

Meeting Minutes
Grove City Regular Council Meeting
Monday, September 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: McCoy, Lokken, Sordahl, Simota

ABSENT: Evenson

Mayor McCoy called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTMENT: Mayor McCoy appointed Lorie Simota to the end of the 2024 term and regular election. Mayor McCoy swore in the new council member, Lorie Simota.

CONSENT TO AGENDA: Mayor McCoy made a motion to accept the consent to the agenda, excluding payroll. Council Member Sordahl seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

VISITOR RECOGNITION: Sheila, the City Engineer gave an update on the street project. Work was done last Wednesday. Seal coating is coming in on Wednesday and the project should be done on Wednesday. Sweeping will be done beforehand. No parking on Wednesday and no parking signs will go up earlier. Mayor McCoy asked about the pickleball court. Sheila said that she told the contractor to get the pickleball court done this fall. The GIS portion is done. Mayor McCoy made a motion to accept the contract for the GIS system with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. for \$1,247. Council Member Sordahl seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Updated Zoning Map: Sheila will get us updated copies of zoning maps once we provide her with the work former Mayor, Jesse Hudec, and Council Member Lokken did with the rezoning over a year ago.

NEW BUSINESS

Online Banking Access: Mayor McCoy made a motion to approve online banking access for the City of Grove City with Chris Ramson having authorization to access accounts online. Council Member Lokken seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Preliminary Tax Levy Motion: Council Member Sordahl made a motion to raise the preliminary levy to \$240,813.00. Council Member Simota seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

South Grove Deputy Office and Keys: Keys are made. Deputy Swisher is meeting with City Maintenance tomorrow to see what he needs for his office. Mayor McCoy made a motion to approve a new lock and separate keys for the new Deputy's office. Council Member Simota seconded. Motion passed with all members voting in favor.

City Clerk-Treasurer Job Description: David Spencer has completed a draft of the job description.

MCFOA Reg 3 Meeting: Council Member Lokken made a motion to send Mayor McCoy and David Spencer to this meeting on September 21, 2023 for \$20 each. Council Member Sordahl seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Main Street Beautification: Discussion ensued about having decorative lights on both sides of the streets and Falcon banners and flowers like what other towns have. Council members will investigate costs and ideas.

ACGC Dance Team Gym Use: Mayor McCoy made a motion to allow the ACGC Dance Team to use the South Grove gym for their dance practices. Council Member Sordahl seconded. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

City Office Interior Updates: We will obtain estimates for paint, stripping of wallpaper, and two sections of horizontal blinds. Will work on budgeting for updated cabinets and countertops. Will investigate funding options like grants, and gambling monies.

Southwest Initiative Foundation: Council Member Lokken made a motion to donate \$100 to the Southwest Initiative Foundation. Council Member Sordahl seconded. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Mayor McCoy made a motion to approve the EDA invoice to Chappell Central, Inc. for their #8 draw of \$28,111.40. Council Member Sordahl seconded. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

STAFF REPORTS AND COUNCIL

Rescue: Josh reported that there is a new member wanting to join who is already EMT certified and firefighter I and II certified. She wants to join as a firefighter as well. She's been given the application and has been interviewed by Rescue and needs to be interviewed by Fire. David Spencer provided Josh with the remaining budget amounts for Rescue. Some rescue gear will need to be replaced as it's getting close to the 10-year mark. Josh will get estimates of gear and will discuss next year's plan and budget and 5 year and 10-year plans with David Spencer. Rescue will look through their hall and determine what can be thrown away regarding gear and equipment. Rescue needs a charging card and bracket for the Lucas device. The mount is \$625 and the charging cord is \$530.

Council Member Sordahl made a motion that Rescue replace the mount and cord up to \$1500. Mayor McCoy seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Clerk Report: A new hard drive was ordered in an effort to organize the computer files. Discussed computer training for the new Clerk and Deputy Clerk for Banyon. Cross-training will take place between the Clerk's duties and Deputy Clerk's duties.

David Spencer reported that he is working on getting the \$40,000 overpayment of sales tax back. He also tried to get the \$ 1,500 penalty forgiven for the late payment of sales tax 4 times in the past 25 months, but to no avail. David Spencer will figure in cost-of-living increases in the budget. The deputy clerk would like \$20.25/hour retroactive to when the Clerk voluntarily resigned on August 14. Jack is overdue for his six-month raise and CDL increase. These increases will be retroactive.

Mayor McCoy made a motion to raise Chris' pay to \$20.25/hour retroactive to August 14, 2023. Council Member Lokken seconded. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Mayor McCoy made a motion to retroactively increase Jack's hourly wage to what was negotiated for the six-month probationary period and for receiving his CDL, per the November 2022 minutes. Council Member Lokken seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Public Works: Nothing to report.

Mayor's Report: Reviewed the final design of the City Hall sign. Reviewed Minnesota unemployment insurance paperwork submitted by the former Clerk.

Mayor McCoy made a motion for Council Member Simota to receive a key to the community center and City office. Council Member Sordahl seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Lokken: Council Member Lokken typed up a Community Reminder page and provided 725 copies for the CARES flier that will be mailed out. The City will cost share with the postage. The temporary office assistant hours will be adjusted to an as-needed basis. David Spencer requested that the office assistant work 11a-1p daily and from 10a-4p when he or the Deputy Clerk are out of the office. Council Member Lokken has been volunteering nearly daily in the City Office since August 15. She was offered pay for the portion of time spent preparing meeting minutes but refused the pay and suggested it be reevaluated in October.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Sordahl made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Council Member Lokken seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.