

**Minutes**  
**Regular Committee of the Whole City Council Meeting**  
**April 26, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL**

The City Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Villa Grove met in regular session on **Monday, April 26, 2021** in Council Chambers. Mayor Eversole-Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Alderman Blaney, Griffith, Hooker, Pangburn, Garrett, Johnson, and Junior Aldermen Alexa and Lydia Howard. City Administrator Athey, Clerk Osborne, Public Works Supervisor Lake, and 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.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – No public comments.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT** – Jacki Athey reported the EPA loan paperwork is completed and the notice to proceed has been given to the contractors for the 3 projects-McCoy lines, tear down of the old water treatment plant and new plant scrubber upgrades. She is working on the Summer Rec Program set ups for each sport. Also being processed are required liquor licenses. The other waste company contacted for a possible bid declined to bid, leaving Waste Management as the only vendor. The representative from IML for Risk Management would like to come after new council members are seated to do some training for everyone.

**OTHER REPORTS** – Public Works Director Lake reported the Richman Park mulch is being delivered in separate loads this week and they will get it all spread at the playground. There were considerable hours put into getting the Henson Park ball diamond in shape for playing by the Public Works crews, along with some additional work Alderman Johnson had performed previously in the week. By Friday, it was ready to be used for games. He also indicates he is not certain of who donated the scoreboard at Henson and we need a name to be able to thank them and put up recognition on the scoreboard. He reported that the Adams Street pump is done and ready to be installed by Gasvoda.

**MAYORAL REPORT** – The Mayor reported there is a flier ready to be printed about the Community Center project. The Alumni Dance is currently scheduled at the Main Street Plaza on May 29. She has communicated to the committee that a decision will be given by May 15th if they can proceed. Alderman Hooker will research the outside events restrictions for COVID and report back at the next meeting on May 10. The fireworks will take place on Friday, July 2, 2021, at Richman Park.

**BUSINESS**

1. **Garbage Franchise Agreement discussion** – The proposed contract from Waste Management is asking for a five-year commitment. Discussion ensued about reliability of the company, improvements to service needed, and seeing progress in near future. A consensus was reached for Jacki to return with a suggestion of a shorter contract, with an option to extend the contract for an additional 2 years after we see how the first year proceeds. She will report back.
2. **Consideration of updated Parking ordinance-AMENDING TITLE VII: TRAFFIC CODE** – Chief Rea presented his findings from the surveys of properties in town and some of the most noticeable issues. Proposed amendments are: prohibiting overnight parking, 9pm-7am, 7 days a week, at the city-owned lot at 123 N. Main Street. The second change is in section 72.14, and would be in relation to parking on private property as follows: “No person shall park any vehicle on private property except on a weed-free surface made of gravel, crushed stone, asphalt, Portland cement concrete, or brick pavers.”

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A suggestion was also included to install signs on all city-owned lots with information about parking restrictions and fines. Extensive discussion followed these proposed changes. Item will be on the next meeting for vote.

3. **Sludge truck repair needs** – Public Works Director Lake indicated the sludge truck needs an immediate repair to a broken rear axle, with an estimated cost of \$3,000. Consensus was given for repairs to the sludge truck.
4. **Hiring of Temp/seasonal public works help** – Lake stated that there is a need to get summer help for mowing. Must be 18 years old and pay would be \$15/ hour. Consensus was given to hire.
5. **Annual TIF fund Transfer** – Administrator Athey explained that the council had put into place a transfer to be completed from the TIF back to the General funds to pay back the initial money that was put up to begin the TIF. The payment this year, and for the next 6 years, to consider is \$100k. There are no other funds that are owed from the TIF. The School will most likely submit a TIF request this year. Consensus was to transfer \$50k this year.
6. **SGR Common Ground Conference** – Administrator Athey presented a possible conference to consider for the entire council to attend. It will occur June 23-24 from 6-9pm and is being held virtually. The conference is the Elected Officials Common Ground presented by SGR. An overview states: *“This virtual conference will feature world-class state and community leaders alongside successful entrepreneurs, who have effectively navigated similar challenges and seen their communities and organizations emerge from internal and external dissonance to be vibrant and successful.”* She and the Mayor think this could give us valuable assistance on our service as community leaders. Discussion ended with some council members showing interest, but needing time to research the topic.
7. **Rebranding of the Senior Center** – The Senior Center coordinator has been working with the CTDL director to talk about a rebranding to make the center more inclusive of ages 55 and up, in the hopes of it becoming a true community program. They propose a new name as ‘Zest for Life Center’. The majority consented to the rebranding and look forward to seeing the program grow.
8. **Other items brought before the council** – Alderman Blaney mentioned the possibility of being able to switch to electing council members at large, rather than by wards. This will need more investigation.

**ADJOURNMENT** – With no further business, Alderman Blaney motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Alderman Hooker seconded the motion. Roll Call: Blaney, yea, Griffith, yea, Hooker, yea, Garrett, yea, Pangburn, yea, Johnson, yea, Alexa Howard, yea, Lydia Howard, yea. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michelle L. Osborne*

Michelle L. Osborne, City Clerk

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