

**Meeting Minutes
Grove City Regular Council Meeting
Monday November 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: McCoy, Evenson, Lokken, Sordahl, Simota

ABSENT: None

Mayor McCoy called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

CONSENT TO AGENDA:

- A. Agenda
- B. Minutes of the following City Council Meetings: October 9, 2023
- C. October 2023 Claim Totaling 116,299.98; Payroll \$18,678.03

Council Member Evenson made a motion to accept the consent to the agenda. Council Member Sordahl seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

VISITOR RECOGNITION

OLD BUSINESS

Zoning Issues with R1 Property – The owner hasn't returned the Mayor's call. The City Public Works Supervisor will follow up with him.

Trailer Court – Tabled

NEW BUSINESS

City Clerk: Our final candidate for City Clerk withdrew their application. David Spencer did some recruiting of applicants and received responses from five candidates. He would like a clerk on board before the next council meeting. David Spencer will cut back on driving into the office starting on December 15. His fees will be doubled after the 15th to \$50/hour. Council Member Lokken thanked David Spencer for his help.

Employee Reviews and Increases: Council Member Lokken made a motion to adjust the Public Works Supervisor's hourly wage by \$2 retroactive to August 1, 2023 and increase it another \$2 effective December 1, 2023 for his 7-year merit. Council Member Evenson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor. Council Member Sordahl made a motion to increase our housekeeper's hourly wage by \$2/hour. Council Member Lokken seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor. Council Member Lokken made a motion to increase the Public Works seasonal worker's hourly wage by \$2/hour. Council Member Simota seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

APPROVED

Money Markets: Mayor McCoy made a motion to close two money market accounts and transfer up to one million into one account. Council Member Evenson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Liquor Licenses: Mayor McCoy made a motion to approve Lucky's Liquor Renewal License at 216 Atlantic Avenue. Council member Simota seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor. Mayor McCoy made a motion to approve Honkey's Liquor License renewal. Council member Sordahl seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Parking and Speed Limit Signs: The bid is two signs for \$9,600. They will arrive in two weeks. Discussion ensued regarding moving the 30 mph speed limit sign further west of the intersection of Highway 4. Council member Simota will investigate our options. Jake brake noise ordinance signs were discussed.

2024 Budget: David Spencer provided the council with a draft of the 2024 Budget. The water and sewer fund is the healthiest fund.

Bolten and Menk 2023 Street Project Pay Request #1: Council Member Sordahl made a motion, subject to the Mayor's approval, that we will find out what is due now for completed work. Council Member Simota seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Approval of Collateral Substitutions: Mayor McCoy made a motion to approve the Substitution of Collateral notices from Grove City Bank. Council Member Evenson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Resolution 2023-23 Mayor McCoy made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-23 A Resolution Certifying Past Due Utility Billings and Garbage to the Meeker County Auditor for Collection with Property Taxes. Council Member Sordahl seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Resolution 2023-24: McCoy made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-24 Resolution Appointing Presidential Nomination Primary Election Judges for the Election of March 5, 2024 for election judges Lacey Clark and Robin Puckett. Council Member Sordahl seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Ordinance Violations: Council Member Lokken made a motion to have the City attorney write up the letter to 300 2nd Ave. Mayor McCoy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor. Council Member Evenson made a motion to approve the purchase and use of green door hangers for ordinance violations. Council Member Simota seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Resolution 2023-25: Council Member Sordahl made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-25 Resolution to Adopt the Provisions of Minnesota Basic Code of Ordinances § 10.98 and a Schedule of Offenses and Voluntary Administrative Penalties. Council Member Lokken seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Resolution 2023-26: Council Member Lokken made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-26 Resolution to Designate Members of the City Ordinance Committee as a Body Responsible for Determination and Enforcement of Ordinance Violations. Council Member Simota seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

STAFF REPORTS AND COUNCIL

Fire: They got the \$5,000 DNR Matching Grant. This is for the sled unit that goes in the back of the 4-wheeler. Chief Jans will work with Chris on it. They're still working on getting the turnout gear using the grant for that. They hope to order it in two weeks. Mayor McCoy would like to be notified of the Fire Relief Meetings. Council needs to approve the minutes from Fire and Rescue and this will start in 2024. Discussed how to handle bills for the Fire Department. David Spencer requested a meeting with Chief Jans before the township meeting. Fireman's banquet is the first Saturday of December in Manannah.

Rescue: Chief Thomas presented an invoice for Ridgewater training. There is a box of fire turnout coats that needs to be returned for names to be velcroid on the back of the coats. Chief Thomas asked if background check had come back for a new member. Invites to the Holiday Dinner were distributed to Council members.

Clerk's Report: Sales Tax overpayment situation has been taken care of and our account has been credited. Penalties will not be refunded due to the poor payment history. Council Member Evenson commended David Spencer on the work he has been doing for us. Filing in the office needs to be straightened out.

Public Works: Public Works Supervisor Roering recommended we send Jack Ramthun to electric meter school in Marshall, February 6-9, 2024 for \$680 plus mileage and hotel. In the spring he can go for his water license. Council Member Lokken made a motion to send him. Mayor McCoy seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting in favor. Plow truck is ready. Need the tabs. Mayor McCoy will get the tabs for it tomorrow.

Mayor's Report: Mayor McCoy hasn't heard anything regarding the unemployment hearing verdict. The digital sign is ready to use. McCoy will schedule a training meeting.

Council Member Evenson's Report: Council Member Evenson discussed the pickle ball court and recommended checking with other contractors for the pickle ball court since it didn't get done this fall. He reminded the council again of the overdue November 1 deadline for a residence to replace a roof and siding. Mayor McCoy will follow up on it.

Council Member Lokken's Report: Council Member Lokken will purchase Christmas pots from the Dance Team. She continues to research costs for city banners and lighting and has been helping out in the City office as needed.

Council Member Sordahl's Report: Council Member Sordahl brought up the retaining wall at the Barker residence which started falling apart. The resident doesn't care if we fix it or remove the retaining wall. It is fixed for now. He said he won't be able to be at the workshop next month on December 6.

Council Member Simota's Report: Nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Evenson made a motion to adjourn at 8:26p. Council Member Simota seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.