



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION



Held: October 23, 2023

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 7:00 P.M. to 7:39 P.M. in the Old Fire Hall. Mayor John Berry called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

Rachel Smith – Absent
Rick Tolles – Present
Jody Donsbach – Present

Martha Frantz - Present
Lynn Sylvain – Present
Louise Estep - Present

EMPLOYEES: Chad Beyer and Kristel Beyer

VISITORS: None

MINUTES: Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Tolles to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 25, 2023.

Estep mentioned there is a typo under Mayor's report, Kristel will correct this. Mayor stated the minutes are approved as presented.

BILLS:

Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Frantz to approve the bills from September 22-October 19, 2023 in the amount of \$36,729.09.

Frantz asked what the Rumpke \$80 bill covered. Administrator stated its the dumpster at the administration office, the Village pickups up trash around town and places at the administration. Sylvain questioned Great Lakes Biomedical consortium fee, Administrator said it's our fee to participate in the drug testing program, Core & Main \$904.40 pit lids, Administrator said he believes it also includes mxu's, Finley Hauling soil, Administrator stated they used that by the little cemetery where the tree was cut down, BG Graphics \$1,080, Administrator stated those are the signs we discussed, Jim Palmer \$2,581 manhole replacement, Administrator said it was fixing one manhole back in this alley, Kleinfelder \$900 backflow preventer, Administrator said they came into scan the meter pit on King Rd for the backflow preventer.

Votes were: Estep - yes
Tolles - yes

Donsbach – yes
Sylvain - no, not without receipts
Frantz - yes

MOTION APPROVED

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL: None

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor said the Little Stir went really well and he is sure it made a lot of extra bottles for the festival. There were some boards with nails left in the burning pit that should have been cleaned up, this should be done next time. The festival went well, the weather was perfect. Mayor stated the EMS only had 4 bee stings that day, this was much better than prior years. Mayor said there were a few food trailers in the right of way and that is not allowed, next year this will need curtailed for sure. Mayor said we finally got some of the trees trimmed/cut down, we will need to address the trees on the canal as well. Mayor said the old drugstore has been repaired, the building next to it, to the west, is of a concern now and the owner is aware of that as well. Mayor said Halloween,

Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner and there will be a lot going on around town. Mayor said this will be a lot of fun for the people and the kids.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator stated the Bridge Street lift station is down a pump, it is running on one pump, which is fine. We have someone coming in tomorrow. The Mill Street lift station is having issues we believe it is the transducer and this will also be looked at. The sidewalk work has started. Rowe has cut down some tree's and trimmed some trees in the park. The park grant has been submitted, he applied for bikes racks, pickleball court and a pavilion. He is working on getting another quote for additional parking by Town Hall and behind the businesses on Front Street. Administrator stated we need to discuss taking the garage down and removing the rest of the tree and then more parking can be made towards the property line. Sylvain stated the garage is hers and we will go to court on it. Administrator does not know how it could be Sylvain's when it is on village property and asked Sylvain if she would like the village to send her the bill for the tree that was cut down right next to the garage. Sylvain said you can if you would like. Sylvain asked Tolles if the sidewalk work was the second phase, Tolles said yes. Sylvain asked Tolles if they were capping the amount at \$50,000, Administrator said we are trying to get sidewalks done without public bidding and staying under \$50,000. Administrator said they just raised the bid threshold to \$75,000. Sylvain said it is not appropriate to split a bid to avoid public bidding. Sylvain asked how much we have spent and how much will be spent the remaining of the year on trees. Administrator does not have the quotes with him. Sylvain said then you can report that at the next meeting. Sylvain asked the total amount that was submitted for the park grant. Administrator said the pavilion was \$72,561.10, the pickleball courts was \$56,119, the bike racks were \$1,390.68. Sylvain asked if the Administrator got the lighting information Peggy requested, Administrator said there are 104 street lights that are high pressure sodium. Peggy asked if he looked into led lights, Administrator said not yet. Sylvain stated there was a question about how many times we flush hydrants, Administrator said it is supposed to be twice a year, he has a phone call into the EPA and they have not got back to him yet.

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. There are two first readings on the agenda tonight.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: Donsbach shared that Mr. O'Shea thinks our meeting is tomorrow so he will not be here.

COMMITTEES: Frantz read the Buildings, Parks, Properties & Maintenance Committee meeting minutes. Sylvain stated what these minutes failed to mention was all the work that Bob Stickley had given to Smith.

Estep said the Finance, Wages and Audit Committee met and reviewed the temporary appropriations resolution and we discussed a mandatory direct deposit ordinance. We also discussed our website and making a finance area, adding the list of bills when approved and adding a link to committee meeting minutes. Estep stated we discussed the \$105,000 covid money we have that must be allocated by end of year 2024 and spent by end of year 2026, she thinks we need to meet in the beginning of the year to discuss use of these funds. Estep thinks we need to have another Finance meeting to discuss the wage ordinance, the current wage ordinance does not have a title of Village Administrator and we need to revise that. Estep said technically Chad is the Village Administrator by title only and is getting paid under the Public Works Technician II rate and she feels this needs addressed. Estep will gather information from other communities for

their rates and then will schedule a committee meeting. Estep asked Kristel to send the final version of her committee minutes to council.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS: Mayor gave first reading to Ordinance 2023-3: Ordinance to Mandate Direct Deposit of Compensation for Village Employees and Elected Officials, Effective January 1, 2024.

Sylvain questions the reading. Sylvain stated in January of 2022, she had told council she did not want a salary and wanted a fund to be created, she has not cashed any of those checks and feels she is the only one affected by this. Estep stated that she is not the only one affected by this. Sylvain asked Tolles if he would like to pass an ordinance to allow her to donate her pay back to the village. Tolles said he wants her to do it the right way like anyone else that would do that. Estep stated we currently have wage ordinances that we have to abide by and the way we have it now we have to pay you, otherwise, that could be an audit finding. Donsbach stated we have talked about this subject numerous times and our solicitor has been over this numerous times, she is sorry that she does not like the way it is presented but those are the rules. Sylvain made a motion to donate her wages to the Village so a donations fund can be created and the council can determine how to spend it. Fiscal Officer stated she does not think this will be the legal way to do this. David Fowler asked if she can request an amendment to the current ordinance for direct deposit or ask for it to be appropriated to a certain fund that the village has already established. Estep stated previously when Mr. Marsh was the solicitor, he took the pay check, cashed the pay check and then donated the entire amount back to the village every single year, that is the way you do it, that is the way the lawyer did it and this is the way it needs to be done. Sylvain stated her recommendation is that she takes a dollar of compensation and the balance is donated.

Mayor gave first reading to Resolution 2023-08: Temporary Appropriation for the Village of Grand Rapids, Ohio. Sylvain asked the difference from the prior year; Fiscal Officer will bring that to the next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Tolles was at the Town Hall meeting and they stated the thermostat behind where the piano sits does not work and there is a light burned out at the back of the theater. Administrator said the light is fixed already. Tolles stated the Historical Society was interested in using council chambers and moving the furniture elsewhere but this may be something to talk to Chuck about. Mayor stated they want to discuss with Smith on the building as well, he will get in contact with them.

NEW BUSINESS: Sylvain said Administrator had her property surveyed by the cemetery, Administrator said no we had the village property surveyed. Sylvain said thank you, you gave me three more feet and she appreciates that and asked what the bill was on that. Administrator said we have not received it. Sylvain asked who the company was that surveyed it, Bockrath & Associates.

Donsbach stated the follow up Applebutter meeting is tomorrow night. Donsbach asked who sets up the barricades, Administrator said we place them off to the side where requested and then someone pulls them into the road the day of the fest. Estep said the one at Third and Bridge for the last few years has been left in the right of way not being used and the one in the alley, there used to be a sheriff deputy there and thinks this needs to be brought back up because of the traffic there. Estep said some of the musicians for downtown were told to go down third street to get to the calvary church, she feels this is something that needs discussed.

COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

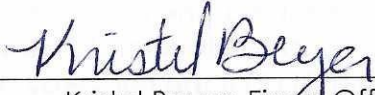
Donsbach made a motion seconded by Frantz to adjourn the meeting.
The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is November 13, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. at the Old Fire Hall.

Votes were: Donsbach - yes
Sylvain - yes

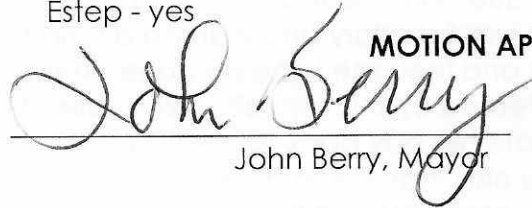
Frantz - yes
Estep - yes

Tolles - yes

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.

September 22 - October 19, 2023 Bills

Mid-Wood	\$461.74	Fuel
Casa Bella	\$440.00	Public Restroom Cleaning
OUPS	\$4.00	Manual Callout
Municipal Utilities	\$18,292.18	Wholesale Water
Verizon	\$105.09	Cell Phone
WC Sheriff	\$7,801.92	Contract Service
Rumpke	\$79.56	Monthly Trash Pickup
Great Lakes Biomedical	\$50.00	Consortium Fee
McCabe Outdoor	\$409.09	Mower Repair
Core & Main	\$904.40	Pit Lids for Meters
Finley Hauling	\$87.00	Soil
UBS Credit Card	\$918.49	Threshold ramps, Commercial Pesticide Applicator course and certification for Chad & Jeremy, envelopes, paper, restroom cleaning supplies, hand soap, batteries, pens, index tabs, toner, water, applebutter passes, postage, google storage
BG Graphics	\$1,080.68	Signs
Vicars Heating	\$540.00	Lincoln Street Restroom Fan
Auto Value	\$193.72	Oil & Oil Filters
Jim Palmer Exc	\$2,581.73	Manhole Replacement
Kleinfelder	\$900.00	Backflow preventer
MASI	\$1,364.80	Water & Sewer Testing
Frontier	\$334.07	Landline Phones/Fax
Suburban	\$180.62	Natural Gas
Total	\$36,729.09	

*Council Approved 5-1, Sylvain voting no, not without receipts

To: Village Council
Date: October 23, 2023
RE: Council Meeting –

1. The Bridge Street lift station is down a pump, we will be switching it out tomorrow and sending the bad one in for repairs. We are also having issues with the Mill Street lift station, we believe the transducer is bad, it will be looked at tomorrow.
2. The sidewalk work has started.
3. Rowe is cutting down trees and trimming some in the parks.
4. The Park Grant has been submitted.
5. Working on getting another quote for additional parking by Town Hall and also behind the businesses on Front Street.