

**Minutes
Regular City Council Meeting
April 14, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER—ROLL CALL

The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met in regular session on **Monday, April 14, 2025**, in Council Chambers. Mayor Eversole-Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Alderman Johnson, Blaney, Nieto, Cheely and Hooker. Aldermen Clark was absent. City Administrator Athey, Clerk Osborne, PW Director Mixell, and PD Chief Tibbetts were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS—No comments were made.

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

1. Minutes of the regular City Council meeting, held March 10, 2025
2. Minutes of the regular Committee of the Whole meeting, held March 24, 2025
3. Minutes of the closed session of the Committee of the Whole meeting, held March 24, 2025
4. Authorization for the Payment of Bills
5. Financial Reports for the month ending February 28, 2025
6. Approval of lighting proposal for Richman Parking area from REMCO
7. Approval of 2025 MFT/IDOT Resolution for annual maintenance
8. Approval of donation towards Westray memorial bench

CITY ADMINISTRATOR/OTHER REPORTS—

City Administrator—Jacki Athey stated there will be a budget meeting on April 21, 2025 at 6 pm in Council Chambers (special meeting). The Strategic Plan—April 2 the action plan meeting occurred. Jacki and the department heads were in attendance for discussion. They will send the final draft. There will be a training session held on April 28 for the new council members and any others who wish to attend that will be given on Roberts Rules of Order by Mr. Arndt at a cost of \$2750 to the council. The meeting held on April 28, prior to the workshop, will be a voting meeting to pass the budget and zoning ordinances. Swearing in of new members will be on Monday, May 12, 2025 in the regular meetings. Jacki will be attending an online meeting for phone tracking this Tuesday. The ambulance contract meeting ended with a 1-year extension to the current contract, with a 10% increase. There will be a meeting at a later date to discuss other terms of contract.

Recreation Center Director Rea—Director Rea was absent and sent no updates.

Public Works Director Mixell—Marc Mixell stated the bathrooms are open at Henson Park, after a leak was repaired. Leaf and stick cleanup will be extended to April 18 due to the poor weather that we have had these last two weeks that has hindered collection. The John Leon Park reservoir work is done. The first chemical treatment is already reducing weeds. It took 1 ½ days with the equipment to clear weeds at the banks. This will be done monthly through September, with hopefully less time being needed each time. The richman park retention area dig is completed. The storm tile is being laid. Concrete has been cut. The drainage lines and all are done before

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the parking lot is begun. Moving quickly to stay on schedule. There may need to be some black dirt hauled in. He has spoken with IDNR about stocking fish- last year was stocked with catfish and will stock this Fall with trout. June this year they will shock the reservoir to do a count of species there and will put in some new stock. IDNR also offered to discuss grant resources. Mowing has been keeping the crew busy and the part time summer help is hired and working already.

Police Chief Tibbetts-There was a multi city car chase that occurred over the weekend and he gave a summary of that-no threat to public safety in this city. The tasers have arrived. Chief Tibbetts and 1 patrolman will take a VR training to get certified to train on use of tasers. Ordinance violations-212 W. Vine St. the owner did let him on property for pictures. He says he is working to get things removed. We are hoping to avoid another court date. 4/22-24/2025 Chief will be in professional development classes.

Mayor-The Mayor and Chief of PD talked about the landlord issue and cleanup of the site. Discussion of fence setbacks-the building inspector said it has to be 2 feet back off the property line. Mayor thinks neighbors might be able to cooperate to get it completed.

Other items from Council members: Alderman Blaney inquired about investigating a new waste hauler that has started in area towns to see if we might be interested. Also, Arthur and Arcola have entered into utility rate reduction contracts for their cities and she would like to have this investigated for VG. Alderman Hooker informed that he will be unable to attend the meeting on April 28, 2025.

BUSINESS

1. **Ordinance 2025-MC07—An Ordinance Authorizing and Approving a Redevelopment Agreement Between the City of Villa Grove, Douglas County, Illinois and VFW**
-Alderman Blaney motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-MC07. Alderman Nieto seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Cheely, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.
2. **Ordinance 2025-MC08—An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Execute the Employment Agreement by the City of Villa Grove for the Position of City Administrator**
-Alderman Blaney motioned to approve the Ordinance 2025-MC08. . Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Cheely, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.
3. **Ordinance 2025-MC09—An Ordinance Amending Title XV: Land Usage Concerning Building Codes of the City of Villa Grove, Douglas County, Illinois**-Alderman Johnson motioned to TABLE Ordinance 2025-MC09. Seconded by Alderman Blaney. RRoll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Cheely, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion TABLED.
4. **Approve annual Community Clean-up Day with Waste Management (curb pickup)**-Alderman Blaney motioned to approve the City Clean-Up date with Waste Management, with Jacki working with the company to find a date in June. Alderman Nieto seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Cheely, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.

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- 5. Change to the Fence Setback restrictions-**Alderman Johnson motioned to approve changing the fence setback restrictions to say the neighbors have to be in agreement as to where the fences will be located. Alderman Blaney seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Cheely, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.
- 6. Approve purchase of PPE gear for Fire Department-**Alderman Nieto motioned to approve the purchase of PPE gear for Fire dept. Alderman Nieto seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Cheely, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.

CLOSED SESSION-No Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT-With no further business, Alderman Hooker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 pm. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Cheely, 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