

Minutes
Regular Committee of the Whole City Council Meeting
May 24, 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, May 24, 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 Blaney, Cheely, Hooker, Pangburn, Garrett, Johnson. Junior Aldermen Alexa and Lydia Howard were absent. 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 she is completing the audit prep process.

OTHER REPORTS – Police Chief Rea reported they have been very busy. There have been some issues with the installation of the Watchdog cameras, but they hope to resolve that quickly. PW Director Lake said the air scrubber part is on order. McCoy project is moving quickly. Demo of the water treatment plant is in progress. The Bridge-the sign at Rick's had to be moved due to the IDOT easement change, but that seems to be worked out now.

MAYORAL REPORT – The Mayor reported the cleanup days on June 4-5, will have to be held uptown as we have done previously. Waste Management said they could not do the door to door pickup this year, but are hopeful to arrange that for next year. The Community Center flyer has gone to the printer.

BUSINESS

1. **Citizen Becky Hunt - petition/local activity in floodway** – Residents Becky Hunt and Sheila Hardyman were present to discuss a concern of increased activity in the neighborhood. Their concerns are of trucks going in and out of the area where the old Bade Concrete plant is located. Ezell Excavating now owns this property. There are multiple trips by large trucks in and out of the area, causing increased wear and tear on streets, creating a safety issue for children in the area, and increased noise. They presented a petition to the council about these concerns. They were advised by the Mayor and City Administrator that everything this new company is doing is legal, they have the permits needed from the State. She thanked them for bringing concerns to the attention of the council. At this time, the council did not take any action.
2. **Other items brought before the council** – Public Works Director Lake, Alderman Johnson, and the Mayor opened a discussion about the use of the ball diamonds in the parks, who is responsible for getting fields ready, and maintaining them. PWD Lake stated they don't have time to do all of the mowing and maintenance for daily games and that he gets multiple calls from Summer Rec

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Director about games being switched and maintenance needs at the fields. PW is shorthanded and also trying to keep up with all of the mowing, and they simply can't keep up. He asked if there is a way to have coaches and others who use the fields to assist with those extra tasks. Alderman Johnson agreed as does the rest of the council. Restructuring of the Park Board is under way and there is hope this will help to get things running better. Jacki will contact Heath Wilson to let him know they have to do the field lining and upkeep, while PW will do all of the mowing.

Another topic discussed was issues with the residences located on the first floors of buildings on Main Street and how to change that. Some advice from the city attorney will be sought on how to resolve these issues. This also led to bringing up abandoned houses and how to deal with them, but no one had any real solutions for this issue.

CLOSED SESSION- – Alderman Hooker motioned to move to Closed Session at 8:01 pm under the exceptions for Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)(2) of 5 ILCS/120/2 Exceptions to the open meetings act for discussion of appointment, compensation, discipline, performance or specific employees. Alderman Pangburn seconded the motion. Roll Call found the following members in attendance: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Hooker, yea, Cheely, yea, Pangburn, yea, Garrett, yea. Council returned to open session, with no further business, at 8:29 pm.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business, Alderman Hooker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Alderman Pangburn seconded the motion. Roll Call: Blaney, yea, Cheely, yea, Hooker, yea, Garrett, yea, Pangburn, 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