

Minutes
City Council Regular Meeting
January 25, 2021

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CALL TO ORDER—ROLL CALL - The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met in regular session on Monday, January 25, 2021 in Council Chambers. Mayor Eversole-Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Alderman Johnson, Hooker, Garrett, and Pangburn. Aldermen Blaney, Griffith, and Jr. Aldermen Howards were absent. City Administrator Athey, Clerk Osborne, Police Chief Rea, Public Works Supervisor Lake, and City Attorney Marc Miller 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 Johnson motioned to approve the following Consent Agenda and a second was given by Alderman Pangburn. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Hooker, yea, Garrett, yea, Pangburn, yea. Motion passed.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING, HELD JANUARY 11, 2021
2. CLOSED MINUTES OF THE LAST REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING, HELD JANUARY 11, 2021
3. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PAYMENT OF BILLS
4. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE MONTH ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Bruce Allen gave an update on the new Economic Development Group that has been formed. This group is looking to promote Villa Grove and to grow the city. Meetings are on Fridays at noon. The initial group is made of Lon Tay, Derrick Roy, Bruce Allen, Mary Hite, Michael Holmes, and Don Cler.

COTW REPORT - No reports from this.

OTHER REPORTS - Randy Lake from Public Works reported the inventory of the equipment at the waste treatment plant was progressing well. Police Chief Rea handed out a prepared report of the first 6 months. He also reported the new officers are now on training patrols.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT - Jacki reported she was working on W-2's, payroll and meetings as well as a delegation plan.

MAYORAL REPORT - The Mayor reported that she had completed the performance review of City Administrator Athey. Emphasis and direction was given for the Administrator to complete a delegation plan and to work for splitting responsibilities with others in the office. New department operation manuals are being created by Libby Neathery. The mayor also reported that the headstone from the old community building is still in storage at Paul's and Pat Cler said they have maintained it in the condition it was given to them. The mayor will work with the architects for placement of this in the new community building. Lastly, she reported the fireworks will take place on July 2, 2021 with the company we had contracted from last year.

BUSINESS

1. **Ordinance No. 2021-MC01--An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Execute the Employment Agreement by the City of Villa Grove for the Position of Director of Public Works** - Alderman Hooker motioned to approve for the mayor to execute the employment agreement for Director of Public Works. Alderman Pangburn seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Hooker,

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yea, Garrett, yea, Pangburn, yea. Motion passed.

- 2. Consideration of a contract to hire Hartman Consulting LLC for assistance with the water and sewer systems** - There was considerable discussion of this item that included comments from Mike Cline, a City resident who is a retired civil engineer and had suggestions to consider for the RFP: Mr. Cline suggests during the RFP process, the City of Villa Grove should request information from any potential buyers being considered about the price, the company's rate history, any IEPA violations they've had and how they were resolved, and could even ask for the resume of the person who would be the director of the operations. He also suggests asking about community-based service support such as new equipment for the fire department, and approach a bit of the larger picture, such as establishing a regional distribution center here, which may be feasible and financially attractive to these companies. Adding to the comments, Attorney Miller emphasized that during the RFP process is when we will put our list of requirements and needs out there. Items to consider would be looping systems, pump stations, capital improvements, fencing, painting requirements, water tower agreements for maintenance and adding technology to the tower. Mr. Miller also stated the market is a little softer for utilities than it was before the pandemic. There are also now 7 possible utilities who could bid instead of 2-3 originally spoken of.

After discussions, Alderman Garrett motioned to approve the contract to hire Hartman Consulting LLC for the utility RFP. Alderman Johnson seconded. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Hooker, yea, Garrett, yea, Pangburn, yea. Motion passed.

- 3. Accept resignation of Robin Cowman as Senior Center Activity Coordinator** - Alderman Garrett moved to regrettably accept the resignation of Robin Cowman as the Senior Center Activity Coordinator. Alderman Johnson seconded. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Hooker, yea, Garrett, yea, Pangburn, yea. Motion passed.
- 4. Approve final payment to Camargo Township Library per TIF grant agreement** - Alderman Johnson motioned to approve the final TIF payment to Camargo Township Library. Alderman Hooker seconded. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Hooker, yea, Garrett, yea, Pangburn, yea. Motion passed.
- 5. Authorization to move forward with TIF Redevelopment Agreement planning regarding request from Derrick Roy** - Alderman Pangburn motioned to approve the TIF Redevelopment Agreement with Derrick Roy. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Hooker, yea, Garrett, yea, Pangburn, yea. Motion passed.

CLOSED SESSION - Alderman Pangburn motioned at 6:45 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)(6) Exception for discussion of sale/lease/or rental of property for use by the City. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Hooker, yea, Pangburn, yea, Garrett, yea. Motion passed. There will be no further action upon return to open session. Council returned to open session at 7:06 pm.

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ADJOURNMENT - With no further business, Alderman Hooker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Hooker, yea, Pangburn, yea, Garrett, yea. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Osborne

Michelle L. Osborne, City Clerk

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