



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION



Held: February 27, 2023

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 7:00 P.M. to 7:45 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: Dean Seeger

MINUTES:

Sylvain has some questions on the minutes and asked Ryan to introduce himself to everyone. Ryan Rothenbuhler introduced himself and stated he was appointed to the Village Solicitor position by the Mayor and Council. Sylvain asked when he states he is appointed to village solicitor who is he representing? Mr. Rothenbuhler stated he is representing the council. Sylvain asked if someone makes charges against the council, an individual on the council are you then representing that individual. Mr. Rothenbuhler stated no, he represents the council as a whole and he is not a defense attorney. Sylvain stated in the meeting minutes there were several statements made by David Fowler that are not accurate, she states if they are published they are slanderous. Sylvain wants them corrected or eliminated. Sylvain stated in Roberts Rules it states minutes should not record detailed public comment it is sufficient to say that public comment was given. Sylvain said her suggestion is we do not approve the meeting minutes, we review them and then decide whether they should be published. Mr. Rothenbuhler said that is up to council as a whole. Sylvain made a motion that the meeting minutes for February 13, 2023 be paused for publication until the content is reviewed by the village attorney. Mayor stated motion dies due to lack of a second. Sylvain stated if the minutes are published and we know the statements are false can the village council be held liable for slander? Mr. Rothenbuhler stated slander is very hard to prove and it is the Fiscal Officer job to create the minutes from the audio recording, the minutes do not need to be word for word and can be a summary. Sylvain stated the things that were stated were factually incorrect and can be proven by formally published meeting minutes. Mr. Rothenbuhler stated it is up to council if they would like to approve the minutes or not. Sylvain stated so if council approves to publish this are they subjecting themselves to a charge of slander? Mr. Rothenbuhler asked who is going to sue the council. Sylvain stated she will sue the government of the council. Mr. Rothenbuhler stated it is up to the council. Sylvain told council that they chose not to publish David Fowlers letter dated January 9. Smith stated the council did not publish it, someone else did. Smith made a motion to table the meeting minutes until we get input from our Village Solicitor.

BILLS:

Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Tolles to approve the bills from February 10 – February 23, 2023 in the amount of \$6,166.98.

Sylvain questioned the Kleinfelder bill. Chad stated it is for the survey next door near and around the Town Hall. Sylvain asked if it included a legal description of the 80 foot right of way. Chad stated they still owe him some documents, he will find out.

Votes were: Sylvain – no, not without receipts Donsbach – yes Glassford – yes
Frantz – yes Smith – yes Tolles – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor said approval of bills pass.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Robert Stickley stated Kristel was very helpful with his taxes. He sent CCA his taxes three years in a row but does not have record of that, so he got a \$150 fee per year totaling \$450. Mr. Stickley stated Kristel mentioned to drop his taxes out to the Village Office and then they will have record of the filing in case this would happen in the future. He was here to let the rest of the Village residents know to drop their taxes off at the village office or send them in to CCA certified mail, just in case they would get lost in the mail.

Dean Seeger submitted the Cub Scout application for use of public property for the Applebutter fest, he mentioned everything is the same as prior years.

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Smith to approve the application for use of public property from Cub Scout Pack 325 for the 2023 Applebutter Fest.

Votes Were: Donsbach – yes Glassford – yes Frantz – yes
Smith – yes Tolles – yes Sylvain – yes

MOTION APPROVED

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor said he would like to personally thank Josh at Tow Path Radio for being able to send any alerts to him that the Village would need broadcasted. Mayor stated he is more than willing to get this information out to the public and said this is a great asset to the Village. Mayor said the last call for the Grand Rapids Chamber Banquet is March 1st, it will take place on March 6th at Heban's Field of Dreams. Mayor said it rained really hard today and he took pictures of areas that were flooded. The Village will need to look into these areas. Mayor would also like to thank Kristel again for the great accounting work in the office, we received the highest award from the auditor of state for good transparent government. Mayor attended the scouts crossover event and said it was a wonderful time. Mayor said the person that owns lot 100 was sent a letter to remove the 60 or 70 tons of stone they illegally placed on the bank of the canal, even when they were asked to not proceed any farther. The letter states they have until March 31st to remove it or the town will have it removed and it will be assessed to their taxes. Sylvain asked the purpose of removing the stone. Mayor stated when the flood waters come and the stone rinses down into the canal, then the taxpayers will then have to pay for dredging it out and the taxpayers should not have to do that.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Chad said Envirocare wants to know if we want to continue the ground maintenance. Sylvain would like to know the risk to the river and would like a report on that. Chad said we will be looking into updating and getting our code of ordinances on the website. He is also looking into getting a new composting sign. The Historical Society is using the Town Hall for an Otsego Got Talent program on May 6th.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: None

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: Mayor stated we should schedule another Sidewalk meeting. Tolles said a Streets & Sidewalk committee meeting has been scheduled on March 13, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Old Fire Hall to discuss sidewalks.

ORDINANCES: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Sylvain asked Chad if he received the handrail and/or header quotes. Chad said he is still waiting for someone to come out along with the pavilion. Sylvain asked if we will be scheduling a meeting to discuss the vision statement. Smith stated we will schedule a meeting on it. Smith said we have several things to meet on which would Sylvain like to discuss first. Smith said if we go in order we would first be discussing the D.O.R.A. and she will get a meeting scheduled prior to the next council meeting. Sylvain stated in David Fowlers letter he had asked Council to come up with goals and she would like to add this to a meeting of the whole. Smith stated it can be. Sylvain stated Peggy Seab brought up an issue with water and asked if it has been resolved. Mayor stated no we are meeting again this Thursday on it to hopefully get it resolved. Sylvain asked Glassford if he reviewed the process flow chart. Glassford said he looked over it and will schedule another meeting soon. Frantz questioned the water bills and through our research we are the lowest in the area, why do we keep bringing it up. Glassford stated Bowling Green had a rate increase and we need to make sure we are receiving enough to cover the increase. Sylvain stated the emergency response is still on the list. Frantz said she got some information for Sylvain on what is already available for emergency response. Sylvain said a resident brought up an emergency response for us to discuss as a council and that is what she is asking for. Sylvain stated the chickens Ordinance was brought up and knows there is a petition going around and we can wait until council receives it. Sylvain stated she gave Frantz information on a dog park and asked if she wanted to do anything on that. Frantz stated she will look through it. Sylvain said needs assessment is still on the list and sunshine law training dates. Sylvain asked Chad if the clock is still on his list. Chad stated yes when the weather gets nicer. Sylvain stated she brought up businesses leaving town and thinks council should sponsor an event and listed multiple suggestions. Smith asked if Sylvain would email her list of ideas to council for them to consider. Sylvain stated she will send the list when she can. Monica Thompson stated Sylvain is making suggestions on events that would require citizens in the community to do things they are not willing to do. She thinks that a cooking class is a good idea but how is the council supposed to know if people that cook here want to teach a cooking class. Monica stated when you throw these suggestions out there, you also have to think about are you addressing the right people first, in order to see if there is an interest on their part. Sylvain stated if she can get some interest from council then we can go down that path, she does not know if restaurants want people in their kitchens, it may be a liability. Sylvain stated what can we do to bring people in this town to make our down town healthier and that is what she was trying to address here. Frantz stated she thinks it would be fun to make your own vehicle race to go from the Marathon down Front Street.

NEW BUSINESS: Sylvain said she has a letter from Mr. Rothenbuhler and read the letter. Sylvain asked Mr. Rothenbuhler what proof he has that she was involved in that. Mr. Rothenbuhler stated it was discussed and there are pictures. Sylvain asked if the pictures were of her unloading stone. Mayor stated no, not of her but of the man that she hired. Sylvain asked if there is proof of that. Mayor stated yes, he has the contact information.

Sylvain brought three stones, one from behind her house, one from other side of canal and one taken down the way from the canal and asked Council which stone would council like removed that Mr. Rothenbuhler is addressing or accusing. Smith asked if Sylvain put the stone there or have someone put the stone there. Sylvain stated that is not the question. Smith stated you want transparency and you are evading the question. Sylvain repeated which stone do you want removed. Smith asked for a point of order to get back to the agenda.

COMMENTS: Donsbach stated we discussed emergency management and hazardous materials last meeting. Donsbach said the Grand Rapids Fire Department just did their hazmat training refresher and they do this every year.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is March 13, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. at the Old Fire Hall.


Votes were: Frantz – yes
Glassford – yes

Smith – yes
Donsbach – yes

Tolles – yes
Sylvain – no

MOTION APPROVED



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.