



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION



Held: August 14, 2023

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 7:00 P.M. to 7:53 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
Louise Estep - Present

EMPLOYEES: Chad Beyer and Kristel Beyer

VISITORS: Chris Smalley, Emily Householder, Peggy Seab, Robert Stickley and Shirley Lambert

MINUTES: Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Frantz to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 24, 2023.

Mayor stated if there are no questions then they are approved as written.

BILLS:

Smith made a motion, seconded by Tolls to approve the bills from July 20 – August 10, 2023 in the amount of \$36,085.86.

Sylvain asked about the \$217 bill for topsoil where was that used. Chad said we did two water taps one in Williamsburg and one on River Road that we went back filled with dirt and seeded. Sylvain said where her trees were taken out of her yard has created a sink hole will you be filling that in as well. Chad asked if it was the illegally planted trees, he will look into it. Sylvain questioned the AIM Media bill, it is the Planning Commission meeting posting, Estep stated AIM Media took over the Sentinel-tribune. Sylvain asked about the MASI bill, Chad said this is a monthly bill for weekly water and sewer testing. Sylvain asked about the syphon pump is it replacing one. Chad said yes, Sylvain asked what we do with the old, it was plastic he washed it out and through it away. Sylvain asked about the \$700 bill for lube. Chad said he has to lube the wastewater plant twice a week the aerators spin 24 hours a day seven days a week, 365 days a year. Sylvain asked if it is a year supply, Chad said probably 10 months supply.

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

MOTION APPROVED

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Chris Smalley Director of the Wood County Parks District introduced himself. He wants to visit all the municipalities that participate in their local park improvement program. He presented the village with their park grant check of \$2,340 for picnic tables and brought a copy of this year's application. He brought the first park sign as a gift to the village and stated it is great to be back in Grand Rapids this is a lovely community. He thanked the village for participating in the program this helps keep recreation alive in Wood County and appreciates the village participating.

Emily Householder was here to discuss the application for use of public property from the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce for the Hocus Pocus event on October 21st, they

would like to put up items for photo stations and decorations. They are hoping to eventually draw a crowd like Christmas Open House. Smith made a motion seconded by Estep to approve the application for use of public property for non-profit organizations to sponsor activities and events from the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce for the Hocus Pocus event on Oct. 21, 2023 from 11 am to 8 pm.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Peggy Seab asked if aerial crop dusting is approved for use in the village and if there was a schedule she can check online. Chad will have to look into that. Peggy asked about the lighting assessment and she noticed not all cities and villages have a lighting assessment on the property tax and asked why. Estep will follow up on this. Shirley Lambert was here to discuss her pump making an alarm noise. She had contacted Downey and they said it was the sewer backing up and it was up to the village and she contacted the village and they say it is not them to contact the company that installed. Chad said he talked to her on this about contacting the company that installed. She does not feel it is her obligation, Mayor stated it is past time for complaints to the village on this, he stated it could be something that has been flushed down the toilet. Sylvain said the pump should have a warranty. Donsbach stated with all utilities it depends where the problem is. Kristel said she can lookup the information and get it to Shirley to contact. Robert Stickley stated he contacted a company from Blufton and they came and rewired the pump. Estep asked for Kristel to provide her a copy as well. Shirley Lambert asked about the dirt in the area. Smith said she knows Mr. Hoffman contacted them to come back but she does not know if that had been completed. Shirley appreciates that everyone let her know what is going on. Robert Stickley looked up on Ohio EPA on chemicals used to protect bees and birds and submitted a document to council.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor stated the Jazz Fest was great this weekend everything went like clockwork. There was lots of people and the music was great. There will be a few things to go over for next year for signage. Mayor stated we should keep remembrance of the people in Hawaii and keep them in our prayers, this has happened in this village many years ago. Last week we mentioned the sports signs for Bostelman, 1992 volleyball and Keifer. Last meeting there were people interested in a sign for safety in the entrance for the village to drive slow and watch out for kids. He has also had people mention speedbumps to slow people down, this could be an alternate if the signage does not work, a green high visible sign could be something to consider.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: The trees on Front Street are starting to affect some of the sidewalks and steel grates. Any recommendations of what should be done. The tree by Knuckleheads and the one by Snyder's are probably the worst. Ordered the backboard and tennis net. He talked to K & K hoping to meet up this week to discuss when they will start. Habitat for Humanity will be digging Aug. 28th on Saylor Lane. The sports signs he got a sample on is \$137/each sign and \$229.90 for reflective. Smith asked what the signs were before, Chad said non-reflective, Smith said it be good to keep the same. Sylvain asked for the name of the product Chad uses to spray, Chad said it is the generic to roundup, Sylvain asked him to email that to her.

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

Status, Revenue Status and Fund Listing. We have a third reading of the Ordinance tonight, so it can have a motion for passage after. I also gave you three other applications from the Chamber of Commerce for the Christmas Open House, Light the Night and the Run to the Rapids 5k. There was a scheduling conflict and they could not attend tonight, they let me know that nothing has changed from prior years.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: None

ORDINANCES: Mayor gave third reading to Ordinance 2023-02: 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.

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Frantz for passage of Ordinance 2023-02: 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.

Votes Were: Frantz – yes Sylvain – no Estep – yes
Tolles – yes Donsbach – yes Smith - yes

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Ordinance 2023-02 has passed.

Sylvain questioned if this is what is needed for the budget. Kristel stated this is what is assessed to pay the street lighting and what ever is remaining can be used for updating street lights to LED, like we have done in the past, this money can be used for anything for streetlighting. Frantz questioned that if we were to have a shortfall of funds then what would we use. Kristel said we would then use money from the general fund, having this streetlight fund helps keeps the general fund from declining.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Sylvain asked Smith the status of the Dora. Sylvain asked if there was anything she would like to accomplish from now to November. Smith stated she is focusing on Dora. Sylvain stated you had asked us to get you some Dora information which we did. Smith said yes, she has spoken to someone that will be putting a PowerPoint together on this showing the step-by-step process on how to get this done. Sylvain stated she can follow up who did she talk to. Smith stated she has already sent a follow-up email requesting for the information. Smith asked that we do not talk about agendas on what we are trying to accomplish before the election. Sylvain is not okay with that. Sylvain asked about the header on the Town Hall, Chad is still waiting to hear back from him the guy has been busy. Sylvain asked about the Pavilion, Chad said he talked to him last week and he told him he is trying to coordinate with whatever Sylvain has him doing as well. Sylvain asked Estep if she was interested in picking up where Glassford left off on looking at cost of our water service versus other communities. Estep stated not at this time she does not have any of the back information. Sylvain will get her that back information. Frantz stated this was settled because we have the lowest water rates in the area and we compared it to villages as close as we could get to our size and then went off to another direction which was not pertinent. Sylvain stated it is not settled. Estep said she is willing to review any back information anyone has. Sylvain stated she had requested to do a finance review at our Town Hall to let the community know how our finances are, she wondered if she would be interested. Estep stated not at this time this is only her second meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Donsbach made a motion seconded by Smith to approve the application for use of public property for non-profit organizations to sponsor activities and events from

the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce for the Christmas Open House to be held on Nov 18 and 19, 2023.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Smith to approve the application for use of public property for non-profit organizations to sponsor activities and events from the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce for the Light the Night event on Dec. 9, 2023.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Frantz had a business owner ask if lighting the Christmas tree is possible. Mayor stated he knows prior to covid the boy scouts were going to do that and then it fell short. Mayor and Frantz decorated it another year, the Mayor will look into it.

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Tolles to approve the application for use of public property for non-profit organizations to sponsor activities and events from the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce for the Run to the Rapids 5K run/walk through downtown to benefit A.L.S to be held on April 13, 2024.

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

MOTION APPROVED

COMMENTS: Tolles said over on the Bluebell Island area there is a hornet nest in one of the trees. Tolles said there was a tree that came down and a village resident who would like to remain anonymous would like to donate two river birch trees to be planted on the tow path. Tolles said there is a piece of wood that is up on the bridge across from LaRoes that someone had an issue with a wheel chair. The person also mentioned to him the area by the bank is not accessible for him, Smith said they do make ADA thresholds that could be secured in the area, Chad will go look at it. Tolles said Mrs. Bomer asked if a letter was sent to the Dollar General about trucks being parked over night because they are doing it again, Chad will see what he can find. Estep expressed how offended she was by the public records request made by Sylvain that was sent to the village, asking for her proof of residency and when she was sworn in. Estep stated she has lived here all her life and she would not of sat at this table if she was not a resident and was not sworn in. Sylvain stated it is okay for Estep to feel offended. Estep thinks she is owed an apology and thinks Chad is owed an apology. Estep stated you can request information but you need to request it in a proper manner. Estep stated what you sent to the Village office was not in a proper manner. Sylvain stated she is entitled to her opinion. Estep read Sylvain records request addressed to Kristel aloud. "I need a copy of the original e-mail and council packet that went out to all members of the Council prior to my request below. Additionally, I need:1. Copy of your husband's job application 2. Copy of any education for Chad Beyer beyond high school (assuming he finished high school) 3. The date the new council person was sworn in and who witnessed it, and proof of her residency." Estep stated that comment was totally out of line. Chad said he did graduate High School. Estep stated she has lived no place else. Sylvain said what happens is when we have an opening and we have people apply, we are not interviewing them, we are not following process and letting 30 days pass. Sylvain stated that John is personally picking Republicans to fill that seat. Matthew Snyder said he applied for the council seat, he thinks it is okay that he was not chose for council, there are others in the village that might not have applied and are better suited for the job. He doesn't see why some people need to always attack others

on council, he is not going to name names but there is one that continues to do this and nothing ever happens. Estep did submit a resume and an application.

ADJOURNMENT:

Smith made a motion seconded by Frantz to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is August 28, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. at the Old Fire Hall.

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



Kristel Beyer, Fiscal Officer



John Berry, Mayor

MOTION APPROVED

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.