

**Minutes**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**March 10, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER—ROLL CALL**

The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met in regular session on **Monday, March 10, 2025**, in Council Chambers. Mayor Eversole-Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.(due to trains being stopped on tracks). Roll call found the following members present: Alderman Johnson, Blaney, Nieto, Clark and Hooker. Aldermen Cheely was absent. City Administrator Athey, Clerk Osborne, Treasurer Swanson, RecCtr Director Rea, PW Director Mixell, were present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS-No comments were made.**

**CONSENT AGENDA (ITEMS FOR SINGLE-VOTE APPROVAL WITHOUT DISCUSSION)**-Alderman Hooker motioned to approve the consent agenda items. Second was given by Alderman Johnson. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.

1. Minutes of the regular City Council meeting, held February 10, 2025
2. Minutes of the regular Committee of the Whole meeting, held February 24, 2025
3. Minutes of the closed session of the Committee of the Whole meeting, held February 24, 2025
4. Authorization for the Payment of Bills
5. Financial Reports for the month ending December 31, 2024
6. Financial Reports for the month ending January 31, 2025
7. Approval of fireworks date of June 27, 2025 and required contract for show
8. Approval of sidewalk repair on Main Street (at Villa Grove State Bank main entrance)

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR/OTHER REPORTS-**

**City Administrator**-Jacki Athey spoke of the mobile home park owners bringing trailers into town. 1998-2012, some notes from this time frame, but nothing was passed. Attorney Hendren in 2013 needed more info. Other things passed, but no ordinance ever was passed. Council wants a draft to look at the ordinance at the next COTW meeting and then pass at the next voting meeting. Change the amount of the permit and up that significantly. There is an event in May for a TIF conference. NIU contacted and wants to do a virtual event for planning with the 'team'. Corrections to budgets to get them out this week.

**Recreation Center Director Rea**- Director Rea-had over 1500 visitors in February. Busy with summer rec sports. Registration is almost done. 40 games will be hosted-purchasing more equipment due to increases in participants. Events coming up- Hour House from Charleston; May 3- Craft show held outside at the rec center. Some concern about being able to do it with the parking lot construction. Boots asked for cameras to be focused on the gym.

**Public Works Director Mixell**-Rotary is working on the pavilion at Harrison park. Did find some issues with damage. Marc will look at it. Painting should be in the next 30-60 days. Working on budget items. Roof quotes for all park buildings. Sidewalk quotes for problem areas. Ready for Spring season-cleaning out park areas of bleachers with leaves, etc. Kyle at CPS is on RecDesk, so he has things all listed on there and PW can reference. Rec baseball starts tomorrow, soccer was today. Dugouts had tons of leaves in them. Pothole repairs at least 1/2

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day per week or more if possible. Hitting the biggest areas first. Did some tree work. 4 trees to be torn down this year, so finally feel like things are getting caught up. Local arborist possibility. Hauling gravel for alley work-people have been asking about that but usually do that first part of April. Installed two new street posts due to damage or missing. A meter for the splash pad on Thursday will be installed by Il. Am Water. Concrete pad for the generator at City Hall was poured today. Alderman Hooker complimented the work done at the John Leon Park-said it looks very nice-water is clear.

**Police Chief Tibbetts**-No report-not here.

## **BUSINESS**

**1. Open bids for sale of property – 311 East Harrison Street**

-There were 3 bids given for the property for sale at 311 E. Harrison Street. Bid 1 was by Ryan Garrett for \$6001, Bid 2 was by Doug Grussing for \$17,520, and Bid 3 was by Belynda Allen for \$10,000. Alderman Blaney motioned to approve Bid 2 from Doug Grussing, the highest bidder, for the amount of \$17,520. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.

**2. Bid Award for Community Rec Center Parking Lot project**-Jake Wolf from ER Associates was present to discuss the submitted bids and answer any questions from the council. The bids ended up having an addendum to do this in concrete instead of asphalt due to the lesser cost in using concrete. This was a suggestion by the vendors who all agreed it was cheaper and easier to get the concrete vs. asphalt. Bids that were given including the adjustments listed were by A&R Mechanical, Urbana with Base Bid of \$1,675,392.00 and Base Bid with Alternate 1 (concrete) \$1,761,956.00 and Mid-Illinois Excavation, Urbana with Base Bid of \$1,123,390.00 and Base Bid with Alternate 1 of \$1,019,755.00.

-Alderman Blaney motioned to approve the award going to Mid-Illinois Excavation as the lowest bidder.. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.

**3. Ordinance 2025-MC04—An Ordinance Authorizing and Approving a Redevelopment**

**Agreement Between the City of Villa Grove, Douglas County, Illinois and Jones and Jones Rentals LLC**-Alderman Hooker motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-MC04 (TIF Agreement). Seconded by Alderman Johnson. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.

**4. Ordinance 2025-MC05—An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Execute the Employment Agreement by the City of Villa Grove for the Position of Accounting/Administrative Assistant**-Alderman Johnson motioned to approve the position of Accounting/Administrative Assistant. Alderman Nieto seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.

**5. Ordinance 2025-MC06—An Ordinance Implementing a Municipal Grocery Retailers' Occupation Tax and a Municipal Grocery Service Occupation Tax for the City of Villa Grove**

-Alderman Johnson motioned to approve **Ordinance 2025-MC06**. Alderman Blaney seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.

**Minutes**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**March 10, 2025**

- 6. Notice of Building Code Regulations to be Adopted on April 14, 2025-**Alderman Blaney motioned to approve the Building Code Regulations. Alderman Nieto seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.

NOTE: Alderman Johnson left the meeting after his vote due to personal commitment elsewhere.

- 7. Approve proposal for demolition of house/garage at 411 West Vine Street-**Alderman Nieto motioned to accept the bid from Ezell Excavating for the demolition of the buildings at 411 W. Vine Street. Alderman Clark seconded the motion. Roll Call: Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed
- 8. Approve purchase of rock grapple attachment for Bobcat-**Alderman Blaney motioned to approve purchase of a rock grapple for the Bobcat. Alderman Nieto seconded the motion. Roll Call: Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.
- 9. Approve grounds/weed spraying contract-**Alderman Blaney motioned to approve the contract for weed spraying. Alderman Clark seconded the motion. Roll Call: Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.
- 10. Review/approval of intent to fund Wince TIF application-**Alderman Blaney motioned to give approval to fund the Wince TIF project. Alderman Hooker seconded the motion. Roll Call: Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.

**CLOSED SESSION-**No Closed Session.

**ADJOURNMENT-**With no further business, Alderman Blaney motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 pm. Alderman Hooker seconded the motion. Roll Call: Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Clark, 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