



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION



Held: June 13, 2022

Page 1 of 5

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 – Present Martha Frantz - Present
Rick Tolles – Present Lynn Sylvain – Present
Jody Donsbach – Present

EMPLOYEES: Chad Beyer and Kristel Beyer

VISITORS: Chuck Thomas, Carol Sarkan, Kelly Leake, David Fowler, Kevin & April Olman

MINUTES:

Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Smith to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 9, 2022 and the meeting held on June 6, 2022.

Sylvain had a point of order on May 9th page 5 she had asked for a copy of the Village Solicitor's contract and she does not see it attached here. She also asked for an old-fashioned Town Hall meeting using the Town Hall since the Town Hall committee is here they should here that. After the special meeting she distributed a copy of the candidates that were interested in being part of the Council and she stated that was supposed to be made part of our meeting minutes and it was not. This was distributed to Council but it is not public record. Smith also wanted to raise a point of order as well on page 1. It states that Smith requested the employee handbook to be read aloud which she did not request. Sylvain asked if that was verified. Kristel stated it was.

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

MOTION APPROVED

BILLS:

Smith made a motion, seconded by Tolles to approve the bills from April 22 – June 9, 2022 in the amount of \$86,249.74.

Frantz said she had a point of inquiry. Frantz has been thinking about us not paying our bills and she wondered if there were any late fee charges, interest on unpaid balances, etc. She had asked Kristel to get this information and asked Kristel what she found out. Kristel stated that the Village is very fortunate that most of our bills do not have fees. The few that do come to \$70.90 but the BG whole sale water bill did waive the fee that would have cost the Village just under \$1,800 which is a one-time waiver. Frantz stated the reason they have not been paid seems like a power struggle and she thinks it has gone on long enough. Smith agreed.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor said approval of bills passed.

Sylvain stated until the receipts are added no. Mayor asked Sylvain if that was a motion. Sylvain said no. Frantz stated voting no puts it right back into the unpaid column. Frantz

said if you really want to see the receipts all you have to do is call Kristel and ask her for what you would like to see. Give her time to get it together, go and look at them so your curiosity can be satisfied and we can pay our bills. Sylvain stated the bills and receipts should be posted on our website for public viewing nobody should go down and ask for a public record. Smith stated they would have to be heavily redacted, we are not going to put account numbers and private information on the website. Sylvain stated redact it, show people where we are spending their money. Smith stated anyone can get a copy. Sylvain is looking for transparency. Donsbach said we have transparency and we are audited every other year and have a good auditing record. Sylvain stated you have paid Chad Hoffman \$70,000 and \$62,000 of which Mike Marsh said he was not entitled too. Mayor Berry stated that is just your opinion and it is not true. Mayor said you stir that up to make it sound as though you are correct and it is not. Smith stated a point of order to move back to the agenda.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL: Chuck submitted an application for use of public property for the Applebutter Fest. Chuck mentioned it is the same as years past but number 15 we kept on from last year concerning the protocol for health safety issues. Sylvain asked if the copy of liability insurance was already submitted. Chuck said yes. Donsbach asked if they were using the same transportation company. Chuck stated yes, Childers. Mayor stated we will also have a safety meeting a month before. Chuck said yes in September. Chad mentioned that it states cleanup within 24 hours after event and there was stuff left from last year. Chuck stated he knows and will get it taken care of.

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Frantz to approve the application for use of public property from the Historical Society of Grand Rapids for the Applebutter Fest which will be held October 9, 2022.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Donsbach thanked Chuck for all his work.

Chuck Thomas stated the Town Hall committee has been meeting and he is here to encourage the Village. He stated the Historical Society interest is to secure the building so it can be utilized for events. Chuck would like to meet with the buildings committee to discuss use and fees. Chuck was thinking about starting a lecture series on Civil War, WWII and/or Vietnam. He thinks the building can be used for more than just plays or music. Carol Sarkan stated we made a suggestion box for the Open House and got several suggestions. She distributed the list of suggestions to Council. Kelly Leake stated she had people come up to her stating that they painted the Town Hall years ago and would be willing to do it again. She knows there is liability but suggested a volunteer liability waiver that could be signed for people to come put some work into the Town Hall. She stated she has had a lot of memories with the Town Hall and wants her kids and grandkids to have those as well. Carol Sarkan stated we would love to have Council's support. Smith stated in her opinion, which she thinks the rest of council agrees, that this has the full support of council. Smith stated we are focusing on the structural integrity first and then we can discuss aesthetics like painting. Smith stated we have not had a full council in the last several meetings and that has been the delay, it is not that we do not want to move forward. We couldn't even get the bills paid. She said it sounded like there was an impression that we were not supportive of this and that is not the case. Kelly Leake asked

what the next step was. Mayor stated that would be the structural assessment which is being discussed tonight. Mayor thanked everyone.

Mayor stated Kevin and April Olman submitted a letter requesting to vacate the alley next to their property. They invited Council to stop by and look at the area in question. They both appreciate Councils consideration.

David Fowler stated the first movie night went really well. We probably had close to ten families and around 40 people. We received \$53.63 in donations and gave Kristel the check. He thinks we will only get bigger and better from here.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Tolles mentioned the park on Bridge Street and bullying. The Deputy stated the department has been made aware of this. Mayor asked them to watch out for the speeders and thanked him for all that he does.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor said he has not chosen anyone to fill the council seat yet. He hopefully will have a decision made by next meeting. Mayor said RT65 going through town has been sort of a nuisance for people but the end result will be nice. Mayor said the alley approaches are getting paved as well. ODOT's website states the project goes through September. Dick Keifer asked if they will be working further on the railroad tracks. Mayor said he hasn't got confirmation on the railroad tracks, the state works up until their right of way. Mayor is unsure if the railroad is going to be doing something or if ODOT is. Dick Keifer stated they are real bad.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Chad hired someone to help with mowing. He has tried calling the company for the Wright Pavilion he thinks they may be out of business. He will contact a carpenter to see what they think. We got the mosquito sprayer calibrated and will be spraying every Thursday evening weather permitting. This is posted on our website and we contacted Tow Path Radio they are also helping with getting this information to residents. Sylvain asked if the chemicals are listed online. Kristel stated no and Sylvain asked for this to be posted. Chad received information on applying for a park grant. He asked Council if they had any suggestions. Darin Pogan who is in charge of the Grand Rapids Youth Baseball/Softball League would like to apply for new fencing around the ball diamonds. Frantz asked if Darin stated why. Chad stated the fence is not very good any more, the concrete is sticking out and the fence is up from the ground. The park grant is safety oriented and for capital improvements. He got a quote for the sign out front from Toledo Sign Company cost \$1,915. He got three quotes for crack sealing streets and Premier Patching is the cheapest by far at \$38,966.97. Sylvain asked if he can show the other two quotes he got. Chad said yes, one was over \$50,000 the other was around \$46 or \$48,000. Sylvain asked for copies of the quotes. We received an invoice from Poggemeyer for \$4,000 for the design of the double check valve in the master meter pit, once design is complete we will owe them an additional \$4,300. We received an invoice from the Historical Society today for \$364 we didn't know what it was for. He contacted Chuck Thomas and he stated it was for invitations and mailing for the Town Hall Open House. Chuck stated he was going to stay but he didn't. Council heard nothing about it. Frantz made a motion seconded by Donsbach to have the Toledo Sign Company create a new sign for the Administration Office for \$1,915.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Smith to hire Premier Patching for crack sealing and spray patching the Village streets for \$38,966.97. Frantz asked how much it was the last time it was done. Chad stated around \$44,000. What they do is go through our streets and

quote the areas that need attention and if we continue to do this every two years it should keep our cost down.

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

MOTION APPROVED

FISCAL OFFICER’S REPORT: Fiscal Officer gave Council a copy of the May Bank Reconciliation and everything is reconciled. Gave Finance Committee Appropriation Status, Revenue Status and Fund Listing. Gave Council a copy of the estimate of revenues for the budget year 2023. We do have a third reading for the town hall maintenance fund but I would recommend declaring it an emergency due to the donation we have received tonight. We also have a first reading of Ordinance 2022-4. Frantz asked about Ordinance 2022-4 for the lighting of the streets and questioned this is on our property taxes. Kristel said yes, the process to do that is by approving the ordinance then she submits a copy to the county auditor’s office to be placed on the property taxes.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: None

ORDINANCES: Mayor gave the first reading to Ordinance 2022-4: An Ordinance to Request Auditor to Assess Lots and Lands of the Village of Grand Rapids for the Lighting of Streets, Alleys, Ways and other Public Places.

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

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Smith to declare Ordinance 2022-3 an emergency due to donations received.

Sylvain asked why the emergency. Kristel stated this will make the ordinance take effect immediately versus 30 days.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Frantz for passage of Ordinance 2022-3: An Ordinance creating the Town Hall Maintenance Fund.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Ordinance 2022-3 has passed.

Smith made a motion seconded by Donsbach to approve the Estimate of Revenues for submission to the Wood County Budget Commission.

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

MOTION APPROVED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Sylvain stated we need to select a structural engineer to inspect the Town Hall. Proudfoot \$5,200 plus lift cost, Larry Fast \$4,000 plus lift cost and Poggemeyer \$8,500. Sylvain made a motion seconded by Frantz to hire Larry Fast to do the structural inspection for the Village of Grand Rapids Town Hall.

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

MOTION APPROVED

