

**Minutes**  
**City Council Regular Meeting**  
**January 11, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER—ROLL CALL**

The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met in regular session on **Monday, January 11, 2021** in Council Chambers. Mayor Eversole-Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Alderman Blaney, Johnson, Hooker, Griffith, and Garrett. Alderman Pangburn was absent. City Administrator Athey, Clerk Osborne, Police Chief Rea were also present. Council followed all COVID 19 protocols for social distancing.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA** - Alderman Garrett motioned to approve the following Consent Agenda and a second was given by Alderman Johnson. Roll Call: Blaney, yea, Johnson, yea, Hooker, yea, Griffith, yea, Garrett, yea. Motion passed.

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING, HELD DECEMBER 14, 2020**
2. **CLOSED MINUTES OF THE LAST REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING, HELD DECEMBER 14, 2020**
3. **MINUTES OF THE LAST REGULAR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, HELD DECEMBER 28, 2020**
4. **CLOSED MINUTES OF THE LAST REGULAR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, HELD DECEMBER 28, 2020**
5. **AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PAYMENT OF BILLS**
6. **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE MONTH ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2020**
7. **CASH BALANCE REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020**
8. **APPROVE PURCHASE OF 8" KNIFE VALVE (\$1700.00)**
9. **APPROVE HIRING OF FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - Mr. Joe Landeck was in attendance with concerns and questions. He opened by saying that he was concerned about the Community Building project funding and doing that at the same time as the sewer treatment plant. He felt the priority spending should go to the sewer plant. Mayor Eversole-Gunter gave a very detailed explanation of the projects and pointed out that the funding is totally separate, and the monies are not mixed. We have signed a grant with the State of Illinois for the Community Building project, and the clock is moving-we are committed and have to move on breaking ground on the project. If we don't meet the deadlines they have set, we will lose the \$2 million funding from them. He also inquired about tennis courts at Richman Park and some options were discussed that we can try for getting some installed there. His last concern was with the garbage truck routing. He suggested that perhaps all of our trash cans can be put on one side of the street, and this would avoid multiple trips down the street. The Mayor will present this to the waste management vendor.

**SWEARING IN OF ADVISORY MEMBERS** - The High School Advisory members, Lydia and Alexa Howard were sworn in as Junior Aldermen. They will be attending meetings from this point forward.

**COTW REPORT** - No reports from this

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT** - The report on costs and return on investment for using geothermal at the new community building was reviewed and the architectural firm thinks it would be a good move that would pay for itself quickly. The business accounting software by Sage is being upgraded this week. The upgrade is free, but we have to pay for the technician's installation time, but this year it will be done online rather than in person due to

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COVID. The Strategic plan will be coming from NIU very soon and we will have it to review. The Department Heads will meet with them and go over goals and plans.

There was a TIF request received and that is being researched and will be presented at a future meeting. There is some updated Illinois Risk Management training available for city employees. CURES funding reports will be submitted by the end of January. Attorney Marc Miller has provided a timeline on moving forward with the utilities. Also, the Auditors brought up they would like a second set of eyes on the journal entries and to have someone sign for them. Jacki is putting some recommendations together for this. Police Chief Rea sent photos of problem properties that need to be addressed through the ordinance violations.

**MAYORAL REPORT** - The Mayor had nothing to add to what had already been presented.

**BUSINESS**

1. **Notice of Intent to Award for water projects including Scrubber Modification, WTP Demolition and McCoy Subdivision water mains** - Alderman Hooker motioned to approve the notice of intent to Award for multiple projects. Alderman Blaney seconded the motion. Roll Call: Blaney, yea, Johnson, yea, Hooker, yea, Griffith, yea, Garrett, yea. Motion passed.
2. **Accept resignation of Scott Arbuckle as director of Public Works** - Alderman Blaney motioned to accept the resignation of Scott Arbuckle as director of Public Works. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Blaney, yea, Johnson, yea, Hooker, yea, Griffith, yea, Garrett, yea. Motion passed.
3. **Approve certified water operator contract for Scott Arbuckle** - Alderman Garrett motioned to approve the contract to hire Scott Arbuckle as a Certified Water Operator. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Blaney, yea, Johnson, yea, Hooker, yea, Griffith, yea, Garrett, yea. Motion passed.
4. **Approve Sage software upgrade and installation** - Alderman Hooker motioned to approve the upgrade and installation of the Sage software. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call: Hooker, yea, Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Griffith, yea, Garrett, yea. Motion passed.
5. **Hiring a full time Public Works Director from within the Department** - Alderman Hooker motioned to approve hiring a Public Works Director from within the department, effective January 26, 2021. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. Roll call: Hooker, yea, Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Griffith, yea, Garrett, yea. Motion passed.
6. **Approve Hiring of Full Time Public Works employee** - Alderman Garrett motioned to approve hiring Connor Block as a full time permanent Public works employee at the entry level. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call: Hooker, yea, Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Griffith, yea, Garrett, yea. Motion passed.

**CLOSED SESSION** - Alderman Hooker motioned at 6:51 pm to move to Closed Session under the Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)(1) of 5 ILCS/120/2 Exceptions to the open meetings act for the discussion of appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, and under 2(c)(5) Exception for discussion of purchase/lease/or rental of property for use by the City. Alderman Garrett seconded

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the motion. Roll Call: Blaney, yea, Johnson, yea, Hooker, yea, Griffith, yea, Garrett, yea. Motion passed. There will be no further action upon return to open session. Council returned to open session at 7:49 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT** - With no further business, Alderman Blaney motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Alderman Hooker seconded the motion. Roll Call: Blaney, yea, Hooker, yea, Griffith, yea, Garrett, yea, Johnson, yea. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michelle L. Osborne*

Michelle L. Osborne, City Clerk

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