



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION



Held: April 10, 2023

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 7:00 P.M. to 8:11 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: Chuck Thomas

MINUTES: Smith made a motion, seconded by Tolles to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 27, 2023. Mayor stated minutes are approved as presented.

BILLS:

Frantz made a motion, seconded by Donsbach to approve the bills from March 24 – April 6, 2023 in the amount of \$6,893.21.

Votes were: Sylvain – no, not without receipts Donsbach – yes

Smith – yes

Frantz – yes

Glassford – yes

Tolles – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Sylvain had an observation, she thinks Envirocare encroached on staying 25 feet from the river and she feels we need to look at not continuing that service.

Mayor said approval of bills pass.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Chuck Thomas submitted the application for use of public property for the Applebutter Fest. Chuck stated if anyone knows of a non-profit that wants to make food during the Applebutter Fest, they have an opening.

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Tolles to approve the application for use of public properties for nonprofit organizations for the Historical Society of Grand Rapids for the Applebutter Fest to be held on October 8, 2023.

Votes were: Donsbach – yes Glassford – yes Smith – yes

Frantz – yes

Tolles – yes

Sylvain – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Chuck thanked Council and reminded them they will be peeling apples in September.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Sheriff asked if anyone had any questions or concerns. Mayor stated we are in the process of moving our speed sign and asked the deputy for a suggestion.

Deputy stated any place Council feels people are speeding the most. Tolles stated in between Wapakoneta and the Bridge on Front Street. Sylvain stated kids like to ride down the hill by the quarry and it is really hard for the cars to see them and hard for the kids to stop. Frantz has two pictures of male cats that keep spraying and the last time the deputy stated that Weston had the same issue. Frantz asked if he could find out what that was.

Tolles asked about golf carts and how often do they get inspected. Deputy will send a text to find out. Deputy got on the Sheriff's website and it looks like golf carts get an initial inspection to get a plate and then would have to renew the registration through the BMV.

Mayor thanked the Deputy for all he does.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor stated another shooting happened this time in Louisville, Kentucky at a bank and wanted to remember those people and the lives that were lost. Mayor stated they are a lot more motorcycles out and asked people to keep an eye out for them. Mayor

asked Council where they would like to place the speed sign next. Smith thinks moving it around is effective and thinks placing it at the three main entrances. Frantz stated on Wapaneta people seem to speed into town and run the stop sign. Mayor said the the Run to the Rapids is coming up on April 29th and a Victorian Chocolate walk on May 13th.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Chad said there is a catch basin in need of repair on 2nd Street, he is waiting to receive one more quote and will get it repaired with whomever comes in cheapest. He received the prices for the compost sign. A wood sign \$1,122, \$2,021 for aluminum, \$3,260 for an aluminum sign just like out front. He received prices for redoing the parking lot by the old junior high, Rutter & Dudley \$25,750 and Morlock \$18,200 and behind the businesses Rutter & Dudley just under \$50,000 and Morlock just under \$60,000. Sylvain asked why we don't plant grass in the area by the old junior high. Chad said it is currently black top and is used for parking for the Jazz Fest, Applebutter Fest, Light the Night and possible others. He received quotes on mosquito fogging the approximate costs are \$4,000 for same product 30 gal, \$7,552 for Duet much cleaner product 30 gal, \$5,628 for Merus organic product 15 gal, Mosquito dunks to be placed in standing water \$1,200 for 220 dunks. Chad has contacted BGSU to place mosquito traps in town for research to see how many are in town and if they carry diseases. Glassford asked how long 30 gallons lasts, Chad said usually two years but if we spray less than longer. Sylvain stated she likes that Chad is looking into the research and would like to know the health concerns on each product. Frantz stated the person that mowed the park today is doing a great job. Mayor asked if he found out anything on the Bluebell dam, Chad has not, the water is over it. Donsbach asked if we currently have a wooden sign by the compost, Chad said yes. Chad said the one there has been there a long time and thinks the new wood sign may be better.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Fiscal Officer gave Council a copy of the February Bank Reconciliation and everything is reconciled. Gave Finance Committee Appropriation Status, Revenue Status and Fund Listing. Gave council a copy of the Planning Commission and Utilities Committee meeting minutes. We have the emergency Resolution for the ODOT road salt contract on the agenda.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: Mayor read the Planning Commission meeting minutes. Sylvain questioned who is on the Planning Commission and how does someone get on the planning commission. Mayor stated the members are listed on the minutes and he has appointed some to the Planning Commission, others were already on it. Sylvain asked why this zoning amendment was declined. Smith said all of this was discussed at the Planning Commission meeting. Smith said she by all means does not want to tell people what they can do on their property but may need to seek other routes to make this happen. She stated we had just as many people in favor as the not in favor at this meeting and it is not saying it can not be revisited in the future. Sylvain asked if there is an opportunity to make a compromise to set rules, Smith stated that would be a different proposal then what we were given. Smith said there were questions on who will police it, we have more residential than agricultural districts that allow chickens. Smith stated Peggy brought up a community coop to be placed on the agricultural district. Smith said it was not just a no, there was beneficial discussion. Sylvain asked what the next steps would be, Smith believes someone would have to submit a modified proposal. Michelle O'Neill was under the impression that council will still vote on this. Mayor stated first the planning commission makes a recommendation to council for a vote to happen and there was not a recommendation. Peggy asked why there are so many people duplicated on the Planning Commission and Council. Kristel stated the Planning Commission is made up of five members, the Mayor, a council representative and three village residents. Frantz stated she was on the Planning

Commission prior to being elected to Council. Michelle O’Neill said at that meeting it was stated it cannot be voted on by the residents. Solicitor Rothenbuhler discussed this with David Fowler and there are steps to place things on a ballot for a vote and he directed him to someone to contact. Michelle O’Neill stated she had no intention for this to bring division between people, she just wanted chickens. She thinks this seems to be a really big hot topic that has gone way beyond where she was interested in going with it. She thinks if there are so many interested, than the peoples voice should be heard. She stated if the majority says ‘no” she would be fine with that and thinks town council should think about who they are representing and take that into consideration in everything they do. Tim O’Neill stated his wife did a survey with 100 + yes and then heard there was another one done with 75, no. Smith stated to clarify, the petition response she had done was great, however, there were people on it that didn’t live in the Village and then there were a few not even 18 years old. Michelle O’Neill thinks a vote should be done since this is so divided, then the residents know their voice has been heard. Rita Foos stated that she would not be able to vote but has a number of businesses in town and invests more in them than a normal home, she thinks the planning commission should decide this so that the businesses are represented too. Sylvain thinks Foos comment was not appropriate when she said she has more invested in businesses than someone does in their home, many of us have many investments in this community and thinks that is not the right way to position that. Jeff Gensler stated the tone at the beginning of the meeting was negative and set the tone for the whole meeting. He thinks it is a conflict of interest to have more council members on the commission then residents. Solicitor Rothenbuhler stated that to do the survey again would be to get signatures from registers voters within the village and the board of elections is the one to verify the signatures. Frantz stated she will contact them tomorrow to see what the steps are. Pat Snyder thanked the Mayor for letting the conversation play out, she knows this is not normal for a council meeting.

ORDINANCES: Mayor gave the first reading of Resolution 2023-02: Resolution authorizing the participation in the ODOT road salt contracts awarded in 2023.

Smith made a motion seconded by Donsbach to declare an emergency and waive the three readings to Resolution 2023-02.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Tolles for passage of Resolution 2023-02: : Resolution authorizing the participation in the ODOT road salt contracts awarded in 2023.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Resolution 2023-02 has passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Sylvain would like to discuss the water information we have been talking about. She discussed the City of Waterville rates and she is still working on the process flow. Peggy Seab stated last November she presented a document requesting a refund for her sewer charge. She stated they are due a refund for these charges and submitted a document to the Mayor. Peggy also stated she is speaking on behalf of the neighbors of the petitioned sewer line, there are significant ongoing costs with maintaining the grinder pumps, that only have a 6 to 10 year life span. She stated the pumps will need replaced before the 20 year loan is paid, no other Grand Rapids residents incur these costs nor do they preprocess any discharge into the main line, therefore they should be compensated with a reduced sewer fee. She would like this to be examined at the next

water/sewer rate committee. Mayor stated we will look into this.

NEW BUSINESS: Sylvain would like to review who is on the Planning Commission and asked the Solicitor. Solicitor Rothenbuhler stated he would have to look into that, he assumes they are appointed positions and for removing someone he will have to look that up as well. Sylvain stated Peggy brought up two things for the utilities committee, Glassford stated he will get one scheduled. Donsbach asked if the stone on the bank of the canal got resolved? Mayor stated not yet and asked Sylvain if she will be removing the stone. Sylvain stated that is now a legal matter so cannot be discussed. Sylvain stated our town floods not because of the river but because of the canal in two places. She thinks if we raised the canal bank by two feet we would prevent our town from flooding. Pat Snyder stated no the flooding comes into the sewers behind the car wash. Frantz said then on Second Street the storm drains back up. Sylvain stated we are supposed to bring up issues and discuss them and decide on the best for the community. Mayor would like to discuss the stone she placed on the canal and when she will get it removed. Mayor even stopped and asked to stop placing the stone and the next morning someone was there. Sylvain asked for the Mayor to return to the agenda. Donsbach said the date was March 31, 2023 for the stone to be removed and it was a valid question that she asked. Sylvain asked Solicitor Rothenbuhler if it is a legal matter at this point. Rothenbuhler said yes and one of the things we discussed with Sylvain about was we were reaching out to get quotes but it will be difficult to avoid Sylvain's property to get the stone off of Village property. Chad stated we have received a quote and it is \$2,000 to get the stone removed and have proper stone put in but we do not want to go on Sylvain's property to start anything more. Sylvain stated let the courts deal with this. Rothenbuhler stated we are hoping for a resolution and not get to that point. Frantz asked how about Sylvain places the stone somewhere the Village can then remove it. Donsbach made a motion seconded by Frantz to purchase the wooden compost sign for \$1,122.

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

MOTION APPROVED

COMMENTS: Smith stated several people have mentioned to her that since the bridge was improved more people are walking and riding their bikes to town. When they turn right off the bridge to come into town there are a lot of no parking signs in a row that makes it hard to maneuver around. Smith asked if we can consider removing or moving them back to the fence line. Chad will contact ODOT or will move them himself. Donsbach said a young woman, an Otsego student, was given a much needed liver on Friday. She just wanted to wish her and her family the best and our thoughts and prayers are with the family who lost their loved one.

ADJOURNMENT:

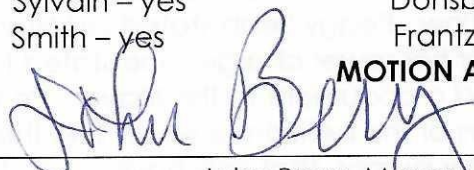
The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is April 24, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. at the Old Fire Hall.

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

MOTION APPROVED



Kristel Beyer, Fiscal Officer



John Berry, Mayor