

**Minutes  
Regular City Council Meeting  
May 12, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER—ROLL CALL**

The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met in regular session on **Monday, May 12, 2025**, in Council Chambers. Mayor Eversole-Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Alderman Johnson, Blaney, Nieto, Cheely, Clark, and Hooker. City Administrator Athey, Clerk Osborne, PW Director Mixell, Treasurer Swanson, CC Dir Rea, and PD Chief Tibbetts were present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**—One of the citizens asked a question about the speed limit on Route 130 coming into town from the North—the spot between the VGES building and the four way stop. It used to be posted as 35 mph, but now there is no sign. What is the speed limit? Chief Tibbetts explained they are working with IDOT to get signs reposted from when the bridge work was done. He encouraged citizens to also call IDOT to complain about the lack of signage, hoping this might get a resolution to the issue. The speed limit is the same as always, 35 mph, but 20 for the school zone when children are present.

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

1. Minutes of the last Regular City Council Meeting, held April 14, 2025
2. Minutes of the last Special Committee of the Whole Meeting, held April 21, 2025
3. Minutes of the last Regular City Council Meeting, held April 28, 2025
4. Authorization for the Payment of Bills
5. Financial Reports for the Month Ending March 31, 2025
6. Approve new squad car purchase/pre-order

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Ordinance 2025-MC10— An Ordinance Authorizing and Approving a Redevelopment Agreement Between the City of Villa Grove, Douglas County, Illinois and Tri-City Country Club**— Alderman Johnson motioned to approve ordinance 2025-MC-10 with Tri-City Country Club. Alderman Blaney seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Cheely, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.
2. **Ordinance 2025-MC11—An Ordinance Adopting Building Mechanical, Life Safety, Maintenance, Fire, Residential, Electrical, Plumbing, Accessibility, Existing Building, and Energy Conservation Codes for the City of Villa Grove Municipal Code**— Alderman Clark motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-MC-11. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Cheely, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.
3. **Ordinance 2025-MC12—An Ordinance Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Villa Grove and the State of Illinois Department of Central Management Services Regarding the Local Government Health Plan**—Alderman Clark motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-MC-12. Alderman Nieto seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Cheely, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.

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4. **Review/approve creation of ordinance and redevelopment agreement for Hannah Wince-** Alderman Blaney motioned to approve the creation of a redevelopment plan for Hannah Wince. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Cheely, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.
5. **Approve Mid-Illinois Concrete Pay Request No. 1 - \$238,414.50** - Alderman Clark motioned to approve Mid-Illinois Concrete Pay Request 1. Alderman Cheely seconded the motion. Roll Call: Johnson, yea, Blaney, yea, Nieto, yea, Cheely, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.

**MAYORAL PROCLAMATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK-** Mayor Eversole-Gunter made a proclamation for Public Service Recognition week for all departments and people involved with their work for the City of Villa Grove.

**RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING OFFICIALS**

With this meeting being the last meeting of our outgoing council members, recognition was given to each and every one of them for their service. The first person recognized was Mayor Eversole-Gunter, with certificates from our congressional representatives. A plaque was also presented to the Mayor on behalf of the City of Villa Grove in recognition of her dedication and service to the City over the last eight years of her terms as Mayor. Thank you, Cassandra, for your dedication to Villa Grove!

A representative from the office Mary Miller, U.S. Congresswoman of the 15th District of Illinois, was present to give recognition to Mayor Cassandra Eversole-Gunter for her years of service to the City of Villa Grove as a school board member and also as the Mayor of Villa Grove. Also presented was a certificate of appreciation from Illinois Representative Chris Miller, 101st District state Representative, in Springfield, IL.

As her last order of business, Mayor Eversole-Gunter, recognized the outgoing council members for their many years of service on the council and their dedication to making Villa Grove 'A Great Place to Live'! Their service was outstanding and they accomplished many major projects during their tenures on the City Council. A plaque of recognition was given to each of the following council alderpersons: Thelma 'Boots' Blaney-Ward III, Derek Johnson-Ward II, Kerry Cheely-Ward II, and Matthew Pangburn-Ward I.

**Thank you all for your time and energy given in service to the City of Villa Grove! You have all made valuable contributions that will last a lifetime!**

A brief pause was taken as the outgoing members left and the incoming newly elected members came to the table to be sworn in.

**SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**Sworn in as newly elected officials were as follows:**

**Mayor: Derek Rasmussen**

**City Clerk: Michelle Osborne**

**Ward I Aldermen: Wayne Clark and Anthony 'Tony' Hooker**

**Ward II Aldermen: Christopher 'Chris' Elston and Andrew Fulk**

**Ward III Aldermen: Gilbert Nieto and Open position to be appointed (see Mayor report below)**

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**CITY ADMINISTRATOR/OTHER REPORTS-**

**City Administrator**-Jacki Athey stated the 2025 Fiscal Year ended on 4/30/2025 and everything went well. Hannah Wince has submitted her TIF project for approval, the Budget was filed with the County Clerk's Office on time. The auditors called to discuss this year's audits and dates. Do we want to get other bids or keep the same company? The IMRF rate is 5.76% and will be finalized in November. The TIF and Enterprise Zone committees will be merging into one organization to avoid any conflict with any of the individual cities and duties.

**Community Recreation Center Director Rea**- Director Rea stated there is limited parking for the games due to the construction project of the parking lot updates. Some of the parking will have to be on the grass until things are completed. They received a grant for \$18,755 from the Douglas County Health Dept. for membership assistance to the center. The Summer Dayz program will begin 6/16/25 and go 8 weeks on Mondays & Thursdays from 9-11am.

**Public Works Director Mixell**-Marc Mixell stated they have been catching up with repairs and other projects. The Coddington Park water issue has been resolved. The gravel for boulevards is 75% complete while the alleys are all done. The weed control continues at John Leon Park and they are trying to stay on top of that, but there is rapid weed growth, of course. The Richman Park complex parking lot has all of the ground work and boring done for drainage, but they are still trying to resolve a remaining groundwater issue around the cross country track.

**Police Chief Tibbetts**-Cole Tibbetts reported the cost of the Motorola in-car cameras is \$15,500. The package for all cameras, which includes body cams with the 1 in-car camera will be \$37,500. He is asking for consensus to approve so they may get these installed as soon as possible. They are also working on ordinances for tall grass violations, of which there are quite a few right now.

**Mayor**-Mayor Derek Rasmussen, presided over his first meeting. The Mayor appointed the following people to their positions:

Ward III Alderman-this council seat was vacant after the elections. The Mayor appoints **Clay Taylor-Sanford** to the position of **Alderman of Ward III**. Mr. Taylor-Sanford was sworn in following the appointment.

City Treasurer-this is an appointed position and he named **Glenda Swanson as City Treasurer**, and she was then sworn in following her appointment.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Modification Agreement to Intergovernmental Agreement for Economic Development**

-Alderman Elston motioned to approve a modification to the IGA for the Economic Development group, as per request from that group. Alderman Hooker seconded the motion. Roll Call: Elston, yea, Taylor-Sanford, yea, Nieto, yea, Fulk, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.

**Minutes**  
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2. **Approve order for rec center items (UTV and fitness equipment)**-Alderman Hooker motioned to approve the purchase of new fitness equipment and UTV for the rec center. Alderman Nieto seconded the motion. Roll Call: Elston, yea, Taylor-Sanford, yea, Nieto, yea, Fulk, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.
3. **Approve purchase of FD gear sets** -Alderman Clark motioned to approve the purchase of gear for Fire dept. Alderman Nieto seconded the motion. Roll Call: Elston, abstained, Taylor-Sanford, yea, Nieto, yea, Fulk, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea. Motion passed.

**CLOSED SESSION**-No Closed Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**-With no further business, Alderman Hooker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 pm. Alderman Clark seconded the motion. Roll Call: Elston, yea, Taylor-Sanford, yea, Nieto, yea, Fulk, 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