

Minutes
City of Villa Grove, Illinois
City Council Meeting
October 15, 2019

Call to Order—Roll Call: The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met in regular session on Tuesday, October 15, 2019, in Council Chambers. Mayor Eversole-Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Aldermen Allen, Blaney, Garrett, Griffith, Hooker and Johnson. Advisory member Hutchison was present, although Mixell was absent. City Clerk Osborne was absent due to her attendance at the state Clerk's Institute. Also present were City Administrator Athey, Police Chief Gire and Public Works Director Arbuckle.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Mayor stood and led all attendees in The Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Consent Agenda: 1) MINUTES OF THE LAST REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING, HELD SEPTEMBER 9, 2019; 2) CLOSED MINUTES OF THE LAST REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING, HELD SEPTEMBER 9, 2019; 3) MINUTES OF THE LAST REGULAR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, HELD SEPTEMBER 23, 2019; 4) CLAIMS FOR PAYMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$377,049.86; 5) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE MONTH ENDING AUGUST 31, 2019; 6) CASH BALANCE REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019; 7) REIMBURSE MAYOR EVERSOLE-GUNTER FOR SUPPLIES AND TRAVEL EXPENSES - \$316.55; 8) REIMBURSE ALDERMAN ALLEN FOR SUPPLIES - \$139.60; 9) REIMBURSE ALDERMAN BLANEY FOR SUPPLIES - \$45.00; 10) REIMBURSE ALDERMAN JOHNSON FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES- \$186.18. Alderman Hooker motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call: Allen, yea; Blaney, yea; Garrett, yea; Griffith, yea; Hooker, yea; Johnson, yea; Hutchison, yea. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments: No comments were submitted.

Engineer Reports: Mr. Andrew Kieser of Fehr Graham was present to give a report on the status of the ongoing scrubber issue, deriving from a miscalculation from 2015 lab samples used in the design of the aerator and scrubber (and the media type used in it). Kieser said that in hindsight, there probably should have been an intermediate step in-between the aeration and scrubber that would be biologic in nature and not result in more chemicals usage but that the jury is still out on whether that may or may not need to be added. Right now they are trying to determine the life cycle cost of the media as it is being used as opposed to how it was originally planned, to determine what the increased amount will be; at that point he can make a comparison to determine the best fix and whether it would include implementing other

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corrective action such as the intermediate piece of equipment. If the determination can be made before the second IEPA loan is completed, the new offer of 60% forgiveness makes it more appealing to do now rather than later since this is even better than the deal in effect when the plant loan was approved. The mayor questioned how the errors were made concerning the water levels of hydrogen sulfide to be removed, and Kieser explained the process of labs going to Tonka who created a program design for a piece of equipment created/built by a second company. He also indicated that having two fans propelling air through the scrubber did not allow enough time for the media to do its job, and that shutting one of the fans off had already improved the odor emissions from the scrubber itself. Kieser indicated that the two companies are going back and forth to determine the best correction, and that he is continuing to prompt them for the best solution for Villa Grove.

The IDOT bridge project plans/costs and the second phase of the water improvements and subsequent second loan were also discussed.

Committee of the Whole Reports: Alderman Allen brought up the opportunity to purchase a bucket truck and grapple bucket at a local Bauer auction that ends on 10/24. He and PW Director Arbuckle had gone and drove the truck, which is a year 2000 truck with 160,000+ miles, and they feel that it is well built. The truck will allow us to do more tree work and haul debris to our own brush pile, where hired contractors are not allowed to “dump” there. The price currently sits at \$5,500 and Arbuckle’s recommendation is to go up to \$10,000 on the truck and \$1,200 for the bucket; Allen noted that we are getting ready to spend approximately \$2,000 for a similar truck rental in preparation for the holidays that this purchase would negate. Garrett suggested that we set a slightly higher limit, and the consensus was to allow Arbuckle to bid up to \$12,000 to secure the truck.

Alderman Allen also noted thanks to everyone involved in the planning of the Fall Fun Event, and that it was a spectacular night. He noted that the turnout was great, and that the City, Chamber of Commerce, VG High School and businesses were all represented during the event. Mayor Eversole-Gunter also thanked Allen for his work making cars for the kids to “park” in for the movie, and for personally providing additional funds in support of the event. She also noted how great it was to see the entire Council and Administrator were there participating. Alderman

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Blaney also thanked Alderman Garrett for the donated use of his movie screen, including the extended setup and take down. Allen reiterated that it was great to have free events for kids in town, and that the event was the perfect example of what the plaza was created to do. The Mayor thanked Advisory Member Hutchison for her work with Mr. Coordes from the school in the game events for the children as well; she also noted that the face-painting vendor did an excellent job being patient and getting through the endless line of the kids who showed up for the days' events.

Alderman Blaney reported that the garbage company is leaving totes in the road upon emptying them on pick-up days, and she would like Advanced to be contacted about the issue. She also asked Director Arbuckle if tree cutting work was finished, to which he replied that they had been focused on sidewalk work but would be returning to the tree trimming once the bucket truck was purchased. Mayor Eversole-Gunter asked about the status of the leaf pile being moved by Advanced, and Arbuckle replied that it was still being coordinated around the community clean-up events. He will email them for follow-up this week. Blaney also asked when leaf vacuuming would begin, and Arbuckle advised that the town would be split with east and west sides having different days for pick-up, but that the start is still contingent on the weather and when they truly start to drop.

Alderman Hooker congratulated Advisory Member Hutchison on her crowning as Homecoming Queen.

Mayoral Reports: The Mayor again thanked everyone who participated in the Fall Fun Event. She noted that the next meeting of the Christmas Tree Lighting group will meet on October 22, at 6:00 p.m. at The Scoop on South Main Street. The trivia fundraising event will be held on Sunday, November 3 at 2:00 p.m. at the VFW, and she encouraged everyone to participate to help the group to meet their goals of an ice-skating rink rental for the event. Alderman Blaney asked if they desired items to be raffled or sold by silent auction, to which the Mayor replied that items would be welcomed.

City Administrator Reports: Atthey reported that the discussion with Arbuckle over leaves covered part of her report. She explained that she had been busy completing work with the

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auditors, so that a draft could be used for the managerial report that she had to write for the final draft. She reported that FEMA had asked for more documentation on the grant previously finished and that there had been a meeting with IDOT at Paul's Machine and Welding concerning their request for a pedestrian crosswalk for their employees to cross Route 130 at/near their parking lot. She also said that she had been in discussions with the VG Schools and their contractor due to their media coverage drawing the attention of the Office of Water Resources in Springfield, which manages the flood plains throughout the state. When Alderman Johnson asked about the status of the community center grant, Athey replied that we were still just in wait mode until the Governor's office makes an announcement.

Other Reports: PW Director stated that they had been busy with sidewalks, and would still have the ones pertaining to the new Route 130 crosswalk to complete. In the meantime they will be moving on to patching of streets and other sidewalks. Alderman Blaney asked how he felt the new pavement at the corner of Oak and Adams was and if he liked it; he replied that a garbage truck had recently gouged it and that within a few days of normal traffic it had gone right back down into place.

The Mayor asked if everyone was aware of the crosswalk issue since it had been mentioned by both Athey and Arbuckle. She reviewed how the new Route 130 pedestrian crossing was the result of Eddie Cler's request directly to IDOT, and that she and Athey had attended a meeting in his office (which included IDOT officials) and where multiple ideas were discussed and the area walked before determining the best action that IDOT would support and provide signage for. IDOT also mandates the use of flashing lights, which they must approve although the City is responsible for purchasing. Those, the painting of the crosswalk itself and sidewalks (with the necessary easements) on each side of the crossings are to be paid for by the City; Mr. Cler indicated that his business would be willing to assist with these expenses in some way.

Athey noted that we had clarified that this action would not prevent the City from a future school crossing to the north near the Pheasant Pointe subdivision, and the IDOT officials responded that at that future date the currently-proposed pedestrian crossing could then be moved south to where Mr. Cler had originally requested it be placed. Athey also relayed that when such changes in crossing occur, the speed limits set as school zones will change since the

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existing 20 mph zone no longer meets the standard used for such school zones. Athey has left a message with the head trustee of the Villa Grove First Christian Church to begin discussions concerning the two easements needed from them for the church itself and the parsonage.

Chief Gire had no business to report, but commented that he felt the school zone should begin at the four-way stop due to the bottleneck created by the bridge just before the school.

Mayoral Proclamation: The Mayor read a lengthy proclamation declaring Friday, November 1 as the Villa Grove State Bank 100th Anniversary Day. VGSB President Don Cler is currently out of the area, and will meet with Mayor Eversole-Gunter next week to be presented with the proclamation with a photo opportunity before the bank's open house.

Business:

Alderman Blaney motioned to approve Ordinance 2019-MC12. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call: Blaney, yea; Garrett, yea; Griffith, yea; Hooker, yea; Johnson, yea; Allen, yea; Hutchison, yea. Motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Allen motioned to approve the lease purchase agreement with Bobcat. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call: Garrett, yea; Griffith, yea; Hooker, yea; Johnson, yea; Allen, yea; Blaney, yea; Hutchison, yea. Motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Garrett motioned to approve payment of the Bud's Auto Parts monthly statement in the amount of \$382.60. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call: Griffith, yea; Hooker, yea; Johnson, yea; Allen, recused; Blaney, yea; Garrett, yea; Hutchison, yea. Motion carried.

Alderman Blaney motioned to approve the Melrose Pyrotechnics contract for July 2020 fireworks for a total cost of \$11,000.00. Alderman Hooker seconded the motion. Roll call: Hooker, yea; Johnson, yea; Allen, yea; Blaney, yea; Garrett, yea; Griffith, yea; Hutchison, yea. Motion carried unanimously.

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Alderman Garrett motioned to approve the engineering agreement and supplemental documents to proceed with the Phase 2 Water Improvements. Alderman Allen seconded the motion. Roll call: Johnson, yea; Allen, yea; Blaney, yea; Garrett, yea; Griffith, yea; Hooker, yea; Hutchison, yea. Motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Blaney motioned to approve the IDOT Agreement for cost sharing associated with the Route 130 Bridge Replacement project, specifically for the relocation of wastewater force mains. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. Roll call: Blaney, yea; Garrett, yea; Griffith, yea; Hooker, yea; Johnson, yea; Allen, yea; Hutchison, yea. Motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Allen motioned to approve the engineering/easement work required for installation of sidewalks at both sides of a pedestrian crosswalk across Route 130 at McCoy Avenue. Alderman Blaney seconded the motion. Roll call: Garrett, yea; Griffith, yea; Hooker, yea; Johnson, yea; Allen, yea; Blaney, yea; Hutchison, yea. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: With no further business, Alderman Blaney motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. Alderman Hooker seconded the motion. Roll call: Griffith, yea; Hooker, yea; Johnson, yea; Allen, yea; Blaney, yea; Garrett, yea; Hutchison, yea. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacqueline S. Athey, CIMT, CPFA, CPFIM
City Administrator

xc: Mayor
City Council
Building Inspector
Department Heads
File