

**Minutes
Committee of the Whole
City Council Meeting
January 20, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER—The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met as a Committee of the Whole session on **January 20, 2026,,** in Council Chambers. Mayor Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Alderman Taylor-Sanford, Fulk, Nieto, Elston, Clark and Hooker. City Administrator/Comptroller Athey, Clerk Osborne, Police Chief Tibbetts, CC Director Rea, and PW Director Mixell, and Risk Manager Endres, City Attorney Brunner were also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE -The Mayor stood and led all attendees in The Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENTS-A concerned resident spoke as to a situation with dogs running at large in their neighborhood and the nuisance it has created. This is on the West side of town and the resident has been working with VGPD Chief Tibbetts to resolve this issue. It has been ongoing and very difficult to deal with. The dogs have trapped the resident in their own yard and are making it difficult to come and go without fear of being accosted by the animals. The resident is very thankful for the help from the police. Chief Tibbetts said the matter is in the hands of the State Attorney's office in Tuscola at this time and they are waiting on action from them. Mayor Rasmussen said he would check in tomorrow to see about the status and if there is anything that can be done to move this along.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT-Jacki Athey reported that they are working on all of the first of the year tasks for financials, reports, and HR tasks.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

CPS: DIRECTOR Rea gave an overview of the last year at the center. Memberships rose by 2700, attendance has gone from 7800 to over 12,500 visitors. He is pleased with the progress for just the first full year, and the second year of being open. He encouraged people to please contact Melanie to help with Peace Meal. A discussion about the lights at the ballfields will occur later in the meeting, but Rea provided some information on costs and what is needed. Lights need to be repaired and replaced at Henson, which could be done in stages. Field 3 at Richman needs lights installed. One of the best estimates so far is from C-U Under Construction-Electric at a cost of \$134,00 to install the lights at Richman, and this would include all lines run, panels installed, light poles, and lights installed. Also, Remco was interested in bidding at \$150,000. They hope to get some solid quotes soon.

VGPD-Chief Tibbetts reported the new officers are up and running and doing well in their training. There is a need for some Taser training with officers, so he is trying to get that set up. There are two squad cars that have engine recalls, so those will go to Champaign to be repaired.

PUBLIC WORKS-Director Mixell reported the seasonal employee is done for now. Concrete is being removed at the leaf area. Henson Park restrooms update-waiting on the water company to dig the pit needed-looking for that to be done this week. If the weather holds out.

Mayor: Mayor Rasmussen no report.

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DISCUSSION OF BUSINESS (NON-VOTING)

1. Kyle Lester, from Waste Management, regarding upcoming franchise renewal-Kyle Lester, District manager for Waste Management was in attendance to meet everyone and start to talk about the upcoming contract. He hopes to meet soon with Mayor, Jacki, Marc to get details on the contract. One item that is a goal is for them to stabilize the business pricing so that everyone has the same type of pricing structure to make it fair across the board for everyone. The council also asked about a possible extra clean up day. Mr. Lester had some additional ideas about that and will be happy to discuss when they meet.

2. Scheduling of fireworks/America250 events -The discussion showed everyone was under the impression we had a date set already with the company, so there was confusion about this. The mayor will contact them to find out what they have and if we have a signed contract with them. The consensus was that we should look at the last weekend in June to do the show.

3. Revised meeting schedule for 2026- A few of the dates on the schedule need to be changed. Council all gave consensus to the changes.

4. Emergency repair to fire engine 101 -Consensus was given for making emergency repairs to fire engineering 101.

5. Lighting of the RSC ballfield-there were many items brought up about what needs to happen and what information the quotes should have, so the consensus was that more discussion is needed to define the goals of this project more clearly to be able to get the best pricing quote.

6. City attorney Justin Brunner was attending to answer questions on some imminent litigation. This was a closed session discussion and no action was taken upon moving back to open session.

CLOSED SESSION: Alderman Elston motioned to go into closed session at 6:53 pm, for the limited purpose of discussing litigation which is probable or imminent pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (11), with no further action upon return to open session. Alderman Hooker seconded the motion. Roll Call: Taylor-Sanford, yea, Fulk, yea, Nieto, yea, Elston, yea, Clark, yea, Hooker, yea, Motion Passed. Return to open session was at 7:18 pm.

ADJOURNMENT-With no further business, Alderman Elston motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 pm. Alderman Fulk seconded the motion. Roll Call: Taylor-Sanford, yea, Fulk, yea, Nieto, yea, Elston, 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