn't recall that either. Sylvain stated Smith asked her to and it is not in the meeting minutes that is why she asked the question.

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

MOTION APPROVED

BILLS:

Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Tolles to approve the bills from April 22 – May 5, 2022 in the amount of \$22,424.02.

Frantz said she asked Kristel if the electric bill included the lights at the ball diamonds and the answer was no. Sylvain is still looking for the receipts.

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

MOTION NOT APPROVED

Mayor Berry stated approval of bills does not pass.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Frantz stated Lisa Hatfield is here to talk about the food pantry and what an excellent program it is. Frantz stated this is in response to the access to food which was listed under the brainstorming session. Frantz said she has donated to this for several years

but just recently took the time to see how it was run. Frantz has submitted papers in Council Packets. This program is just for the Otsego Community. This is like a small grocery store, they can pick from a large list of items and can get items for a planned meal that day. This is more than just food, this is a bridge to other services. Lisa Hatfield stated she has been the director for the food pantry for 6 years but has been involved with it for 20 years. She stated it really is a bridge for people in the community. They serve anyone within the Otsego School district. The amount of food people get should last them 7 to 10 days. They believe that if someone needs help within the community they need a help up. Every appointment is scheduled we are not a walk-in pantry. They do not use government resources because then they would require us to open up to people beyond the Otsego School district. The food pantry has been in existence at the Presbyterian Church for over 40 years and has been supported mostly by the community. They partner with local businesses and she wanted to thank Dave LaRoe, when covid first hit you could not get fruit and vegetables. Dave allowed us to use his supplier to get these items during this time when it was a hardship. If anyone knows someone in need please send them to the food pantry to schedule an appointment. They have their information at the fire departments so if they are out and see a family in need they have our information to give. We have a partnership with the resale shoppe Just For You. If you have items you no longer want and they accept them for resale, you can donate them in the name of the Otsego Food Pantry and 40% will go on account there. We have been able to use that account for a family that lost their items in a fire and the shoppe also donated more to them. Lisa stated it is really about the community and the partnerships. We do not pay bills but we can connect people to the correct agencies to help. Council thanked Lisa for everything that she has done for the community. Frantz told Council to go visit the pantry to see what is offered. Joe Pemberton Vice President of the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce was here to discuss application for the Rapids Rally Days Parade. This has been on hold for the past two years and would like to get this going again. Joe discussed the parade route and they are looking to do other activities with this like the rubber duck race, disc golf demos, possible puppy parade. We will be partnering with the Fire Department with a chicken BBQ. Sylvain asked if there is a theme for the parade. Joe stated having puppies, getting public officials involved and private entities. He stated it is sort of an after-Independence Day and a community rally day. Angie Miller stated Lynne Long is doing a silent movie that day as well.

Pat Snyder asked if anyone remembered the street party and asked about the Tow Path Radio possibly doing a street party. Frantz stated there was also amusement rides. Joe stated after the chicken BBQ we thought about bringing in a food truck as well. Angie Miller stated since this hasn't been done in a couple years we are trying this out for one day this year and can expand on that for next year. She stated it would be nice to have bounce houses and a petting zoo as years past over a full weekend. Angie stated we have new people on the chamber so we wanted to start out slow. Sylvain stated it would be nice if we could close the downtown and have the restaurants spill out into the streets. Angie stated that would be great, part of their concern was having the restaurants staffed in the evening because a lot of them are struggling to get staff right now. Angie stated for the Family Fun Day on May 28th they have asked the Historical Society to do brats/hotdogs if the restaurants cannot be

staffed, she can ask them to do that for the Rally Day as well if needed. Sylvain stated the only thing missing is a copy of the organization's liability insurance. Angie stated we can get it from the chamber. Donsbach stated she had talked to Angie about possibly doing an ice cream social and suggested talking to the Bielecki's, they used to have an ice cream truck. They have been at the Applebutter fest, Donsbach can try to see if they still do that.

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Frantz to approve the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce parade application from 9 am to 12 pm on July 9th along with other activities pending final approval of list of events and copy of the liability insurance.

Frantz asked about the parking. Joe stated parking at the old elementary. Lisa Hatfield suggested using the parks and using the tow path into town or coming across the bridge. Mayor asked about the police department leading or following the parade, should reach out to the deputies. Joe stated we can do that.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Angie Miller submitted an application for use of public property for the area between Rita's and the Mill House. Kevin Vollmar from GAS Disc Golf wants to set up a disc golf demonstration. Kevin stated we want to bring a portable basket to do demonstrations and teach people about the sport. They are installing a course in Mary Jane Thurston Park, studies have shown that installing a course increases the economic impact to the community. Mayor asked who the contact was for this, Angie stated it would be Kevin. Donsbach asked when the course at the park will be completed. Kevin stated it is projected to be completed in August. They had a fundraising event last year and will have another one at the park this year. We have a local scout installing the tee pads for his eagle scout project. Frantz stated that would work well for the campers. Lisa Hatfield asked about flood coverage and if their baskets are removable. Kevin stated they get installed permanently into the ground but the baskets themselves can be removed. We have had plenty of community support and wanted to thank Jody's family for their support. When they were seeking sponsorship for this course installation they received 11 of their 19 lifetime sponsors from family members and a handful from community businesses.

Frantz made a motion seconded by Donsbach to approve application for the GAS Disc Golf group to come to the village for demonstrations.

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

MOTION APPROVED

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor said RT65 has been started and they are grinding the road now. He has received some complaints and signage has been up for weeks to give people plenty of notice. Mayor is glad this is getting done because it will be nice for the whole community. They will probably be paving the west end of RT65 first and then Wapakoneta Raod and moving east after that. He has had no other reports of people

breaking in but asked everyone to still be vigilant.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Chad said got numbers from bulk pickup. They picked up 12 mattresses and just over 14 tons at a cost of \$6,417.85. At the park one of the backboards was shot by a BB gun a while back and is getting worse and needs replaced. Cost is around \$1,000, also the tennis net is in pretty bad shape, he will look into replacing that too. He is still looking into the rot at the Wright Pavilion, the Mayor has talked to someone to see what needs to be done. He has one more quote coming in for the streets crack repair and patching. The sign at the Administration building is rotted at the ground, he can call sign companies to get quotes, wanted to know what Council would want to do. Donsbach asked when that sign was replaced last. Chad stated that was before him. Donsbach asked if the sign itself was bad. Chad stated they are all faded but the posts are solid cedar and it is rotted all the way through. Mayor stated the man he talked to about the Pavilion, he could not do that work but he was looking within his Amish family network and he will be getting back to him. Chad said he can look to see who originally did it. Sylvain stated depending on how far the rot is you could put a cheat on it which when you cut off at the bottom turn the beam so the grain is going horizontal. This is a way to prevent the moisture from wicking up. Chad said he will look into it but the fascia has got holes in it but could be fine for a while. Tolles stated a few weeks ago he mentioned bees at the park. Chad stated they sprayed it and will keep an eye on it.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Fiscal Officer gave Council a copy of the April Bank Reconciliation and everything is reconciled. Gave Finance Committee Appropriation Status, Revenue Status and Fund Listing. Also, Council should have been notified that our Village Audit has been started which the cost is \$3,854. Sylvain asked how long it lasts. Kristel stated she is not sure but probably a month or so.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: Mayor said someone wrote him a letter on things that need done in town. He cannot contact them because there was no address and no signature. It is concerning the mud on boat docks, which will be cleaned off when water goes down. Asked if the Village paid for the goose sign down across from Lynn's house, the answer is no but it is in the right of way and should be moved. Asked if the sidewalk on second street where the truck went through the house will ever be repaired. Mayor did contact the railroad people that is their sidewalk and they will be taking care of it. They asked if we will put berm down where there are no curbs. Mayor stated we will put berm down where there is a place for berm. We will be working on that, we have a lot going on with this highway going through. Lastly all the fire hydrants could be painted, we have discussed this through covid. We have tried finding someone, they will need wired brushed off and when they paint them will need done in a professional manner because if paint gets into the threads as a fireman you can't get the cap off due to this. Mayor asked how many fire hydrants we have total. Chad will have to check the book but the hydrants go down to King Road.

COMMITTEES: Mayor read Smith's Committee meeting minutes. A Council of the Whole meeting was held to discuss a draft of a Village needs assessment. Council members reviewed the draft and provided potential revisions. Councilperson Sylvain will make the suggested revisions and provide Council with a revised draft for further review. There are no recommendations at this time.

Sylvain submitted a revision copy that has all the edits requested. Frantz had also sent out an email to Council that she would like to take this to someone that does this for a living. They do focus groups and surveys. Frantz gave Council a copy and asked Council to review them. There were some reasons for changing what was on the original draft, this makes it simpler and more user friendly. Frantz asked if this will be discussed at the Committee of the Whole again. Sylvain asked Frantz if she wanted to schedule it. Mayor stated that would actually be Smith's duty to schedule this.

ORDINANCES: Mayor gave second reading of Ordinance 2022-3: An Ordinance creating the Town Hall Maintenance Fund.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Sylvain stated we talked to Ryan the Village Solicitor at the last meeting and she wants to make sure that we are clear of what his contract is. She would like to review his contract with council, what we paid him to date and if in fact he is donating his salary. Sylvain asked for three new accounts to be made, one for the Town Hall, one for the Pool and one for General donations. Only one is in a Resolution at this time, how do we get the other two. Sylvain asked how the Town Hall Fund get to be an Ordinance and the others did not. Kristel stated due to possible donations from the movie night that Mr. Fowler is holding, the Village needed to create this fund since the donations received will be for the specific purpose of the Town Hall. Mayor said he believes Ryan stated the pool fund was not a good idea because the pool is self sufficient on their own. Sylvain said the committee is meeting about the pool so we will address that separate. Sylvain asked about general donations and the Mayor stated they are going back into the general fund. Sylvain said she wants visibility to them is the request. Sylvain said is there any reason why we wouldn't have a general ledger just for donations, so if Ryan donates his salary back which is what Mike Marsh did apparently. The Village paid Mr. March and he then donated his salary back to the Village and it got blended into our general ledger account. She wants this to be identified separate so we have traceability. Sylvain asked Council why they wouldn't want to do that. Donsbach stated she personally does not think there is a need for that and she believes that anything would be addressed in an audit situation. Donsbach is fine with the way it is. Sylvain stated so we are not looking for anymore transparency than what we have today. Donsbach stated we have transparency. Sylvain asked if she is looking for more transparency than we have today. Donsbach said no. Sylvain asked Frantz. Frantz stated she doesn't think it is necessary. Frantz asked if she is concerned about the amounts. Sylvain stated she just wants to track it in and out of our accounts. Mayor stated he doesn't have any say but doesn't think it is necessary either. Sylvain stated it is a Council decision. Mayor stated yes and that's what he was going to next but you stepped on my toes. It is Council decision. Sylvain stated this is a council lead government so she is interested in what council feels. She said Donsbach made it clear she doesn't need anymore transparency. Frantz doesn't like the way Sylvain is turning that around it's like we are trying to hide something. Sylvain said she is just trying to see funds going in and funds going out. Frantz stated so you are not satisfied with the recociliation that is brought. Sylvain stated no. Mayor said or the audit. Sylvain stated this is her first audit and she looks forward to talking to the auditor. Frantz stated no and Tolles also stated no since the Village gets audited. Sylvain stated the structural assessment quotes were sent. There was a big to do made last meeting whether they were requested or not requested. They were sent out after

the meeting on 4/25 but there is no record or printouts. Sylvain asked Kristel where the proposals were for the structural assessment. Kristel stated she forwarded the email to the rest of Council and didn't realize copies were to be made. Donsbach received them, Frantz stated she read through them and Tolles said he did too. Sylvain asked so what we are doing with the structural assessment. Frantz stated we should not do anything until we have everyone here. Sylvain said we can actually, there is four of us and we can decide to move forward. Frantz chooses not to and wants to wait for Smith. Sylvain asked Tolles if he is ready to move forward with a structural assessment. Tolles said he is ready to move forward and thinks Larry Fast. Sylvain asked Donsbach and Frantz if they have a recommendation, Donsbach stated no and Frantz also stated no. Sylvain stated so the structural assessment is tabled and she does want to point out again that she brought up negligence last time. The Council is aware of 14 observations made by three different contractors, some of the issues highlighted are safety, some potentially structural and in her mind we are failing to take proper care, therefore putting the Village into negligence if someone gets injured. Mayor asked if she is making a motion to cancel the May 28th Town Hall use. Sylvain said you should be careful when trying to interpret what I am saying. Donsbach said she is asking also. Sylvain's recommendation is that we move forward with the structural assessment, there is four of us here and seen the data and Smith is not a structural engineer. Sylvain stated her vote counts but what are you waiting for, what is she going to tell you that you guys have not read. You have accountability to this council to make a decision. Frantz stated your recommendation has been heard and asked if she is making a motion. Sylvain made a motion to approve the structural inspection based on Larry Fast proposal. Mayor stated motion fails due to lack of a second. Sylvain would like to propose an old fashioned Town Hall meeting using the Town Hall, she would like to do it once a year, like to use it as an opportunity to introduce the Village employees and the Council to the community, she would like to review our budget, would like the committees to say what they are going to work on and she wants to use it to engage the community. Sylvain asked if anyone is interested. Sylvain would like to request we buy a couple tv's for this room so that Kristel can quite printing out all of this stuff and that the audience can see what we are discussing and that we go all electronic eliminating the paper. Sylvain asked if anyone is interested in that. Sylvain looked at our 6 standing committees but they don't meet with any frequency at all. This year there has only been one committee meeting which was finance, we are in May already. She looked at 2021 and there was only 5 meetings with committees, three of them were with finance. She stated several of the committees are not even meeting once a year. Mayor stated mainly due to covid. Sylvain anticipated the Mayors comment so she went back to 2019 and they were no more meetings than in 2021. Sylvain stated our committees are not active.

NEW BUSINESS: Donsbach asked if the Legion has any plans for Memorial Day. Mayor heard from a member they were just doing over by the grave sites. If he hears otherwise he will let everyone know. Tolles said the Chamber asked about the memory bricks and they would like to possibly sell these. They would like to use it in the Arts Council room as a well. Mayor stated he heard about it as well and they will probably talk about it again.

COMMENTS: Mayor said Ryan Rothenbuhler was very appreciative to be invited to the

last meeting and would be willing to come again when we would like him too.

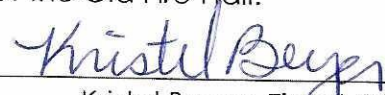
ADJOURNMENT:

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


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

MOTION APPROVED

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is May 23, 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.