

**Minutes
Committee of the Whole
City Council Meeting
September 23, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER—ROLL CALL-The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met as a Committee of the Whole session on **Monday, Sept. 23, 2024**, in Council Chambers. Mayor Eversole-Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Alderman Blaney, Johnson, Cheely, Pangburn, and Hooker. Alderman Nieto was absent. City Administrator Athey, Clerk Osborne, PW Director Mixell and CCPS Director Rea 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: IML Conference-the TIF day she attended had good information she found useful. They gave information on flood plains and audits. There is a statewide building code passed in Springfield. Our next meeting will be in 3 weeks.

CITY ATTORNEY: Marc Miller was present to go over items. He reported the Statewide building code in effect on Jan. 1. This will allow us to use our same building inspector and give us usage of the statewide codes. No need to change any of our guidelines at this time. The builder and customer will still determine how things are done. The Grocery tax-will be removed and goes to local control in Jan. 2026. If we want to institute a tax, it has to be passed by Oct. 1, 2025.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS-DIRECTOR MIXELL reported the Harrison street bridge is completed. The water mains are being replaced by Cross Construction, AR, and Il. Amer. Water. . The statewide building codes will become effective as of Jan. 1, 2025. The Dog pound building has been cleaned out. Talked to the concrete grinding vendors to clean up and use what is ground up as gravel on our projects and got cost estimates. He researched the speed signs with digital signs on them and found those were around 3000 each.

CPS: DIRECTOR and Public Safety Coordinator Bob Rea: This is his first week in the new role, so he is trying to familiarize himself with items and processes and needs. He has changed the horse on Saturday to 8 am opening instead of 7 am to avoid the need for longer hours for workers and covering for lunches. Open gym for PickleBall is going on. The 5-6th grade basketball girls will begin this week. The VFW Halloween contest will be held at the community center, as it always was in years past. There is a January 2025 conference he would like to attend. This is the main one of Il. Parks & Recs Assoc.

On the Police Department for his Public Safety role: He has been training with the new chief-Cole Tibbets. Reported on the school incident last week of people saying there was going to be a shooter at school. This was perpetrated through social media. They investigated the claims and found them to be made up. They put out information to the public to help with fear of safety, as they found no threat of danger. The SRO Position will be coordinating between the school and the VGPD until they find a replacement for Cole.

MAYOR: Mayor Eversole-Gunter stated she and Council woman Blaney put out the fall plants on Main Street. The Mayor is working on sponsorships for the Christmas event-most especially the ice rink needs some sponsors.

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DISCUSSION OF BUSINESS (NON-VOTING)

1. Mike Campbell-Mike Campbell is the builder of many homes in Pheasant Pointe. He wanted to present some ideas about the new subdivision and showed what Dietrich has done with their new TIF districts and new neighborhoods. He discussed the financing model used, which Jacki and Cassandra had also researched on a trip there a few weeks prior.

2. Approve advertising budget for Community Center-Discussion was around how to best move forward for marketing with our videos we have. an amount of \$10k-15k was suggested by the marketing company. We want to plan some dates for Radio and TV ads. Council gave consensus to move forward with the amounts discussed.

3. Approve order for live trees for Christmas Tree Lighting event-This is like what has been done in previous years to sell the trees to the public. Consensus was given for purchase.

4. Approve storm sewer cover replacement-There was a storm sewer cover that was damaged and needs replaced. Consensus was given for the purchase.

5. Approve replacement of back ZFL door-the back door is in bad shape and does not lock well. Consensus was given to purchase a new door.

6. General legal questions for the City Attorney with discussion-City attorney explained new items earlier in the meeting. see above. No other questions were presented.

10. Other items brought before the Council for discussion

CLOSED SESSION:Alderman Blaney motioned to go into Closed session at 7:40 pm, 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 Johnson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Blaney, yea Johnson, yea, Pangburn, yea, Cheely, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed. Mayor Eversole Gunter, Clerk Osborne, City Administrator Athey, City Attorney Miller were also present. No action will be taken after the closed session. Alderman Blaney motioned for Council to return to open session at 8:14 pm. Alderman Hooker seconded the motion. Roll Call: Blaney, yea Johnson, yea, Pangburn, yea, Cheely, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT-With no further business, Alderman Hooker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Alderman Pangburn seconded the motion. Roll Call: Blaney, yea Johnson, yea, Pangburn, yea, Cheely, yea, Hooker, yea. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Osborne

Michelle L. Osborne, City Clerk

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