

Minutes
City Council Regular Meeting
March 22, 2021

CALL TO ORDER—ROLL CALL

The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met in regular session on **Monday, March 22, 2021** 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, Griffith, Johnson, Hooker, Pangburn, Garrett. Junior Alderman A. and L. Howard were absent. City Administrator Athey, Clerk Osborne, Public Works Supervisor Lake, and Legal Counsel 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 Hooker. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, no, Griffith, present, Hooker, yea, Garrett, yea, Pangburn, yea. Motion passed.

- 1. MINUTES OF THE LAST REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING, HELD MARCH 8, 2021**
- 2. FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTH ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2021**

PUBLIC COMMENTS - No public comments were made.

OTHER REPORTS - Chief Rea reported that Officer Rasmussen put a list together of burned-out streetlights in the city and reported them to Ameren. Ameren responded quickly and is replacing those now. He also reported that compliance with city ordinances is about 50%. There is a need for addressing abandoned houses in the city.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT - Jacki reported the EPA loan has been given verbal approval, so as soon as the signed forms are received the McCoy and Scrubber projects can proceed. The leaks in the office windows and doors will be addressed by the vendor. Proposals for the garbage vendor should be received by April 16. We need written confirmation of clean up days and yard waste days from Advanced. The legislature has released a statement saying that it might be possible to use TIF funds for recovery of COVID losses. Phase 5 for State of Illinois will begin in May, hopefully. The flags may go to full staff as of April. Fire department needs to replace the light bar on their truck and consensus was given to move ahead with that purchase. Waiting on confirmation of the date for Electronics recycling company for clean-up days.

MAYORAL REPORT - The Mayor will plan to meet with the P&Z chairperson for discussing some issues.

BUSINESS

- 1. Discussion of Property Maintenance, code changes and enforcement** - Discussion of issues with landlords of rental properties in town and how best to address some of the issues. Big issue is illegal dumping in dumpsters owned by businesses. Ideas were given about possibly a central site for dumpsters to be used by landlords or putting cameras around the dumpsters to record what is happening. Landlords were encouraged to meet as a group and suggest some solutions.
- 2. Ordinance 2021-MC04—An Ordinance Authorizing Issuance for a Request for Proposals of the Sale of the City Water and Sewer Systems** - Alderman Garrett motioned to approve Ordinance 2021-MC04 asking for Proposals for sale of water and sewer systems. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion.

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Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Griffith, no, Hooker, yea, Garrett, yea, Pangburn, yea. Motion passed.

3. **Discussion of the Status of Garbage Franchise agreement** - City Administrator Athey reported they are working on new contracts and finding some additional options. Proposals will be accepted by April 16.
4. **Accept resignation of full-time Public Works Employee** - Alderman Garrett motioned to accept the resignation of Connor Block from the Public Works Department. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Griffith, yea, Hooker, yea, Garrett, yea, Pangburn, yea. Motion passed.
5. **Appoint Part-time seasonal work to full-time status in Public Works** - Alderman Hooker motioned to approve hiring the current part-time seasonal worker in Public Works to be a full-time permanent employee. Alderman Pangburn seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Griffith, yea, Hooker, yea, Garrett, yea, Pangburn, yea. Motion passed.

CLOSED SESSION - Alderman Pangburn motioned to go into Closed Session at 7:07 pm according to the Open Meetings act Section 2(c)(11) of 5 ILCS/120/2 Exceptions to the Open Meetings Act for the discussion of possible litigation against the City. No further action will be taken after returning to Open session. Alderman Blaney seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Griffith, yea, Hooker, yea, Garrett, yea, Pangburn, yea. Motion passed. Return from Closed session to open session was at 7:22 pm.

ADJOURNMENT - With no further business, Alderman Hooker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Alderman Pangburn seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Griffith, yea, Hooker, yea, Garrett, recused himself, Pangburn, yea. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Osborne

Michelle L. Osborne, City Clerk

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