

**Minutes  
Committee of the Whole  
City Council Meeting  
March 24, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER—The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met as a Committee of the Whole session on **Monday, March 24, 2025**, in Council Chambers. Mayor Eversole-Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Alderman Johnson, Blaney, Nieto, Clark, and Hooker. Alderman Cheely was absent. City Administrator/Comptroller Athey, Clerk Osborne, Treasurer Swanson, 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 comments.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**-Jacki Athey stated: 1.VGSB Bank is asking for confirmation from us to allow Jess to be able to ask questions on accounts. Consensus to allow that. 2. Tuscola has equipment to sell and offered to us. Marc will need to look at it. Leaf wagon-5,000. It would be used as a backup if we get it. 3. Summary of strategic plan handed out. A longer report will be put on the website. 4. The property owner of the solar field has filed a request with Douglas county to alleviate taxes to lower theirs significantly. We can participate in the appeal effort-Jacki will talk with Justin Brunner.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**PUBLIC WORKS**-DIRECTOR MIXELL reported: Leaf collection 3/31-4/11. Alleys and blvds. maintenance for potholes. Park restrooms the first week of April for opening. Portapotties at Richman and Coddington. Ezells should be soon to take down house on Vine. Next week-pond edge cleanup with the hi-ho. should allow for 85% of the edges on the roadside. One of the docks is damaged and needs repairs-the one in the back corner. Pine tree marked for planting at Richman.

**CPS:** DIRECTOR and Public Safety Coordinator Bob Rea: No report.

**VGPD:** Chief reports:VGPD-interviewing applicants. The chief will reach out to Parkland to see if they have grads that might be interested. City ordinance complaints will be handled-already have one complaint they are working on.

**MAYOR:** 1. Farmers are asking about the ground at the Prairie Fire section and getting a contract this year 2. The Chamber of Commerce asked about a bench by JR's, for a memorial for Westrays- to see if the city wanted to contribute to that. Consensus was given by the council for this.

**DISCUSSION OF BUSINESS (NON-VOTING)**

1. **Review of potential Richman lighting proposal**- Marc said Ameren gave an estimate today for \$65,000-just an estimate-for wood poles with lights. They don't offer an actual parking lot light. All other companies did not give a quote. Our only bid is from Rimco. A box will have the meters, so that Ameren will put the parking lots lights on the PW bill. I would like to get started with wiring underground before concrete is done. Rimco lights are 360 degree light. We would own the lights from Rimco so we have to do the maintenance on the lights. Consensus is given for Marc to go ahead with Rimco. He will talk to them tomorrow morning. This company has worked with all of the vendors we are working with also, so

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that is a plus. Meeting tomorrow with all for this.

**2. Consensus for 2025 MFT plans/execution of paperwork**-Consensus is given on this. Road projects Marc went over. He cleared it with IIAW for their projects. Should not be in conflict with his road plans. Hickory Lane's new water line is not turned on yet, so old and new hydrants are both there. After the water is turned on, old hydrants will come out. Asked Marc to check on the very North end of Pine street (by Piercy and Underwoods). He is working on trying to figure out how to fix the drainage issues.

**3. Consensus for final parts for Fire Dept E102**-Consensus was given for the purchase of these parts.

**4. Consensus for VFW request for TIF grant**-The VFW has submitted an application for a TIF grant for improvements-reviewed by council and given consensus to intend to award the money.

**5. Review/approval of City Employee Safety Manual**-Consensus was given to approve the City Employee Safety Manual.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Alderman Blaney motioned to go into Closed Session for 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, and section 2(c)(6), sale/lease of property owned by the public property at 6:52 pm. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Blaney, yea, Johnson, yea, Nieto, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. No further action will be taken upon reentry to Open session. Return to open session was at 7:17 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**-With no further business, Alderman Hooker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m. Alderman Blaney seconded the motion. Roll Call: Blaney, yea, Johnson, yea, Nieto, yea, Clark, 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