

**Minutes  
Committee of the Whole Council Meeting  
October 26, 2020**

**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, October 26, 2020**, in Council Chambers. Mayor Eversole-Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Alderman Blaney, Johnson, Pangburn, Griffith and Garrett. Alderman Hooker was absent. Clerk Osborne, City Manager Athey, and Public Works Director Arbuckle, Chief Rea were also in attendance.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**-Jackie Wells thanked the council for the TIF loan for the improvements to the library building, which are now completed. Tuckpointing on all outside walls was completed at the end of this summer. She also presented an idea to the council that she is working on. She asked for support to install a 'story book walk' at Richman Park. She is applying for a grant to pay for the expenses for setting this up. Council is in support of this and asked her to meet with Director Arbuckle of Public Works to determine the details of the layout, etc. She also stated they are doing a Christmas Story walk on Main street this year. They are holding a Halloween Scavenger Hunt at Henson Park on October 31, 2020 from 2:30-4 pm. The Mayor and Council thanked Jackie for all she and her staff do for the community and are looking forward to this project.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**-Douglas County is on the warning list for the rise in COVID cases, so restrictions may be coming soon. Bids for the demolition of the water plant and the McCoy work will go out next week. Fehr Graham will be contacted on an update on the sewer plant studies.

**OTHER REPORTS**-Chief Rea reports they have the police department shifts being covered with part time officers to supplement the full time while two officers are at Police Training Institute. Alderman Griffith reports that he inquired about the hydraulic hose fabrication issue with Bruce Allen from Bud's repair shop. Bruce stated he can be called in at off hours to make any hoses needed. This will help to alleviate the issues of having to wait when there is an emergency need.

**MAYORAL REPORT-Cassandra Eversole-Gunter**-Two junior alderman have been recommended by the school, Lexi and Lydia Howard, who will begin in January.

**BUSINESS**

1. **Upcoming OmniSite upgrades**-PW Director Arbuckle stated this is about the radio upgrades required for all of the sewer lift stations. The current media is obsolete. The upgrades will be \$299 per site at 4 sites=\$1200.
2. **Discussion of glass partitions at Police Department and the Administrative offices**-As part of the mitigation efforts with COVID, installation of shields where the public is taken care of at the administrative offices and the police department is needed. These shields will be paid for with funds from the COVID CURE funds given by the State.
3. **City Department hours for election day**-There was discussion about the information sent from IML about city offices staying open on November 3. IML said that cities can determine if they

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want to stay open or not on this day. They are not required to close. Consensus was given to stay open on November 3 for regular hours.

4. **Other Items brought before the Council**-Alderman Johnson stated the Christmas trees will be available the week before Thanksgiving for purchase.

**CLOSED SESSION**-Alderman Garrett motioned to move to Closed Session at 7:00pm under the Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)(5) of 5 ILCS/120/2 Exceptions to the open meetings act for the discussion, of purchase or lease of real property for use by the City. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Pangburn, yea, Blaney, yea, Griffith, yea, Garrett, yea. Motion passed. There will be no further action upon return to open session. Council returned to open session at 7:42 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**-With no further business, Alderman Griffith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Alderman Pangburn seconded the motion. Roll call: Blaney, yea, Pangburn, yea, Johnson, yea, Griffith, yea, Garrett, yea. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michelle L. Osborne*

Michelle L. Osborne, City Clerk

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