

**Minutes**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**December 9, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER—ROLL CALL**

The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met in regular session on **Monday, December 9, 2024**, in Council Chambers. Mayor Eversole-Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Alderman Johnson, Blaney, Nieto, and Hooker. Aldermen Pangburn and Cheely were absent. City Administrator Athey, Clerk Osborne, PW Director Mixell, PD Chief Tibbetts, CPS Director Rea were present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS-Volunteer of the Year Awarded**

Mayor Cassandra Eversole-Gunter announced the people chosen to receive the Volunteer of the Year Award for 2024. Kristy Bird and Karla, Bub, and Jonn Westray were awarded this honor. Kristy Bird was instrumental, along with her son, Tyler, in establishing the Christmas Tree Lighting Festival, which has been hugely successful. Each year the festival has grown and the community all looks forward to it each year. We are thankful for all they do to put this festival together and for making it successful.

The Westrays are owners of JR's Bar in downtown Villa Grove. The honor also is awarded to them for all of the extraordinary work they do to support the community. They never say no, and they also initiate many events themselves to support the students at school, or sports, or our entire community. They established the successful event on Ag Days of having people donate money to purchase ride bracelets to the carnival for Ag Days for children. This has grown to allow well over 100 children to attend and have fun who might not have otherwise been able to enjoy any of the rides. This is only one example of how they recognize a need and move to fulfill it! Thank you to the Westrays for all they do to help our community.

Villa Grove is a nice place to live, as we all know, and with people like this in our community, it becomes an even more exceptional place everyday!

There were over 30 people in attendance for this part of the meeting to support the awardees and to thank them for helping our community.

**CONSENT AGENDA**-Alderman Blaney motioned to approve the consent agenda items. Second was from Alderman Nieto. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.

1. Minutes of the regular City Council meeting, held November 12, 2024
2. Minutes of the regular Committee of the Whole meeting, held November 25, 2024
3. Authorization for the Payment of Bills
4. Financial Reports for the month ending September 30, 2024
5. Financial Reports for the month ending October 31, 2024
6. Approve policy of 75% maximum financing for TIF Grant/Loan Application Fundings
7. Approve purchase of aquatic aeration chemicals for reservoir treatment
8. Approve Administrator's attendance of the 2025 WIU Rural Communities Economic Development Conference (February)
9. Approve Administrator's attendance of the 2025 dual APT US&C/IMTA Conference (July—FY26)
10. Approve 2025 City Meeting schedule

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**CITY ADMINISTRATOR/OTHER REPORTS**

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**-Jacki Athey reported: She is working on putting ordinances together and also some zoning information for the next meeting.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:** Director of PW Mixell report: The crew is working on winter maintenance projects on equipment. The aquatic chemicals applications will begin in April at the John Leon Park reservoir, and will last for 7 months. Marc is meeting to discuss the embankment cleanup of the pond with a vendor. The Sludge Truck and the old salt spreader are both pieces no longer used. He got a quote from Claus's in Cissna Park of \$8,000 as a credit on account there. We will be using the credit for purchase of other equipment. We still have an oil tack machine that Marc will contact other villages about possibly selling it to them since it is new and hardly used. They will finish tree trimming next week. Will have to do another leaf pickup due to extended good weather. Part time workers will be done next week. Marc will call Ameren about getting 2 light poles in front corners of the park for now.

**CPS/PUBLIC SAFETY:** Director Rea reported: Memberships are up and they have 470 new memberships in the last 90 days. CI Living from WCIA will be airing a spot on us within the next few weeks-they already came and filmed it. Gift certificates are being sold now. The Christmas tree is up in the lobby. Donor plaques are being updated and a few are being corrected. The landscapers came to lay the bricks today by the main entrance. Some other repairs in the facility are needed, and Bob is working on getting those completed.

**VGPD:** Chief Tibbetts-Ben Mingo is transitioning to the SRO position. Currently he goes for 4 hours per day at the school. It's been a week. They interviewed a candidate last week. PTI let us know we are at the top of the list for being added to the next class, so we hope to get someone hired soon. There was some damage in front of the EMS building due to a motor vehicle accident. IDOT is fixing the signs.

**MAYORAL REPORT**-The mayor discussed the Treasurer position and some changes being considered with a candidate. Thank you to Derek Johnson for the trees and Boots for a golf card parade for the festival. New volunteers are needed for next year. The Christmas Tree Lighting Festival brought in around \$6,000. The ice rink was a hit and next year will be slated to begin later in the day.

**BUSINESS**

1. **Ordinance 2024-MC12—An Ordinance Regulating Public Camping Within Corporate Boundaries and Other Actions in Connection Therewith for the City of Villa Grove, Douglas County, Illinois**-Alderman Blaney motioned to approve Ordinance 2024-MC12. Alderman Nieto seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.
2. **Ordinance 2024-MC13—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 2024 Previously Established to Pay Such Bonds**-Alderman Johnson motioned to approve Ordinance 2024-MC13. Alderman Nieto seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.

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3. **Ordinance 2024-MC14—An Ordinance Approving the Villa Grove Tax Increment Financing District 2 Redevelopment Plan and Redevelopment Project**-Alderman Blaney motioned to approve Ordinance 2024-MC14. Seconded by Alderman Johnson. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.
4. **Ordinance 2024-MC15—An Ordinance Designating the Villa Grove Tax Increment Financing District 2 Redevelopment Project Area**-Alderman Blaney motioned to approve Ordinance 2024-MC15. Seconded by Alderman Johnson. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.
5. **Ordinance 2024-MC16—An Ordinance Adopting Tax Increment Financing (Villa Grove District 2)**-Alderman Hooker motioned to approve Ordinance 2024 MC-16. Alderman Blaney seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.
6. **Hiring of building inspector**-Alderman Blaney motioned to hire a building inspector due to resignation of last inspector. The new person is Joe Hardwick from Tuscola. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.

**CLOSED SESSION**-No Closed Session needed.

**ADJOURNMENT**-With no further business, Alderman Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 pm. Alderman Blaney seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michelle L. Osborne*

Michelle L. Osborne, City Clerk

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