



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION



Held: February 26, 2024

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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 Town 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: Carole Sarkan, Peggy Seab, and Robert Stickley

MINUTES: Frantz made a motion, seconded by Estep to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 12, 2024.

Mayor stated if there are no questions, we will accept them as presented.

BILLS:

Smith made a motion, seconded by Tolles to approve the bills from February 9 – February 22, 2024 in the amount of \$5,403.09.

Sylvain stated the bills are substantially less, she asked if there are a backlog of invoices.

Fiscal Officer stated the bills presented are everything we have received to date.

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

MOTION APPROVED

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Carole Sarkan with the Town Hall Committee presented a designer contract at a cost of \$150 for them to oversee the Town Hall designs. Tolles said they will be meeting again on March 5th.

Estep made a motion seconded by Smith to approve the \$150 Town Hall Design fee and to pay from the Town Hall Maintenance Fund and the remaining amount be paid from the lands and buildings.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Peggy Seab asked for an update on the led lighting. Mayor talked to Edison to ask about how much this would save the village, they could not give him an answer. Mayor talked with Weston and they save approximately \$350/month. Mayor stated it is not a substantial savings and will take a while to get paid back since the Village will have to pay about \$20,000 to do this. Peggy Seab asked for an update from the safety committee on the speed limit. Donsbach stated she is gathering information. Bob Stickley stated he has a light by his house that has the old sodium lighting that they are paying taxes on, those lights are so dark out there, he thinks led lights would be more helpful. Smith stated possibly retrofitting the lights as needed. Mayor stated that is an alternative to replacing all at

once. Mayor stated the led lights that they would install would be equivalent to what is currently in place and may not be brighter. Bob Stickley stated he sent a letter on the sewer project for the Mayor and Council to look at and is waiting on comments on it.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor thanked everyone for coming. We do have meeting coming up on Sidewalks, Parks & Buildings and hoping to get good progress with those. Mayor stated next Monday is the Heart of Grand Rapids at Heban's and is open to the public.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator stated Dave Chamberlain Township Trustee asked if we could help with fixing Sycamore Road. Administrator has received one bid so far for crack sealing, waiting on another. The Village has requests to replace two swings on the Tow Path, they will be replacing the current swing that is in place, the Village would purchase and they would pay us back. The Pavilion work has started today. Sylvain asked about the header. Administrator has one person coming in to look at it and another is supposed to this or next week.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Fiscal Officer stated we have the Annual Appropriation Ordinance on the Agenda for the first reading. Fiscal Officer gave a copy of the Village Brochure and Village notes for council's review.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: Bob Stickley was not sure if anyone is using the tennis courts but possibly doing a corn hole tournament to bring people into town. He has talked to some people that play pickle ball. Estep stated this has been brought up in our Parks meeting, making the tennis courts a dual pickle ball/tennis court area or possibly even a trio for cornhole.

COMMITTEES: Estep submitted the Finance, Wages and Audit Committee meeting minutes.

Estep asked Council if they would be interested in replenishing the sidewalk fund to keep the program going. Estep suggested using the Cable Franchise fees received which is about \$5,700/year into the Sidewalks fund. Estep stated we will have the Village Solicitor make up the resolution and then we can decide upon pass or fail of said resolution.

Sylvain asked about information on the American Rescue Funds. Estep said the village received \$105,589.92 of American Rescue Funds from Covid. We approved some updates to the Town Hall using these funds. We also started a program for the non-profits in the village to apply for up to \$7,500. The village still has some unallocated funds of \$18,564.92 that needs allocated before the end of this year so we do not lose these funds. Sylvain asked about Tow Path Radio, Estep stated he does not qualify because they are not a non-profit during the covid period. Estep did encourage him if he needed money to come to council because council does give \$500 for Christmas decorating every year. Sylvain stated if only one nonprofit applies than we will have more money left and would like to know what the entities would have done with the money. Estep stated we need to make sure if falls under the ARPA Funding guidelines, if they do have suggestions that fall under the guidelines then it is up to Council to decide. Sylvain suggested using the funds for a tv to show the notes to the audience. Estep is not sure if that falls under the guidelines but could use other funding if council wanted.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS: Mayor gave the first reading to Ordinance 2024-1: Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Sylvain has a list from the last meeting, Bob Stickley asked about grants for the pool. Estep stated we stated at that meeting that the pool does not fall under the Village they are a separate entity. Sylvain asked about the park grant and are we applying for it. Estep stated we did apply for it last year. Sylvain said we received bike racks, Donsbach stated that was what we were awarded we did apply for all tiers. Estep said we would apply again this year. Donsbach feels we are being redundant on these topics. Sylvain stated Frantz brought up dog bags, Frantz said that will be discussed at the parks meeting. Sylvain asked how long the camera data can be stored and when they were installed, she currently has a public records request. Fiscal Officer stated the camera data could be stored for up to 3 months per an estimate from our alarm service company.

NEW BUSINESS: Sylvain stated in Council's packet there is a letter from the Village Solicitor to Council in response to Robert Stickley's correspondence received on Feb. 9,2024.

COMMENTS: Estep stated she has a conflict and will not be at the next meeting. Sylvain asked if Smith was going to schedule a council of the whole soon. Smith said yes. Estep said in April she will start attending the Chamber meetings as the Chair of the Industrial Committee.

ADJOURNMENT:

Smith made a motion seconded by Donsbach to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is March 11, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall.

Votes were: Donsbach - yes
Frantz - yes

Smith - yes
Tolles - yes

Sylvain - yes
Estep - 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.

February 9 - February 22, 2024

February 9 - February 22, 2024		
Toledo Edison	\$4,123.86	Electric Bill
Suburban	\$1,234.28	Natural Gas
Tractor Supply	\$44.95	Spray Paint and Brush
Total	\$5,403.09	

*Council Approved 5-1, Sylvain voting no.