

Grant City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 19, 2011

The regular meeting of the Grant City Commission was held on Monday, September 19, 2011, at the City of Grant Offices.

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Terry Fett called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
3. **Roll Call:**

PRESENT: Mayor Terry Fett, Commissioner Julie Hallman, Commissioner Anne Pickard, Commissioner Terri Yeomans, Commissioner Kevin Smith, and Commissioner Matt Bouwkamp
Others Present: Sherry Powell – Assistant City Manager/Clerk, Dan VanBelzen – Chief of Police, Holly Moon – Newaygo County Treasurer, Dan Graham, and Ken Page of A-Waste.
ABSENT: Commissioner Cheryl Weeks
EXCUSED: None
4. **Approval of the Agenda:**

Motion: Motion made by Yeomans, second by Smith to approve the agenda.
Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Public Comment:**

Ken Page of A-Waste stopped by answer any questions the City Commission had about the rates, surcharges, and recycling services offered in their proposal. The two biggest changes are the rates lowered and the recycling option added. With a higher volume it could be cheaper for recycling. All recyclables are taken to single stream recycling in Kent County, and they are not making any money on this service. Ken asked to be placed on the Agenda in October.

Holly Moon, Newaygo County Treasurer was here for her annual visit and update. BS&A.net software has negotiated a contract amount of 10% discount for Assessing and Tax software to get it, with an option of paying over 2-3 years without any interest. There is a possibility of even getting a 20% discount with enough units signing up. Recent foreclosures were 128 parcels, and City of Grant had only one parcel included, which was on Lake Street. Overall foreclosures are down 6-8 from last year, and there were two tax sales last year. Of the 40 extensions granted by Judge Monton, 38 of them were redeemed. Her office is also working on a pilot program with the Stat eto get parcels back on the tax rolls. They are putting together a budgeting class and working with two local banks to set up accounts similar to Christmas savings accounts to help taxpayers budget better to pay their taxes.
6. **Consent Agenda**

a-e. *Approval of the Consent Agenda*
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Yeomans to approve the consent agenda.
Motion carried unanimously.
7. **Unfinished Business:**

a. Planning Commission vacancies (2) : There are still two vacancies, and no recommendations by Mayor Fett.
8. **New Business**

a. Motion Item 1: Consideration for approval of Wilbur-Ellis request for height of 37FT for proposed blending tanks:
Motion: Motion made by Yeomans, second by Pickard to approve
Wilbur-Ellis has requested to move some existing farm blending tanks and putting in two new ones in the same spot, then re-arranging three of the others to make a better use of existing space. The only difference between the old farm tanks and the replacement ones are the coned-shaped ends that add the additional 2' on each tank. The Planning Commission already met and approved the site plan review and is recommending approval of the City Commission.
Yeomans commented that they keep the place looking nice.
Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Resolution 11-42: Consideration to Approve the Newaygo County Area Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement.
Motion: Motion made by Smith, second by Pickard to approve Resolution 11-42.
Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Resolution 11-43: Consideration for opting out of the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act of 2011.
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Smith to approve Resolution 11-43.

As mentioned in the Manager's Report, the State of Michigan has once again created legislation that asks everyone to "do as I say, not as I do." Since our employees already fall under the hard caps and actually exceed their approved mandates, Doug makes a valid point about opting out. Since this option is available to local units of government, we should choose to opt out rather than let legislators dictate anything more to us.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Other Business**

- a. Ord. 23-1: Planning Commission Ordinance Draft:

Doug has requested everyone to come up with a list of comments/questions before he drafts a revised version for the 1st reading to be considered at the October Commission Meeting. To be compliant with the new ordinance, Doug needed to make a number of changes that you will see throughout the draft ordinance. Please send questions and comments to Doug over the next week or two.

Motion: Motion made by Yeomans, second by Pickard to move forward with this ordinance.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. **Information Items / Updates**

- a. Blanche Lake Water Quality – Treatments: As allowed by the permit, the DPW will begin raking out the treated cattails this month. Doug made a presentation to The Fremont Area Community Foundation this month, and we expect to find out very soon the status of that Ice Mountain grant request.
- b. Safe Routes to School - Sidewalks: Everything has been submitted to MDOT, and Doug received confirmation that they have received it. We hope to know by Christmas if the \$105,000 grant request is approved. All information and routes are also available on the City's website under the Public Notices tab, and of course printed copies will be made available.
- c. City-GPS Salt Purchase and Storage Assistance: This is a perfect example of collaboration, and it will definitely save money for both the City and Grant Public Schools. Doug is still waiting to find out what quantity the Schools expect to need before we make the bulk purchase of salt.

11. **Public Comments:**

None

- 12. **Adjournment** without objection at 7:25p.m.

Mayor Terry Fett

Sherry Powell, Grant City Clerk