



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION



Held: November 25, 2024

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 6:00 P.M. to 6:38 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: None

MINUTES: Frantz made a motion, seconded by Estep to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 28, 2024.

Sylvain asked for clarification on her absence and asked why this one was approved for notifying and having a reason, while others were not. Estep stated they did approve another one for giving notice and a reason. Sylvain stated she gave notice and reason for one that was not approved. Estep stated your notice was given minutes before the meeting and your reason was insert reason Rachel gave last time. Sylvain stated she should have been excused for that. Estep stated that is your opinion.

Sylvain stated under unfinished business the food truck policy was approved, Sylvain had asked Smith to send out the information for the food truck policy that she received and she did not recall receiving that. Smith stated the food truck policy was given in the next council packet and the food truck policy information has been shared with everyone.

Mayor John Berry stated the minutes are accepted as presented.

BILLS:

Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Smith to approve the bills from October 25 – November 21, 2024 in the amount of \$57,652.05.

Sylvain asked about the \$1875 for attorney fees and asked what that was for. Mayor stated pending litigation. Sylvain asked what litigation, Mayor stated the property to the west of the Town Hall. Sylvain attended the mediation and no one from the Village showed up. The Village attorney stated in his 30-year career, he has always been successful in mediation except for this particular case that he was instructed by the Council not to mediate. Smith stated we should not be discussing pending litigation during a Council meeting. Sylvain stated she is adding clarification for the attorney fees. Smith repeated we are not going to discuss pending litigation. Sylvain stated she wanted the public to know. Smith stated we are not going to hear your side when the Council will not be discussing pending litigation. Smith asked to return to the agenda. Sylvain has more questions, Smith asked her to move on from that topic. Sylvain asked about the Jim Palmer \$2825 water leak repair, where was that.

Administrator stated in Williamsburg, Kellermeier \$1200 to replace restroom sink, Administrator stated the men's restroom sink was not working and Kellermeier could fix same day if we purchased a whole new faucet or wait a week for parts. He got fixed immediately due to the event that weekend. Sylvain asked about the \$436.88 for utility pants, Administrator said we

also purchased batteries and heaters. Sylvain asked about the budget amount in the handbook, there is no set amount but we have not got new pants in over two years. Sylvain asked if the name of the company that cleared the log jam was correct and asked if they were local. Administrator stated yes and they are from Deshler.

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

MOTION APPROVED

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL: None

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: The Mayor stated the Harvest Moon Gala was a great success. The volunteer of the year was Patty Bisher. The Mayor realizes it is a bit harder to go to Tontogany to vote but thinks it went really well. The Mayor thanked the community for going to vote for the important items in our country. The tree lighting went well, the hot chocolate was great and the people serving were wonderful. The Mayor thanked all who worked on this event, the town looks great. Mayor stated Christmas Open House was enjoyed by many and once again parking was a big problem, cars seemed to be in every nook and cranny they could find. Mayor stated Light up the Night is December 14th. The Fire Hall will be hosting Santa on December 18 at 6:30 pm. Mayor stated the canal looks great and Panning did a wonderful job.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator said the water leak in Williamsburg is fixed. The Town Hall chairlift got new rollers installed and is currently working. Kellermeier fixed the men's restroom sink and canal got cleaned out. Administrator received plans for covered bridge, it is 16-foot-tall inside, their equipment is 12 feet tall so they could fit. He is concerned for bigger equipment to get back there when needed in the future. He wanted us to sign for approval. Sylvain asked his timing on it, Administrator stated he did not give him a timeframe. Mayor heard he wanted to have it done for Spring. Mayor will contact Mr. Baron to discuss further. Estep asked about the letter that went out about the pipes, what is the deadline. Fiscal Officer stated we do not currently have a deadline but we currently know that if people do not respond we will have to send them another letter. Tom Huth asked since his house was built 10 years after the lead pipes ban does he still need to fill out the survey. Fiscal Officer stated yes. Fiscal Officer stated we were required by the EPA to send the notification out since the Village does not know the customer side of the service line.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Fiscal Officer gave Council the Oct. Bank Rec and we have no Ordinance or Resolutions on the agenda tonight. Donsbach thanked Kristel for all that she does, the bank rec every month is well done. Frantz stated we received an email from the Auditor about the audit and everything went well.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: Mayor received invitation for Council to a Mix & Mingle at the Hilton Garden Inn on Dec. 5th from 4 to 6:30 pm from Wood County Economic Development for a Holiday Reception. Received information from Big Brothers & Big Sisters for Angel Tree donation. Mayor received a letter from Lionel Long, president of Hydra Mount a business in town, it's a thank you letter from the storm. They wanted to thank the Village and our two great employees Chad & Jeremy, they went above and beyond their duties to get a very big problem cleaned up in a timely manner. They thanked the Mayor and Village Council for providing a safe, clean and well managed community for residents and businesses.

COMMITTEES: None

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Sylvain stated the food truck policy includes having one on a private residence and asked the penalty if they do not fill out a permit. Estep stated she believes there is a fine and then the food truck could not come back for an entire year. Sylvain does not feel we should legislate personal property. Estep stated the information is listed on the food truck policy and it is on the website. Sylvain stated then everyone is committed to enforcing the policy. Tolles stated that is why we started this permit. Sylvain asked if Council is interested in enforcing ordinances that are already published. Smith stated she believes we do. Sylvain asked if she brings some forward and asked then we would look into getting people into compliance. Smith asked if Sylvain is targeting people with these ordinances or are you trying to enforce them. Sylvain wants to know if Council is committed to enforcing them. Estep asked if there are specific ones she would like to talk about or possibly committee meetings we need to schedule to discuss. Sylvain will bring forward the ordinances to show where they are not in compliance and then discuss whether we should revise them or enforce them. Estep stated just remember when you bring forward these ordinances it may affect more than just the people you are thinking about.

NEW BUSINESS: Sylvain looked at the committees and they are not meeting very often. Sylvain stated the businesses are struggling downtown and would like some help from the Council to promote the village. Sylvain stated she did some research and had a strategy she was going to propose to the Council. Sylvain wants to know if the Council wants to work to promote the downtown to make it a more prosperous community. Estep attends the chamber meetings for the Industrial and Commercial Development to hear their concerns. Sylvain asked if she is willing to develop a strategy to help promote downtown and commercial/industrial businesses. Estep asked if the Chamber asked that, Sylvain stated no she is asking. Sylvain stated the businesses are struggling. Mayor asked where is it struggling, he has seen so much traffic that we have issues with parking. Smith stated if she has a strategy then submit to Council and then the committee could meet. Estep asked if she developed the strategy with the Chamber, Sylvain stated no. Estep believes the Chamber should come to Council with what they need. Mayor stated Industrial and Commercial Development is property we would have for Industrial and Commercial and if someone would like to build a new building downtown that would be development. Mayor said sustaining the particular business is not Council's job, the Chamber is doing a great job getting people to come to Grand Rapids, the traffic and parking has shown that. Mayor does not know what the businesses are struggling with whether its financial he does not know. He has seen so many people in town this year. Estep stated a lot of the businesses struggle with getting employees as well. Sylvain asked if the Council can take the covid money and purchase unified benches for downtown. Estep said the covid money has been designated towards the Town Hall. Smith thinks most benches are memorial benches. Sylvain stated most benches are hodgepodge and not in great shape. If the store owners like their bench then they can keep their bench. Smith stated maybe this could be a potential boy scout project to refinish the benches. Smith is opposed to removing memorial benches from downtown. Estep stated we can certainly look at that as we try to decide what we are doing with the trees and landscape downtown. Sylvain asked if the handrail by the boat docks was fixed. Administrator said not yet. Sylvain said can that be done and the bushes trimmed. Administrator said yes. Sylvain asked for the website to be updated with the new meeting time.

COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Tolles to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is December 9, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall.

Votes were: Donsbach – yes
Tolles - yes

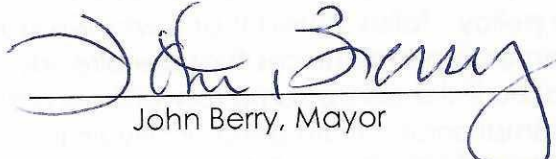
Smith – yes
Sylvain – yes

Frantz - 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.