

Minutes
Regular City Council Meeting
December 11, 2023

CALL TO ORDER—ROLL CALL

The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met in regular session on **Monday, December 11, 2023**, in Council Chambers. Mayor Eversole-Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Alderman Johnson, Pangburn, and Hooker. Aldermen Blaney and Cheely were absent. Alderman Lorenz submitted a resignation between meetings, so his seat was empty at the beginning of the meeting. PW Director Mixell, VG Police Chief Rea, City Administrator Athey, Clerk Osborne, and CPS Director Surowka were also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS-Citizen Mel Rauckman was in attendance to talk about the huge number of stray cats in the city and some things to help alleviate the issue. Mel has been instrumental in helping to reduce the population by capturing many cats and having them spayed/neutered. She then has worked to get the cats adopted out. She has been successful in the last few months, but also knows there are many more out there to be dealt with. She had questions about what ordinances are on the books for unleashed cats in the city. Mel is also working closely with the VG Police Department to get this situation under control. Council was appreciative of all of her efforts and has referred enforcement to the police department.

SWEARING IN OF NEW ALDERMAN FOR WARD III-Alderman Wade Lorenz submitted his resignation from the council following the last council meeting in November. He is moving out of the ward and is no longer eligible to serve. We thank Alderman Lorenz for his service. The new Alderman for Ward III to replace Lorenz will be Gilbert Nieto III. Mr. Nieto was sworn in by City Clerk Michelle Osborne and was present for the rest of the meeting and eligible to vote.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Alderman Johnson motioned to approve the full consent agenda. Alderman Pangburn seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Nieto, yea, Pangburn, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion approved.

1. Minutes of the regular City Council meeting, held November 27, 2023
2. Authorization for the Payment for Bills
3. Financial Reports for the month ending October 31, 2023

CITY ADMINISTRATOR/OTHER REPORTS

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT-Jacki Athey reported on the projected tax levy-they received few calls from constituents, but there will be a public hearing on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023, for the purpose of the tax levy. The second item Jacki has been working on is the ordinance to change the way council members are elected. We are asking to go to an at-large system as opposed to election by each ward. This will have to be approved by voters in the Spring 2024 election.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: Director of PW Mixell report: The official leaf collection process has ended as of Dec. 6, however there are a few piles still to be picked up, which they will do this week. But after this, nothing will be picked up and residents are responsible for proper disposal of their leaves. The garage is now done and is being used every day. The ceiling lights in the Zest for Life Center have all been replaced and are all working well.

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Director of CPS Surowka: Registrations online continue for upcoming sports Girls Volleyball and Gymnastics for preschool kids. The annual memberships are also online for purchase. The building is progressing well-the floors in the gym are in the process of top coating and curing. The track floor in the mezzanine is being laid. The marquis sign standard is being installed and the sign is estimated to be up in the next few weeks. The splash pad project has had some changes made to better accommodate the area required. This week on Wednesday the landscaping should begin for what they can do now. The majority of it will be in the warmer weather in Spring.

Chief of Police-Bob Rea: reported both of the patrolmen will graduate from PTI on December 21, 2023 They will be sworn in on December 26, 2023, at the council meeting.

MAYORAL REPORT-The mayor reiterated the changes to the splash pad project and described the area will be moved back a bit, which will provide more room. There is a meeting with Mike Namoff about the Walldogs event coming up to discuss entertainment. The Rodeo will happen next year and we will be using Garrett Miller.

BUSINESS

1. **Tri-City Country Club Request to amend Resolution on amount of TIF funding**-Alderman Hooker motioned to table the request from Tri City until such time when the appropriate measures are completed. Alderman Pangburn seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Nieto, yea, Pangburn, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion approved to TABLE.
2. **Ordinance 2023-MC19 – An Ordinance Concerning Ordinance 2022-MC11, An Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the Issuance of \$3,000,000 General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2022, of the City of Villa Grove, Douglas County, Illinois, Abating All of the Levy and Extension of Taxes for the Year 2023 Previously Established to Pay Such Bonds**-Alderman Pangburn motioned to approve the Ordinance 2023-MC19. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Nieto, yea, Pangburn, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion approved.
3. **Approve Broeren Russo Builders Inc Pay Request No 18** -Alderman Johnson motioned to approve the Broeren Russo pay request 18. Alderman Nieto seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Nieto, yea, Pangburn, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion approved.
4. **Approve purchase of internet and wireless switch hardware for Community Center**-Alderman Hooker motioned to approve the purchase of routers for the community center. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Nieto, yea, Pangburn, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion approved.
5. **Approval to obtain quote for S-10 Supplement to Code of Ordinances (covering 2022-2023 calendar years)**-Alderman Hooker motioned to approve obtaining a quote for the S-10 Supplement to Code of Ordinances. Alderman Nieto seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Nieto, yea, Pangburn, yea, Cheely, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion approved.
6. **Approve City Administrator to attend ILCMA Winter Conference in February**-Alderman Pangburn motioned to approve the city administrator attending ILCMA Winter Conference in February. Alderman Hooker seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Nieto, yea, Pangburn, yea, Cheely,

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yea, Hooker, yea. Motion approved.

CLOSED SESSION-Alderman Pangburn motioned to go into Closed session under 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. Alderman Nieto seconded the motion. No action will be taken after the closed session.

Council returned to open session at 7:02 pm.

ADJOURNMENT-With no further business, Alderman Hooker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 pm. Alderman Pangburn seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Nieto, yea, Pangburn, yea, Cheely, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Osborne

Michelle L. Osborne, City Clerk

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