

Minutes
Committee of the Whole City Council Meeting
September 25, 2023

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met in the regular Committee of the Whole session on September 25, 2023, 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, Johnson, Lorenz, Cheely, and Hooker. Alderman Pangburn was absent. City Administrator Athey, Clerk Osborne, PD Chief Rea, and PW Director Mixell and CPS Director Surowka were also present.

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 stated: She attended the IML conference in Chicago last week. She has learned we are in the federal disaster zone for the derecho storm, which gives us a way to claim expenses from cleaning up of the storm for reimbursement. The Public Access Counselor has updated their website and has new webinars available and the OMA and FOIA trainings are now up and running. A new rule for grants is that if you apply for one, you have to attend a workshop in Springfield for training.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS-Public Works: Director Mixell said all of the trees on their list have been cut down and the company was great to work with-Coon's Tree Service from Lerna, IL. The PW crew is working on replacing street signs. There are road repairs left to do. At the CC: Flag poles and the marquis area will need concrete so they will contact Frick concrete for that. The demolition on the Harrison Street house (former Schull house) is \$10,500 from Ezell Excavating and he asked for and got a consensus to move forward with the project to get it done.

Police Department: Chief Rea congratulated Officer Campbell on a great job he did in making an arrest recently. He did everything by the book and it was good he got the person off the road. Kudos, Officer! Thank you for your service. The new HVAC has been installed in the building and the difference is night and day. He said it is amazing how much better it feels in there and how well it works. There were some burglary activities of businesses over the weekend that are being investigated and they hope to resolve soon. PTI is going well for the two new officers.

Community Programs/Services: Bethany said it is now soccer season. Donations for the wall at the CC have been coming in. The VFW and the Korner Beehive presented the city with a check for a \$2000 donation. Building updates on the CC: Painting, electrical, plumbing are all working on inside and outside the building. Drywall is going up in the gym, Mid-October will see the flooring in the gym along with the batting cage dividers, but the bleachers may be delayed. Ads will start running for positions at the center. Outside-the concrete is being poured around the building. The new date for the grand opening is now December 16.

MAYORAL REPORT-The Mayor said there will be a meeting of the Christmas Tree Lighting Committee on Thursday, 9/28/23 at 7 pm at the ZFL Center. For that event, Derek Johnson will be working to reserve the horse/carriage ride, the Christmas trees for sale, and the live reindeer.

BUSINESS

1. Elite Outdoors landscaping-they were unable to be here tonight and we hope they will be at our next meeting.

Minutes
Committee of the Whole City Council Meeting
September 25, 2023

2. Jake Wolf (ERA)-was present to discuss the plans for Richman Park's updates and long-term goals. He explained the document he had with the layout and items to consider. Most pressing is the extension of the road. Many ideas were discussed and overall, everyone was pleased with the designs.
3. Consensus on Tri-City Petition for Annexation and establish date/time for public hearing on the same-there will be a public hearing at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023 for this.
4. Walldogs 2024 update-working on ideas with Scott and scheduling.
5. Select 2024 fireworks date (Sunday vs Friday) consensus was to do fireworks on June 28, 2024.
6. Other items brought before the Council for discussion-NA

CLOSED SESSION: No Closed Session

ADJOURNMENT-With no further business, Alderman Cheely motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Alderman Hooker Seconded the motion. Roll Call: Alderman Blaney, yea, Johnson, yea, Lorenz, yea, Cheely, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Osborne

Michelle L. Osborne, City Clerk

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