

Minutes
Regular City Council Meeting
September 8, 2025

CALL TO ORDER—ROLL CALL

The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met in regular session on **Monday, September 8, 2025**, in Council Chambers. Mayor Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Alderman Elston, Fulk, Taylor-Sanford, Nieto. Aldermen Hooker and Clark were absent. City Administrator Athey, Clerk Osborne, PW Director Mixell, PD Chief Tibbetts and CC Director Rea, Treasurer Swanson were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS-representatives from the Alumni Association were present-see discussion on Business item 2.

CONSENT AGENDA (ITEMS FOR SINGLE-VOTE APPROVAL WITHOUT DISCUSSION)-Alderman Nieto motioned to approve the consent agenda items. Second was given by Alderman Elston. Roll Call: Elston, yea, Fulk, yea, Taylor-Sanford, yea, Nieto, yea. Motion passed.

1. Minutes of the regular City Council meeting, held August 11, 2025
2. Minutes of the closed session of the regular City Council meeting, held August 11, 2025
3. Minutes of the regular Committee of the Whole meeting, held August 25, 2025
4. Minutes of the closed session of the regular Committee of the Whole meeting, held August 25, 2025
5. Authorization for the Payment of Bills
6. Financial Reports for the month ending June 30, 2025
7. Financial Reports for the month ending July 31, 2025

CITY ADMINISTRATOR/OTHER REPORTS-

City Administrator- Jacki Athey stated she has been responding to the auditors' requests.

Community Recreation Center Director Rea- Director Rea stated they have closed the splash pad for the season.

Public Works Director Mixell- Marc Mixell stated concrete work is done. They will be winterizing the splash pad. The generator set is done but needs some updates. All of the park sheds are completed. Henson and Harrison colors to consider-possibly bright yellow? The docks at John Leon Park have been installed and there will be rocks spread beside them to finish off the area to keep it neat and easier to access. The Henson Park bathrooms have a water issue they are working on to correct, but it may need a new water line run to it.

Police Chief Tibbetts- Cole Tibbetts reported that Office Champagne is still off of work from his injury, but they hope he will return soon. The Flock cameras are up and running. The newest officer, Richard Readell, went to PTI last week and Officer Campbell is at PTO training. Chief Tibbetts will pick up the new squad car tomorrow. Mid-week the camera will be installed in the new car. The in-car camera won't auto upload, so it has to be fixed. The Motorola body cams will be updated all at once.

Mayor- Mayor Derek Rasmussen has been working with the Alumni Association to help with planning and fees. He has also contacted our lawyers and IML to determine requirements for liability insurance for events.

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BUSINESS

1. **Ordinance 2025-MC16—An Ordinance Amending Title XV, Chapter 150 of the Villa Grove, Illinois Code of Ordinances as They Relate to Building Permit Fees** -Alderman Fulk motioned to approve 2025-MC16 for changes to building permit fees. Alderman Elston seconded the motion. Roll Call: Taylor-Sanford, yea, Fulk, yea, Nieto, yea, Elston, yea. Motion passed.
2. **Approval of Alumni Rental of property**-The Villa Grove Alumni Association has requested to use city property at the end of Main Street for a dance in May 2026. With an event being held on city property by an outside entity, there will be a requirement for liability insurance to be purchased by the Alumni Association. Tom Cler, Chuck Ayers, and Cassandra Eversole-Gunter were present from the alumni association, to discuss the need for liability insurance for the Alumni Dance to be held in May 2026. The discussion centered around the need for them to have their own insurance policy or if the city's insurance covered the event. The questions were also about the city's policy for event insurance coverage and if this was a recent change in policy. Council and the Mayor have worked with Jessica Endres, our contact for risk management in the office, and they have checked with our legal team and the IML to determine exact needs. There has been no policy change. Council stands behind current requirements of the event hosts having to obtain their own liability insurance for the event, with the city listed as a covered entity in the policy. No voting was done due to this being a discussion and clarification of policy standards. There will need to be some additional research before the council can vote. Mayor Rasmussen and other council members reiterated they are all in strong support of this event and are excited to see it return next year.
3. **Approve checking account creation for recreation program officials' payroll (using CPS Director as approved signer on account)**-Our legal team suggested having an account created for the CPS Director to enable payroll for onsite, immediate payments that are needed, such as paying officials for their games. The CPS Director Rea will be the signatory on the account. Alderman Elston motioned to approve the account creation and Alderman Taylor-Sanford seconded the motion. Roll Call: Taylor-Sanford, yea, Fulk, yea, Nieto, yea, Elston, yea. Motion passed.
4. **Approval to reimburse Chris Elston for fire department lightbar packs**-Alderman Nieto motioned to approve reimbursement payment to firefighter Elston for a purchase of lightbars. Alderman Taylor-Sanford seconded the motion. Roll Call: Taylor-Sanford, yea, Fulk, yea, Nieto, yea, Elston, recused, Mayor Rasmussen, yea. Motion passed.
5. **Approval of administrator's attendance to NGMA Conference (March 2026)** -Alderman Fulk motioned to approve City Administrator Athey's attendance to the NGMA Conference in March 2026. Alderman Elston seconded the motion. Roll Call: Taylor-Sanford, yea, Fulk, yea, Nieto, yea, Elston, yea. Motion passed.

CLOSED SESSION-No Closed session.

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ADJOURNMENT-With no further business, Alderman Elston motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 pm. Alderman Fulk seconded the motion. Roll Call: Taylor-Sanford, yea, Fulk, yea, Nieto, yea, Elston, yea. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Osborne

Michelle L. Osborne, City Clerk

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