

## Minutes

### Committee of the Whole City Council Meeting May 28, 2024

CALL TO ORDER—ROLL CALL-The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met as a Committee of the Whole session on **Tuesday, May 28, 2024, due to the Memorial Day Holiday on Monday 5/27**, 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, Johnson, Nieto, Cheely, and Hooker. Alderman Pangburn was absent. City Administrator Athey, Clerk Osborne, City Attorney Marc Miller, PD Chief Rea, PW Director Mixell and CCPS 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: Been working on the end of the fiscal year closing and readying for the audit. We received 2 grants from Ameren for the efficiency at the community center-total was \$2800. She went over the TIF approval dates for the 2nd TIF district, which will occur in December.

#### **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**PUBLIC WORKS-DIRECTOR MIXELL** reported the ADA doors are installed. The new mower is in service and working well. They removed 3 damaged trees this past week from storm damage.

**VGPD: CHIEF REA** reported that he has applied for a taser grant from the State.

**CPS: DIRECTOR SUROWKA** reported on sports: Completed: Soccer; softball will be done in 2 weeks; Baseball-we will be hosting the Little League tournament here. Coming up: June-there will be adult Wiffle Ball, and summer camps for youth. Rec Volleyball will be at the community center, and we will add some younger ages. Donor trees are planted and plaques will be put up soon.

**MAYOR:** Mayor Eversole-Gunter thanked the VFW for the great event at Henson Park on Memorial Day. The cookout was well attended and she has heard many positive comments on the day.

#### **DISCUSSION OF BUSINESS (NON-VOTING)**

**1. Options for removal of trees on private property**-Discussion of how to subsidize homeowners for cutting down the trees that they are cited for. Discussed various options for a loan program, but all decided that was way too cumbersome to track and could bring many complications. In the end, the best idea is to have a reimbursement type program for the homeowner. They would have to complete an application, and follow the rules on that, and once they have paid and have the receipts, they would turn them in for reimbursement. Everyone liked this idea and rules will be worked out.

**2. General legal questions for the City Attorney with discussion**-Marc gave input on having the tree program and gave some great insight on what each option would look like legally. The reimbursement was certainly the easiest to administer-least complicated. There were some other questions on managing absent landlords and negligent ones. Marc gave some great parameters of what is plausible and how to go about enforcing rules.

**3. Other items brought before the Council for discussion**-nothing else was discussed.

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**ADJOURNMENT**-With no further business, Alderman Hooker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. Alderman Cheely seconded the motion. Roll Call: Alderman Blaney, yea, Johnson, yea, Nieto, 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