

Grant City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 21, 2009

The special meeting of the Grant City Commission was held on Monday, December 21, 2009, at the City of Grant Offices.

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

PRESENT: Mayor Terry Fett, Commissioner Julie Hallman, Commissioner Anne Pickard, Commissioner Harry Robinson, Commissioner Terri Yeomans, and Commissioner Kevin Smith
Others Present: Doug La Fave – City Manager, Sherry Powell – Assistant City Manager/Clerk, Andy Lofgren – NCEDO, Dan VanBelzen – Chief of Police, and Joe Pulaski – Grant Police Department.
ABSENT: Commissioner Cheryl Lake
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:**

None
6. **Consent Agenda**

a-f. *Approval of the Consent Agenda*
Motion: Motion made by Robinson, second by Pickard to approve the consent agenda.
Motion carried unanimously.
7. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a. Planning Commission vacancy: We still have a vacancy on the Planning Commission which needs to be filled.
Please let us know if you have any candidates interested in filling the vacancy.
8. **New Business**
 - a. Resolution 09-54: Resolution providing for the confirmation of the Mayor's appointments to City Boards:
Board of Review: Ron Murray, Term Ending November 2011
Zoning Board of Appeals: Kasi Ostyn, Term Ending November 2013
Zoning Board of Appeals: Angela Bennett, Term Ending November 2013
Motion: Motion made by Robinson, second by Hallman to approve Resolution 09-54.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - b. Resolution 09-55: Resolution providing for fire protection special assessment district.
Motion: Motion made by Yeomans, second by Hallman to approve Resolution 09-55.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - c. Resolution 09-56: Resolution authorizing payment and administration of the grant for school crossing flashers.
Motion: Motion made by Hallman, second by Pickard to approve Resolution 09-56.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - d. Motion Item: City towing contract with A-1 Towing to enforce Ordinance #18, regulating parking between November and April for snow plowing.
Motion: Motion made by Yeomans, second by Smith to approve the contract with A-1 Towing.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - e. Motion Item: Invoices for USDA Sewer Project.
Motion: Motion made by Robinson, second by Hallman to approve the invoices for the USDA Sewer Project.
Motion carried unanimously.
9. **Other Business**
 - a. Andy Lofgren-NCEDO: Andy addressed the City Commission and began by stating NCEDO has been working for ten years now. Strategic priorities were shared, including retention of existing businesses and jobs, attracting and growing new businesses and jobs, enhancing countywide tourism attraction efforts, and expanding awareness of

Newaygo County and the role of NCEDO. They currently meet with existing businesses at least once annually, and they typically have someone from Michigan Economic Development Commission (MEDC) there as well. The strategy of attracting and growing new businesses and jobs is not working as well, but they continue to promote Newaygo County and develop relationships to improve this. NCEDO is also working with the local Chambers of Commerce, and helped to form a countywide Convention & Visitors Bureau. The new Welcome Center is getting lots of foot traffic, and has been a great addition for the County. NCEDO is also a partner with The Right Place, which helps to help reach a much larger audience. Some highlights include the Agricultural Renaissance Zone for Gerber Products, which helped to save 1,100 jobs. Agriculture continues to do very well in the current economy. Andy also discussed SCORE, which brings mainly retired business executives together to provide free counseling to the next generation of entrepreneurs and business owners. The Stream was also discussed briefly, and will house retail on the bottom floor and the top floor will allow long distance commuters to work from this office space as well as a training facility for MCC. The project was made possible through the Wired Grant received three years ago.

Mayor Fett thanked Andy for his hard work and dedication to the entire County, and he explained how he worked with Andy on his own innovative dock system. He also commented on the helpfulness of Al Wilson with the SCORE program, and praised their services, which is also free of charge.

b. Ordinance #27 as amended: The Zoning Ordinance now has visual illustrations so that it is easier for readers to understand. This should take most of the confusion out of the process when property owners are filling out an application for zoning compliance permit. Ordinance #27 as amended will be submitted for approval in the near future.

10. ***Information Items / Updates***

a. Streetscape: The light poles and L.E.D. fixtures are finally up and turned on. The downtown is much more pedestrian friendly, and the entire downtown will look much nicer by next spring when the landscaping and trees are green, and the stamped concrete is once again visible.

b. Sewer Project update: The lining portion of the project went extremely well, with only two or three minor complaints. There are currently no problems with the project, and there is nothing intrusive going on which might create problems. They are currently working on the new pole building.

c. Community Building update: The bathrooms are under construction now, and the front steps of the building will soon be replaced as weather permits. We will be restoring the ceiling about three to four feet higher, and will be installing energy-efficient light fixtures. In the kitchen, the majority of the work will be replacing the old stove with two new stoves complete with a hood.

11. ***Public Comments:***

Commissioner Pickard asked a couple of questions about the audit, including the separation of duties listed as a material weakness.

Doug La Fave responded that like most other small government offices, it is really not feasible to further delegate the responsibilities.

Sherry Powell commented that this was discussed at length with the auditors, and they pointed out that there really is no possible way to resolve it in a small office like ours. The auditor made a point to tell us this is an unrealistic requirement, and they will have to list it every year. They told us this is the same in all of their smaller communities in which they provide audit services for.

12. ***Adjournment*** without objection at 7:44p.m.

Mayor Terry Fett

Sherry Powell, Grant City Clerk