

MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION



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Held: September 26, 2022

The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 7:00 P.M. to 7:20 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 Rick Tolles – Present Jody Donsbach – Present Martha Frantz - Present Lynn Sylvain – Present Alex Glassford - Present

EMPLOYEES: Chad Beyer and Kristel Beyer

VISITORS: None

MINUTES:

Smith made a motion, seconded by Glassford to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 12, 2022.

BILLS:

Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Tolles to approve the bills from September 9 – September 22, 2022 in the amount of \$21,515.02.

Frantz asked if the Industrial Chem Labs will come out of the water fund. Kristel stated it will come out of the sewer fund this is for the lift stations. Sylvain asked if these bills are visible to the public. No but a public records request can be made.

Votes were:

Glassford - yes

Tolles - yes

Frantz – yes

Donsbach - yes

Smith - yes

Sylvain – no

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor said approval of bills pass.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL: None

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor stated we had a report of dumping of stone on lot 100 and also on Bass Street. We are doing follow up on that. Mayor said there are 13 days left until the Applebutter Fest, the first batch of applebutter has been made. The fest safety meeting went really well, this covered parking areas, bus routes, emergency squad placement, fire department, towing of vehicles improperly parked and blocking of roads with heavy equipment. Mayor stated the Sheriff's department needs volunteers as well as the Historical Society for the Applebutter Fest. The teal ribbons are up around the tree's and poles for cancer awareness. Mayor thanked the train people for cleaning up the new sidewalk along their property on Wapakoneta, it looks real nice.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Chad stated we are getting ready for the Applebutter fest. We will be jetting sewers. Rowe's Tree Service did cut three tree's down and he would like to get two more cut down. Frantz asked why the tree's are getting cut down, Chad stated they are dead or are hazards. Sylvain asked if residents can ask for tree's to be removed in the easement. Chad said yes they can ask and then we can go review the tree's. Sylvain asked if we can put that on the website. Chad said yes. Chad stated he talked to Rowe about Sylvain's tree and Rowe mentioned he talked to her about this before. She needs to contact Edison, since power is running through the tree. Sylvain stated Chad had mentioned he was going to offer the wood from the tree's to the community. Chad said he did, Mr Keifer asked he if could have it and Chad said yes. Sylvain stated you cannot have a family member benefit from the decision made in the government so she feels it should have been offered to the entire community. Chad stated anyone could have stopped and asked for the wood, Mr Keifer was the first. Sylvain stated Mr. Keifer is Jody's father for those that don't know and her brother took the wood and he is not a resident of the area. Sylvain was surprised we are giving away wood when so many of our residents heat with wood. The tax payers paid to have those tree's cut down and the wood wasn't offered to everyone. Chad stated anyone could have stopped and asked for the wood, Mr Keifer was the first. Sylvain asked for this information to be placed on our website. Smith asked if nobody takes the wood then what would happen, Chad stated it would sit there or we would have to remove it this saved the Village \$600. Chad stated they even cleaned the area up nicely after taking the wood. Frantz asked how many people heat with wood in Grand Rapids, Sylvain stated we would have to do a survey. Chad wanted to thank Eric Flora and Dick Keifer for coming out to inspect the fire escapes on the Town Hall. They both thought they looked fine and so did Larry Fast. Chad did give Larry Fast the list and he did inspect the chimenys and they looked good. We went back up to look at the balcony and there is a paper that states 112 people limit. Larry will probably change his wording in his report. Chad will forward Larry's report once received. Sylvain asked what is going to be done with the handrail on the balcony, Chad stated he can contact someone to find out.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Kristel reminded Council of the application for the Light the Night event from the Chamber this still needs approval. I got the answer for the band parking question, they were going to caution tape the area so no one drives through the grass.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: Smith stated the Council of the Whole met this evening to discuss the needs assessment but there will be no action.

ORDINANCES: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Sylvain has a question on the ordinance. Sylvain stated Kristel gave us the resolution 2022-04 authorizing the necessary tax levys, do you know the impact on what that would be on a percentage increase. Kristel stated this would be as normal, the Village didn't put another levy on so this would be just the normal property taxes they pay into the village. Sylvain asked if we have ever looked at our finances to see if we could

reduce the taxes here. Kristel doesn't think so. Sylvain stated we are without a committee chair on the finance committee and said John Berry needs to name someone so we can meet and discuss our finances.

NEW BUSINESS: Frantz stated the last time we discussed the water and a 38% profit. Frantz went to talk to Kristel and asked what exactly is taken out of the water fund. If you reference the August 26 to September 8 bills, there are six items on there that come out of the water fund. Frantz stated the 38% markup/profit/margin is not really accurate because not all the information was used and she just wanted to make that clear. Sylvain stated there is a comparison made with Waterville and stated their rates are half of ours. She thinks this is an opportunity to review in a finance committee of how we are allocating our resources and what our cost structure is. Sylvain stated this is one sample so we should do a larger sample size. Frantz stated will you be able to find a place just like Grand Rapids. Sylvain stated no but if we review others costs to ours wouldn't you want to know if our costs are higher than theirs. Frantz stated Waterville is much larger and would not be a good comparison, they have more industry. Smith stated finding another smaller entity that has their own water and sewer would be more comparable.

COMMENTS: None ADJOURNMENT:

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

Votes were:

Frantz - yes

Sylvain - no

Tolles – yes Smith – yes

Glassford - yes

Donsbach - yes

MOTION APPROVED

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is October 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.