

**Minutes
Committee of the Whole Council Meeting
September 23, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER—ROLL CALL

The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met in regular session as a Committee of the Whole on **Monday, September 23, 2019**, in Council Chambers. Mayor Eversole-Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Alderman Hooker, Blaney, Allen, Griffith and Garrett. Junior Alderman Hutchison, Clerk Osborne and City Manager Athey, and Police Chief Gire were in attendance. Various Public members were in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE -The Mayor stood and led all attendees in The Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENTS-Comments were made by a citizen that there is a dead ash tree on the boulevard at 11 N. Pine, with resulting sidewalk damage at 9 N. Pine with a hole in the sidewalk that has become dangerous. Also complained that the empty property at 101 N. Pine is not being kept mowed.

City Administrator Report

Jacky Athey reported on the audit, IML Conference and noted the IML files are in the shared folder for the council.

Public Works-Athey also reported that they are running tests on the scrubber for the correct media.

Mayor did not have anything to add in reports.

BUSINESS

1. Proposed changes to the ordinances concerning landlord-rental house property management and water/sewer utility services (and enforcement of same).

Discussion about issues with rental properties and a group of landlords who attended. Mayor opened by mentioning how rental deposits are refunded. Questions were about how to handle complaints from tenants on properties not being kept in good condition, issues with landlord non-reponsiveness, and also how to best handle the sewer/water billing responsible parties. Want to work with everyone as a team and create some guidelines for ordinances for being a landlord in Villa Grove. Many tenant complaints were mentioned. Landlords gave feedback and also some suggestions. They had complaints on how hard it is to collect from damages and water bills. Specifically brought up having issues with the garbage vendor not emptying dumpsters promptly. A consensus was that an advisory committee of both landlords and council board might be created to help with issues and create some guidelines for enforcement.

2. Purchase of a Bobcat loader. The cost to lease a bobcat is \$40,805.40 with our trade. We would have a 36 month lease. Also discussed a trailer purchase to help keep wear and tear and miles off of the equipment. consensus was to go ahead with obtaining the bobcat. Put on agenda for next Council meeting for approval.

3. Selection of vendor for tree removal service-consensus to use Owen's Tree Service, who gave the lowest bid.

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4. **Review of August financial statements-no comments**
5. **Fall festival planning**-Suggestions: family centric celebration. Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019. Movie selection is Toy Story 4. FFA: Caramel apples to sell: Yearbook will sell Pumpkins, Library will do pumpkin painting. Games will be candy corn bowling, pumpkin haystack. Movie begins at dusk.
6. **Discussion of IML Conference topics**-overview of topics covered and that documents are in the shared folder on the drive.
7. **Other items brought before Council**-Representative Holbrook will be here 4-5:30 pm at the City Council chambers. Trick or Treat hours will be from 5-7pm on Oct. 31.

ADJOURNMENT-With no further business, Alderman Hooker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Alderman Blaney seconded the motion. Roll call: Hooker, yea, Blaney, yea, Allen, yea, Girffith, yea Garrett, yea, Hutchison, yea. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle L. Osborne, City Clerk

XC: Mayor and City Council; Building Inspector; Department Heads; File