

**Minutes**  
**City of Villa Grove, Illinois**  
**Rescheduled Regular City Council Meeting**  
**March 12, 2020**

**Call to Order—Roll Call:** The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met in regular session on Thursday, March 12, 2020, in Council Chambers. Mayor Eversole-Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Aldermen Blaney, Griffith, Hooker and Johnson. Advisory members Hutchison and Mixell were present, as well as City Administrator Athey, Police Chief Gire and PW Director Arbuckle. City Clerk Osborne was absent.

**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 FEBRUARY 10, 2020; 2) MINUTES OF THE LAST REGULAR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, HELD FEBRUARY 24, 2020; 3) CLAIMS FOR PAYMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$369,861.96; 4) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE MONTH ENDING JANUARY 31, 2020; AND 5) CASH BALANCE REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING FEBRUARY 29, 2020. Alderman Hooker motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Alderman Blaney seconded the motion. Roll call: Blaney, yea; Griffith, yea; Hooker, yea; Johnson, yea; Hutchison, yea; Mixell, yea. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comments:** There were no comments from members of the public who were present.

**Engineer Reports:** Matthew Johnson and Andy Kieser from Fehr Graham were present to give an extensive virtual tour of the wastewater treatment plant and discuss the long-term issues that need to be addressed inside the plant and to the surrounding equipment. Multiple scenarios on how to address the problem and their associated costs were discussed at length. The Council was advised that they will need make a decision as to what plan they would like to pursue so that the plans can be completed for grant and loan applications.

Luis Rund had entered the meeting during the sewer improvement discussion, and asked if he could briefly address the status of the soccer season due to the COVID-19 issues. He stated that he would like to postpone the spring season into the summer and will keep in touch with the school, Heath Wilson and Athey on any definitive changes.

Rund also commented on the sewer project going forward, and Alderman Hooker commented that historically the Council has done a bad job of planning for “down the road” and how

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infrastructure will be maintained during its useful life. Mayor Eversole-Gunter commented that people don't like financial increases, but that these problems have to be addressed and that while funding is usually required for that past leadership did not want to face upset people on the street and reinforce the (unpopular) need for rate increases for compliance. Alderman Johnson noted that the higher monthly bill costs are still preferable to a violation and fines from the IEPA if there is a major breakdown or the inability for residents to be able to flush a toilet.

**Other Reports:** Aldermen Hooker and Johnson commented that the new scoreboard at the softball field looks great.

Chief Gire asked that residents try to avoid the Route 130 bridge now that IDOT has begun construction and the traffic stop lights are functional. There was a brief discussion about the pedestrian traffic being worse at the four way stop due to the lights, and the Council asked Johnson to contact School Board President Jim Clark to determine if a school bus could be placed somewhere near the intersection to collect students for transport over the bridge.

Director Arbuckle had nothing since the engineering presentation covered a lot of what he is dealing with.

**Mayoral Reports:** The Mayor spoke concerning a residential home located in the McCoy subdivision that has been purchased by a company to place developmentally disabled people into. She has received numerous complaints, and stated that she had sought the advice of both City attorneys. They advise that this issue is covered under the Federal Fair Housing Act, and that these residents are protected by it so no changes in zoning or permits are required for them to locate there (regardless of other communities in our area doing so). It was noted that the City of Springfield had been sued for the exact same thing and lost; our attorney advised that any action requiring review or hearing concerning zoning is illegal and violates the resident's rights.

**City Administrator Reports:** Clean-up Days have been confirmed for June 12-13, but that we needed to confirm whether or not to upgrade the electronics collections from trailers to a single box truck. Council agreed that we should use the larger truck. Athey updated the Council on

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the first COVID-19 conference call with the Governor's office that included the heads of the departments of Public Health and the Emergency Management Agency. Before the call was concluded, another notification was received about a county meeting concerning a Public Health mandate about housing of quarantined family members (each county must submit a written plan to the state to accommodate 25 people). Atthey explained the process that is now already complete due to the timing and that within another day she'd received an invitation to participate in a briefing call with the White House which was done the day before the meeting; security of who could listen was regulated. Basically there are briefings being done with different groups and those audiences are given information specific to their needs; for instance, the state/local government audience heard information on plans for a coming stimulus bills to help fund local small businesses. The basic push at this point is to direct everyone to the CDC website to state updated on COVID information. She also noted that restricted visiting guidelines for nursing homes had been issued the day before as well. Some expressed concern over putting out too little or too much information; Atthey explained that right now the basic focus is to prepare because it will definitely be here and that controlling how it spreads will make sure that the healthcare response is not burdened. She noted that there had been discussion about keeping personal space around everyone, and that would require larger rooms/areas to meet if a suggested 6-foot perimeter was used.

Atthey also noted that the information from the last committee of the whole meeting had been uploaded concerning the smart-meter proposal, as well as the projected revenue loss numbers that they had requested she prepare. She noted that the numbers were large, and that our percentage loss is about 30% although 10-15% would be the maximum that could be accomplished in a perfect scenario. With those gallons at the current water and sewer rates, potentially the meters would pay for themselves in 2-ish years. There was some discussion as to whether or not to do such a program in phases or all at once; Atthey recommended doing the entire project with a five-year financing deal, and then for the second five years continue paying into a reserve in anticipation of the meters needing to be replaced again at the 10-year age mark – being anticipatory instead of reactive.

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**Business:**

Alderman Hooker motioned to approve Ordinance 2020-MC03—An Ordinance Amending Title XV, Chapter 155 of the Municipal Code of the City of Villa Grove, Douglas County, Illinois (As It Pertains to Home Businesses). Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call: Griffith, present; Hooker, yea; Johnson, yea; Blaney, yea; Hutchison, yea; Mixell, yea; Eversole-Gunter, yea. Motion carried.

Alderman Hooker motioned to approve annual payments from the TIF Fund to the Sewer and Water Funds, per the FY20 budget. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call: Griffith, yea; Hooker, yea; Johnson, yea; Blaney, yea; Hutchison, yea; Mixell, yea. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Alderman Hooker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Alderman Blaney seconded the motion. Roll call: Hooker, yea; Johnson, yea; Blaney, yea; Griffith, yea; Hutchison, yea; Mixell, yea. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



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

xc: Mayor  
City Council  
Building Inspector  
Department Heads  
File