

GRAND MEADOW COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 08, 2024 @ 6:00 PM  
GRAND MEADOW COMMUNITY CENTER

**Present:** Councilor Blayne Stejskal (Mayor Pro Tem), Councilor Aaron Myhre, Councilor Isaac Tangen, Councilor Christy Benson, City Administrator James Christian, Library Director Sarah Burmeister, GMAAS Director Lori Brogan, Fire Chief Joe Gehling, Irene Jones, Carmen Ament, Ron Young

**Absent:** Mayor Ryan Queensland

1. CALL TO ORDER: In the absence of Queensland, Mayor Pro Tem Stejskal called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance
2. CONSENT AGENDA: Stejskal asked if there was any discussion on the consent agenda. There was none. Myhre made a motion to approve, Tangen 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unanimously.
  - A. Approve additions & corrections to the agenda - none
  - B. Approve June regular meeting minutes
  - C. Approve General Fund payments in the amount of \$535,117.90
3. OPEN FORUM: Resident Irene Jones asked to address the Council with some questions. She asked if the City owned the land in the industrial park where the windmill blades are stored. Christian responded that the land is owned by TMT Properties. Jones asked how the land was zoned, and Christian responded that the land is zoned Industrial. Jones asked who the owner of the windmill blades was, and Christian responded with the history of the blade ownership (NextEra Energy to Rivercap, LLC to Canvus, LLC). Jones then asked if there was an estimate for the new city hall renovation, to which Christian responded the latest estimate is about \$120,000. Jones asked how it was to be paid for, and Christian replied that it would be paid out of the capital improvement fund. Jones asked who would be doing the work and were they local, and Christian replied it has not been bid out yet, but local companies would be preferred.
4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS
  - A. Library – Report provided. Burmeister reported a good turnout for Meadowfest activities.
  - B. Ambulance – Report provided. No questions from Council.
  - C. Public Works – Report provided. Christian discussed the MPCA inspection of the wastewater facilities and the report findings. Stejskal asked if the generator at the Emergency Services building was operational, and Gehling responded that it was not, but was being fixed under warranty.
  - D. Police – Report provided. Christian reported that it was a quiet and uneventful Meadowfest.
  - E. Fire – No meeting. Gehling mentioned that the department is looking at accepting a candidate from Racine, outside of the normal area, and if it works out, the department may allow one more member from outside the service area to fill vacancies.

Christian mentioned that OSHA is looking at new rules that would affect volunteer fire departments and said he would get with Gehling to discuss the issue. Gehling enquired about the EMS bill that was passed by the state legislature earlier in the year, and Christian responded that the state has not yet determined the formula for fund distribution, but they would be contacting all departments statewide.

F. City Clerk –

G. City Administrator – Report provided. Christian stated that the EDA business survey is live on the internet. Christian reported that code violation enforcement continues, mostly vehicle and vegetation issues. National Night Out is on August 6<sup>th</sup> this year in Veterans Memorial Park from 5-7pm, and Christian invited all the Council members to come out and volunteer. Tangen enquired as to when the house that was moved in to town on the south end of Main Street would be moved on to the foundation, Christian responded that he did not have a timeline but that the building permit was good for a year from when it was approved.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Project Update, Pay App 15 (Ulland Brothers: \$113,365.95). Motion by Tangen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Benson to approve Pay Application #15 to Ulland Brother in the amount of \$113,365.95. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Ament- Semi parking in residential (200 block 3<sup>rd</sup> St NE). Christian reminded Council where the discussion had left off at the May 2024 meeting (the property owner was to explore alternate parking options and track times that vehicles were running). Myhre asked if there had been any new noise complaints, and Christian responded that there had been no new complaints, but the original complainant had complained again. Stejskal asked if Ament and Young had explored finding another place to park the semis, and Ament responded that they had not. Benson asked if Ament and Young had tried facing the trucks in a different direction, and Young responded that it would be more dangerous to have to back the trucks onto the street with houses blocking visibility. Stejskal asked if there were any more questions on the matter, Myhre replied that if there had been no new complaints, the matter should be tabled. Young asked if Council would like them to continue to keep a log of times that the trucks were running, and Council requested that they do so. Motion by Benson to table, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tangen. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Joint Resolution Designate-Annex by Orderly Annexation – Carman Property: After advertising the intention to annex for two weeks, Tangen made a motion to approve the annexation, Myhre 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unanimously.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Arbitrage Accounts: Christian explained that the City is limited on the amount of interest that it can earn on bond monies, and it must be tracked. The City's financial advisor suggested that all bond monies be kept in separate accounts, so that the bank statements can serve to track the amount of interest earned. Motion by Benson to open

two new accounts at First Farmers and Merchants bank for GO Bond 2016B and GO Bond 2017A, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tangen. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Planning and Zoning

i. 519 Elliot Drive – New Fence: Planning and Zoning recommended approval. Motion by Myhre, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Benson to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

ii. 208 3<sup>rd</sup> St NE – Garage Addition: Planning and Zoning recommended approval. Myhre asked if there was a completion date that the project had to be finished by, and Christian responded that the permit was good for one year after approval. Motion by Tangen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Myhre to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

iii. 112 1<sup>st</sup> St NW – New Fence: Planning and Zoning recommended approval. Motion by Myhre, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tangen to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

iv. 400 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NW – Poly Fertilizer Containment: Planning and Zoning recommended approval. Motion by Benson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Myhre to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Dollar General Tobacco License (320 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NW): Motion to approve a tobacco license for Dollar General by Tangen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Benson. Motion passed unanimously.

7. ADJOURN: Stejskal asked if there was any other business. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Tangen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Benson. Motion passed unanimously. The time was 6:44 pm.