

Minutes
Committee of the Whole
City Council Meeting
October 28, 2024

CALL TO ORDER—The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met as a Committee of the Whole session on **Monday, October 28, 2024**, in Council Chambers, directly after the TIF2 Public Hearing adjourned. . Mayor Eversole-Gunter was absent, so Mayor Pro Tem Blaney called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Alderman Blaney, Johnson, Nieto, Cheely, Pangburn, and Hooker. City Administrator Athey, Clerk Osborne, City Attorney Miller, PW Director Mixell and VGPD Chief Tibbetts 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 has a draft reply ready to send to the auditors. The Google contract was expiring and she negotiated a 50% reduction in the renewal price to be able to keep it close to what we have had for the last 3 years. The meeting in Dietrich they went to was about their second TIF district they have created-they used it to encourage having neighborhoods developed. It has been highly successful. She was contacted by the people who own the house on Route 130, just south of Braggs. They have discovered an issue with their lot boundary for the driveway. The council discussion revealed this is something they will have to work out with JD Crawford, as he still owns that small strip of property. That did raise the other issue at McCoy where there are some infringements from lots owners onto the land that we purchased, so we will need to vacate those properties so they go to the people who own the McCoy lots for them to pay the taxes and maintain the property. The fire department has gotten an estimate on painting Engine102 that was recently purchased. The bid is \$13,000 by a local vendor-lowest bid. The council gave consensus to proceed with this vendor, 100 North, to proceed. Decals will be separate.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS-DIRECTOR MIXELL reported the Harrison street bridge is completed however the sidewalk has an area that is raised too much and creates an issue for a resident who travels that sidewalk in a wheelchair. They have put in a temporary fix and the construction company will come back in the Spring to make a complete repair. They have been winterizing buildings-the restrooms at parks, etc. The lot behind city hall is being surveyed and hope to have that done soon to be able to start planning for that. He is getting valuations for some old equipment to be able to put that out for sale. The generator install will not be happening in December. Leaf pickups are in progress and very busy. The new storm pits are installed. Things are ready for winter. Alderman Blaney asked Public Works to cut back the bushes on the corner of Douglas and Vine-she has gotten many complaints about them blocking visibility there.

CPS: DIRECTOR and Public Safety Coordinator Bob Rea: Bob was not in attendance. Jacki reported that he has hired a new assistant director who will begin Nov. 12, 2024.

VGPD: Chief reports the transition is going well. They have been stopping more speeders. They have found there are street signs that are not in agreement with ordinances, so they are trying to see what needs to be updated to bring those in agreement. IDOT needs to update the speed zones on 130 in front of the school-they did not put signs back up after the road construction. Chief Tibbetts brought up an idea to have a K9 for the City of Villa Grove. The Douglas County Sheriff's department is the only one in the county with a K9 patrol. He feels it would be very beneficial as they do have quite a few drug arrests, plus this can be utilized at the school.

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They do have an officer interested in becoming a K9 handler-Office Campbell. They have been working on sending ordinance violations for trees that need to be removed.

MAYOR: No mayoral report since she was absent.

DISCUSSION OF BUSINESS (NON-VOTING)

1. Chamber of Commerce board service-The Chamber of Commerce has asked Jacki to become a member. Council was for the idea and attorney Miller saw no conflict of interest and encouraged her to do so to be a liaison between the two organizations.

2. Property status from attorney-Marc Miller reports that the court has ordered a foreclosure on the Schull Property on Harrison Street. That should happen in 30 days at which time we will get a clean deed to the property. From there, the next steps would be to put out an RFP with the stipulations you want for what could be built there.

3. General legal questions for the City Attorney with discussion- Another issue that was discussed was how to prevent landlords from transferring nuisance items from one of their properties to the next to 'comply' with an order to clean up their property. Option 1 would be to establish licensing for landlords. Option 2 is to put some more information/restrictions in the nuisance ordinance.

4. Other items brought before the Council for discussion-No items

CLOSED SESSION: No closed session needed.

ADJOURNMENT-With no further business, Alderman Hooker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. Alderman Cheely seconded the motion. Roll Call: Blaney, yea Johnson, yea, Nieto, 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