

**MARCH MEETING MINUTES
GROVE CITY REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025**

Visitors Present: 4

- I. Call Meeting to Order
The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Mayor Lokken.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call –
 - a. Debra Anderson Bergstrom: present
 - b. Jared Hieb: absent
 - c. William Houselog: present
 - d. Gabra Lokken: present
 - e. Michael Sordahl: present
- IV. Consent Agenda
 - A. Agenda
 - B. Minutes of February 10, 2025 meeting
 - C. Claims Approval for February 2025: \$172,317.72Motion by Sordahl. Seconded by Houselog.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-0
- V. Visitor Recognition and Public Comment –
 1. Clarice Thesing – Commented on the cat problem in her neighborhood. Stated there are regularly 5-12 cats in her yard. Cats spray her property. Wants to be part of the solution and will attend April's workshop.
 2. Mike Bredeson – Commented on the trash issue in his neighborhood. Said he has to regularly pick up trash in his yard.
 3. Darlene Kotelnicki – Meeker County representative on the SW MN Arts Council. Presented grant opportunities for the City.
- VI. Staff and Council Reports
 - A. Staff Reports
 1. Rescue/Fire: 10 rescue calls reported. Rescue has 9 members and Fire has 16 members. One new member joining fire. Wants to reprogram fire hall locks. Will check on getting AED's in outside locations. Won't be at next meeting due to a special speaker at Fire meeting.
 2. Sheriff – 48 calls reported.

3. Clerk – Stated will be at MCFOA conference next week. Continuing to work on ordinance violation procedures. Will send the All-City Clean-Up letter in March utility billing.
4. Public Works – Did not get safety grant for chipper. Will try again next round.

B. Council Reports

1. Lokken – Interested in the cost of getting AEDs in outdoor locations. Reported from Mid MN Development Commission that housing and childcare are in demand in our area of the state.
2. Sordahl – Asked about the status of the new liquor license. Noticed that the speed signs do cause drivers to slow down.
3. Anderson Bergstrom – Was wondering if there are no smoking signs posted at South Grove. Asked public works to check on a tree hanging over right-a-way.
4. Hieb – no report
5. Houselog – Reported on findings for Grove City Newsletter: there are 692 patrons who would be on the mailing list. Postage would be about \$200 a month; advertising would help defer the cost. Asked about finding a printer. Will continue the research on the newsletter.

VII. Old Business

1. Charging for fire calls, \$750 – Will address the issue during a joint meeting with the townships and fire department. Tabled for further discussion.

VIII. New Business

A. MN River Area Agency on Aging Grant: Approve Grove City as the fiscal host for the grant, appoint a Community Leadership Team (CLT) and create a community survey to identify potential improvement projects. The grant is \$10,000.

Motion by Anderson Bergstrom. Seconded by Houselog.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-0

B. 2025 Budget: Adopt the 2025 Budget as presented.

Motion by Anderson Bergstrom. Seconded by Sordahl.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-0

C. 2025 City Council Committees/Commissions: Proposal to eliminate individual committees in favor of all council members participating in decisions and creating commissions as needed.

Motion by Lokken. Seconded by Anderson Bergstrom.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-0

D. Auditor: To approve the contract with Westberg/Eischens for the 2024 audit, for the cost of \$21,525.

Motion by Houselog. Seconded by Lokken.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-0

E. Haying Agreement: To approve haying agreement with Tom Fordyce for 2025.

Motion by Houselog. Seconded by Anderson Bergstrom.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-0

F. 4-H Club trail cleaning: To approve the 4-H Club cleaning the hiking trail this spring.

Motion by Lokken. Seconded by Houselog.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-0

G. Safety Deposit Box: To rent a safety deposit box at Grove Bank for City legal documents at the cost of \$25/year. Employees and council members who currently have bank account access will be listed on the agreement. The access will be with two keys.

Motion by Anderson Bergstrom. Seconded by Lokken.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-0

- H. Banners: To approve the purchase of 12 banners and hardware to hang on alternating light poles along Highway 12, not to exceed the cost of \$2800 out of the Street Department Fund. Will pursue a grant to help with cost.

Motion by Lokken. Seconded by Anderson Bergstrom.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-0

- I. Utility Fees: To approve the addition of a Utility Emergency Call Fee of \$90 per hour. This would be for after hours and weekend calls.

Motion by Lokken. Seconded by Anderson Bergstrom.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-0

- J. Public Works Service Fee – Add an as needed fee for services provided by the public works department at \$60/hour with a minimum fee of \$30.

Motion by Sordahl. Seconded by Lokken.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-0

- K. OTHER – Sordahl made a motion to approve Betsy Ammermann to the EDA board and serve as Treasurer/Secretary. Seconded by Lokken.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-0

- IX. Announcements – Anderson Bergstrom will not be at next meeting. Council workshop will be held April 9th at 3:30. Next Regular Council Meeting will be April 14 starting at 6:30 pm.

- X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Houselog.

Adjourned: 7:58 pm

Approved: _____
Date

Mayor: _____

City Clerk: _____