

Minutes

Committee of the Whole City Council Meeting January 27, 2025

CALL TO ORDER—The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met as a Committee of the Whole session on **Monday, January 27, 2025**, 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, Clark, and Hooker. City Administrator/Comptroller Athey, Clerk Osborne, Treasurer Swanson, PW Director Mixell and VGPD Chief Tibbetts, CPS Director Rea were also present. Jake Wolfe from ERA Associates was also present to discuss the Richman Sport Complex updates.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE -The Mayor stood and led all attendees in The Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENTS-No comments.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT-Jacki Athey stated: W-2 issues came up and they are trying to resolve them to get these completed. Bond payoffs cannot be done before 2032. EMS Building payoff balance is \$176,000 can be paid off early. She explained the need to move money from one bank to another to assist with insurance coverage of our funds.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS-DIRECTOR MIXELL reported: they are working on Spring maintenance of equipment and it is almost complete.

CPS: DIRECTOR and Public Safety Coordinator Bob Rea: Basketball for 5-6 grade girls is going on now. High attendance at games and also more memberships. The Wiffle Ball tournament will be in mid-March. Spring Sports registration begins Feb. 1. Ideas for temporary lighting in the parking lot at Richman have been discussed.

VGPD: Chief reports: One patrolman is off due to an injury, so they are having to cover shifts for a while. He is shuffling schedules to get all shifts covered. Ben is going to attend SRO School next week. The chief is getting quotes for squad cars for the next budget year.

MAYOR: No mayoral report.

DISCUSSION OF BUSINESS (NON-VOTING)

1.RSC parking/drainage bid document final updates-Jake Wolfe from ERA was in attendance to go over the final plans for the Richman drainage and parking lot plans. Main topics are paving the parking lot, moving the detention pond, and adding storm sewer to connect to the new detention basin.

-Detention basin-will move it south and that will put it in a better spot and they will also make it look nicer.

-Bid documents are prepared with specs and ready to go out. Jake needs dates from us for when the bids can go out.

-Preliminary estimate of costs: \$820,000, which includes a 15% contingency fee. Half of this cost is the parking lot paving and set up, with the additional piping and sewer costs using the rest of the fees. Funding will come from ARPA funds and possibly some TIF funds.

-This plan will not impact the long term 10 year plan that is in place, barring any changes to that plan.

-4-6 months for completion of the project.

2. Approve inspection of property for pre-condemnation-The property at 411 W. Vine Street is ready to be inspected for asbestos and abatement. Council gives consensus to move forward with this inspection. Nothing

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can be done before this is completed.

3. Approve preparation of items to sell property/set deadline for sealed bids-council gave consensus to move forward with preparing property on Harrison Street for sale. Advertise in February, open bids at March 10 meeting. This is residential zoning only.

4. Clean out of weeds along the John Leon reservoir banks-Quote from Fentner Machinery for them to clean out the weeds such along the banks for the reservoir to make this accessible for fishing and uses of the reservoir. The equipment will clean out items that can't be done with chemical applications. Once this step is completed, the chemical application will take care of what is left. Consensus is given to proceed.

5. Consensus to execute TIF agreement for Loren Anderson property-There is a signed contract for AF Antronics, owned by Loren Anderson, for a TIF loan for property improvements at 2 N. Main St. The total requested was \$24,600 and the allowed amount would be 75% equalling \$18,450. Consensus to move forward with the contract was given.

6. Purchase crowd barriers for rec center-CPS Director Rea asked to purchase some crowd control stanchions to use in the lobby of the Rec Center. Discussion that followed led the council to not approve this purchase at this time. No consensus was given for purchase.

7. Other items brought before the Council for discussion-Alderman Hooker raised the information about the upcoming Business Boot Camp to be held in Monticello and strongly encourages any businesses who have interest to attend this workshop to help improve their business. It is well worth it.

CLOSED SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT-With no further business, Alderman Blaney motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Blaney, yea, Johnson, yea, Nieto, yea, Clark, yea, Cheely, yea, Hooker, yea. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Osborne

Michelle L. Osborne, City Clerk

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