

MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION



Held: October 24, 2022



Page 1 of 4

The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 7:00 P.M. to 7:49 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: Peggy Seab

MINUTES:

Smith made a motion, seconded by Donsbach to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 26, 2022.

Sylvain has a correction for the minutes on page 2. "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 it is either her tree and she will take care of it or it's the Village's tree and she does not need to talk to Edison.

BILLS:

Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Smith to approve the bills from September 23 – October 20, 2022 in the amount of \$42,504.81.

Sylvain asked if we were done with Envirocare. Chad thinks they are done for the year but would have to check. Sylvain asked what we are buying bottled water for, Chad stated the Village employees. Frantz asked what bills listed will come out of the water fund. Kristel stated Ludwig Auto, Panning Excavating, Culligan, ½ of USA Bluebook, ¼ of Mid-Wood, ½ of MASI, and the Municipal Utilities bill.

Votes were:

Sylvain – no, not without receipts Smith - yes

Donsbach - yes Frantz - yes

Glassford – ves Tolles - yes MOTION APPROVED

Mayor said approval of bills pass.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Peggy Seab gave Council numbers on comparing Grand Rapids, Waterville and Bowling Green's water and sewer rates. She also has a question on the salaries that are appropriated in the appropriation ordinance. In the Water and Sewer salaries are listed at \$80,000 each and she wondered how that was appropriated. Kristel stated all employees get paid out of these funds. Kristel stated just because \$80,000 is appropriated does not mean that is what will be spent. Peggy mentioned Waterville is in the process of doing a rate study. Peggy said Grand Rapids water rate cost more than Waterville and Bowling Green. She wondered if the Village could possibly apply for a Grant through the OPWC to start processing our own water. Peggy stated at a prior meeting it was stated that we do

not have as much industry as Waterville or Bowling Green but her costs show only residential. Smith asked the number of residents they provide water for. Peggy didn't know that number. Sylvain stated census shows Grand Rapids has about 1,000 and Waterville has 5,000 population. Smith stated we need more comparable places like Liberty Center, McClure or even Northwest Water and Sewer District. Peggy would really like someone to look into this if we can save residents \$10, at the end of the year her insurance company gives a refund if there are not a lot of claims in the year and she thinks that is nice. Peggy stated even if its \$20 it would be nice if we could do a refund if all money is not expended. Frantz asked what happens to the money in the water fund that is not used and asked Peggy if this is what she wants to distribute among residents as a refund. Peggy stated yes. Frantz asked what happens to the money that is not used in the water fund. Chad said we save it and if we have a major issue then it is there for the repairs needed. Frantz said so we can call it rainy day money and it is there for the Village's use when needed. Chad said yes. Peggy asked if Bowling Green tests the water before we receive it? Chad said yes and we test it here as well. Peggy asked why we need a double test. Chad said because if there is a leak on the line coming in we will be able to tell and the EPA also requires us to test it. Peggy asked if we test for lead, Chad stated yes. Peggy asked if we have lead issues, Chad said no. Peggy asked if that was something that was looked into with the survey of the Town Hall. Chad stated no that was just for structural. Peggy asked about asbestos, Chad stated he looked for that and didn't see any, he also mentioned the paint could have lead in it but if we don't mess with the paint it will be fine. Chad said he was just doing a structural inspection. Peggy said the Halloween display on the corner of Wapakoneta and Second Street they have a guy with a bloody chainsaw, do we have an ordinance that we can not put violent displays up. Peggy stated she walks her dog and sees the Sheriff sitting at Mary Jane Park a lot. Does the park pay them to monitor that or does that come out of the Village's budget? Mayor stated if they are sitting there that could be coming out of our budget, they could be on the radio or entering information into their system while they are there. Peggy has seen them over at the Marina and wondered if we could be compensated for it. Donsbach stated the Marina is Henry County and not the Village.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor stated the Fest went really well. The cleanup was delayed due to Bowling Greens Street Sweeper breaking down but the streets were swept the next morning. Mayor reminded everyone that November 8th is election day so please go vote.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Chad stated we got 20 tons of salt ordered. We had a waterleak out in Williamsburg and Panning Excavating came out and helped fix that. They came out again today and helped fix a leak west of Beaver Creek. Larry Fast's report is done. He got ahold of the building inspector and what he told him was the handrail is up to code for the height. Sylvain asked if we will repair the handrail since it is unstable. Chad said he can add more bolts to reinforce. Sylvain asked if we are done removing tree's for the year, Chad said Rowe is supposed to come back and remove another one. Mayor stated there are more on the towpath that need removed. Chad is hoping to get those removed as well.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Fiscal Officer gave Council a copy of the September Bank Reconciliation and everything is reconciled. Gave Finance Committee Appropriation

Status, Revenue Status and Fund Listing. Kristel reminded Council of the application for the Light the Night event from the Chamber this still needs approval. Kristel stated she was told the Grand Rapids Chamber has asked us to pay the Historical Society the \$500 annual Christmas Decorating payment instead of them. Sylvain questioned on the bank rec what is the \$40 payment to the Estate of Lisa Bundy, Kristel said this is a return deposit from a utility account, the home was sold and she is deceased so the payment goes to her estate. Sylvain asked about Christmas lights does the Village pay for any of that. We contribute \$500 yearly that goes towards the Christmas lights and decorations.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: None ORDINANCES: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mayor has someone requesting to purchase and plant Eastern Redbud trees at Bluebell Island and/or Howard Cemetery. He would be paying for a company to come in and plant the tree's in memory of his wife. Sylvain asked if he is a resident, Mayor stated he was once a resident. Smith made a motion seconded by Frantz for two tree's to be purchased by Mr. Herman and planted at Bluebell Island and one at Howard Cemetery.

Votes were:

Donsbach - yes Glassford - yes

Smith - yes Sylvain - yes

Frantz – yes

Tolles – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Sylvain stated Carol and Nick Jeffers were prominent people in this community and passed away, we didn't do anything for them. Sylvain asked if we would consider a memorial tree for them. Mayor stated if a family member requests we could look into it. Sylvain stated the Village would pay for these right? Mayor doesn't think that is a good idea there are many people that were prominent people and may wonder why they didn't get a memorial tree. Sylvain thinks we should honor them all by planting tree's. Smith stated historically it is a family member requesting for memorials or proposed the idea. The Village doing that on someone elses behalf she doesn't feel would be appropriate to do as a Council. Sylvain disagrees. Smith stated if we do it for everyone in the Village it will be a forrest here. Sylvain stated that is not a terrible thing. Smith stated where do we place these tree's and do we affend someone by placing a tree somewhere for one and not another. Frantz stated we have benches and swings in memory of people. Smith stated these are requested by family members. Mayor will ask the Solicitor first. Tolles asked if we heard anything on sidewalks. Chad stated he has contacted them but still hasn't heard back.

Sylvain asked about the needs assessment and asked Smith if she is scheduling another meeting. Smith stated we didn't have any action at the last meeting are we going to move forward on this? Sylvain stated we should have discussion on it whether we vote to or not to do it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Donsbach asked what our policy is on ATV's on the streets. Mayor stated they are not allowed on the streets or in the parks. Donsbach stated there is one nearby her riding on the streets. Frantz has had the same concerns. Mayor stated we will need to contact the Sheriff.

Sylvain stated that Peggy brought up having council look into the water. Who is in charge of the committee? Mayor stated the committee is Alex, Jody and Lynn. Sylvain asked who

has the lead, Mayor said Alex Glassford does. Sylvain stated congratulations, no experience, but can we have a committee meeting scheduled. Glassford will schedule a meeting and let Kristel know.

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Smith to approve the application for use of public property for non-profit organization Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce for the Light the Night Event held on December 10, 2022 from 3pm to 7pm.

Votes were:

Glassford - yes

Smith - yes

Frantz - yes Donsbach - yes

Tolles - yes

Sylvain – yes

MOTION APPROVED

COMMENTS: Smith thanked Peggy Seab for putting the information together to start the conversation. Kristel asked if we wanted to approve the \$500 payment to the Society for Christmas lighting. Frantz made a motion seconded by Tolles to change the yearly payment from the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce to the Grand Rapids Historical Society for the \$500 for Christmas Decorations in the Village.

Votes were:

Smith – yes

Frantz - yes

Tolles -yes

Sylvain – yes

Donsbach - yes

Glassford - yes

MOTION APPROVED

Smith wanted to remind everybody when David Fowler came in, he had a lot to say about this Council and treating each other with respect and dignity. We need to be nice to one another and reminded Council that our residents are seeing that, so backhanded comments about people's experience are unwarranted and unnecessary.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Donsbach - yes

Votes were: Frantz - yes

Tolles – yes

Glassford - yes

Sylvain - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION APPROVED

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is November 14, 2022 at 7:00

P.M. at the Old Fire Hall.

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.