

A regular session of the Grundy Center City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 21, 2022 in the Council Chambers by Mayor Eberline. Present: Smith, Kuester, McDonald, Rasmussen and Lamp. Absent: None. The City of Grundy Center held this regular city council meeting in person and electronically via an online meeting or conference call. Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone. <https://meet.goto.com/541473597> You can also dial in using your phone. United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3311](tel:+18722403311) Access Code: 541-473-597.

Kuester moved and Rasmussen seconded the approval of the meeting agenda with no conflicts of interest. Motion carried five ayes.

Smith moved and McDonald seconded the consent agenda consisting of: approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held Monday, February 7, 2022. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline asked to strike item #5, the annual update from Jeff Carson, GCMU Manager.

Mayor Eberline acknowledged County Sheriff Kirk Dolleslager and opened a discussion on dispatching fees for Ambulance and Police Department. Dolleslager commented on surrounding cities within Grundy County are charged for dispatching in the 28E agreements with Grundy County. Dolleslager noted private ambulance services such as UnityPoint (Marshalltown) and MercyOne (Sartori) all pay their respective county a fee for dispatching. BJ Jorgenson spoke of call volume statistics from 2016 versus 2021, 617 and 900 respectively. Dwight Gliem, Grundy Center EMS Director, was acknowledged by Mayor Eberline. Gliem also spoke of the privately owned services paying dispatching fees. Gliem commented if our EMS service would not continue to service the County residents, the residents may have to wait for an ambulance to arrive from Waterloo or Marshalltown. Gliem mentioned that last year the Ambulance Department received less than \$10,000 in taxation revenue. Dolleslager commented that these fees were put into play prior to his department raises being determined. Mayor Eberline asked if there would be any flexibility in the fee for the Ambulance Department. Dolleslager said no, the fee is a great deal lower than others are however is willing to defer until the next year. Nathan Kappel, Ambulance Board member, commented that he feels they have done great things by building the Ambulance Services over the years and almost feels like a punishment from the County in doing so. No further discussion, no formal action taken.

Mayor Eberline introduced John Gade, Fox Strand, Inc., to discuss the 2022-23 Water Main Replacement Project. Gade commented that the preliminary designs, SRF application, utility mapping, etc have all been accomplished. This project will include about one mile of water main replacement five different project areas throughout the City. The projected areas are: PROJECT AREA 1 – F Ave (end of road to 2nd St) & 200 block (F Ave to E Ave) & E Ave (200 & 300 block); PROJECT AREA 2 – 2ND St (C Ave to D Ave); PROJECT AREA 3 – H Ave (14th St to 10th St); PROJECT AREA 4 – 5th St (M Ave to K Ave); and PROJECT AREA 5 – B Ave (4th St to 5th St), 5th St (A Ave to B Ave) & A Ave (5th St to 4th St) & Mill St (501 Mill St to Richelieu Foods). This project as a whole will give 63 homes new water mains. Gade explained it would be very beneficial to add a loop of 8" water main from Mill Street to the north of Richelieu Foods. This loop will need environmental and SRF approval first. Gade explain in order to complete this project the City will need permanent and temporary easements with Bethany Presbyterian Church and the property owner of 308 E Avenue. The Council will need to determine a fair price to offer for these easements prior to March 21, 2022. Once easements are secured, plan is to accept bids on April 12 and award the contract at April 18, 2022 meeting. Gade explained that flexibility will need to be built into this project may start in 2022 and have to finish in 2023 due to material lead times.

McDonald moved and Lamp seconded action on Resolution 2022-14, a resolution to set a public hearing for March 21, 2022 for the City of Grundy Center easement acquisition for the 2022-23 Water Main Replacement project. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline acknowledged Clerk Sawyer for a discussion on the fiscal year 2023 annual city budget. Sawyer commented on the department budget requests for the General, Special and Enterprise Funds. Sawyer explained that 6% wage increases were built into each department budget; cost for an updated Comprehensive Plan and seven months of rent to Maroon & White, Inc were all included. Sawyer then presented the FY23 City budget certification showing that with the department requests and current debt service the property tax levy would be \$15.69598/\$1000 assessed value which is \$.19/\$1000 assessed value lower than current year property tax levy. Sawyer presented two more options where the City could levy for more debt service to prepay on some GO Bonds: 1) \$10,000 more debt service would change the property tax levy to \$15.78631/\$1000 assessed value or 2) \$15,000 more debt service would change the property tax levy to \$15.83147/\$1000 assessed value. Sawyer explained the

Council needs to determine what the property tax levy should be, the budget is balanced with the lowest levy. Smith commented with the increased property tax valuations this year, the City should not tax more than is needed. Smith moved and Rasmussen seconded action to proceed with publishing for a public hearing to certify the FY2023 Annual City Budget with the property tax levy of \$15.69598/\$1000 assessed value. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline opened the public forum at 7:48pm. Lennard Stephen, 309 2nd Street, thanked the Council for proceeding with the water main project in his neighborhood and on proposed wage increase for the EMS Director. No further public comments, forum closed at 7:55pm.

Finance Committee/ Clerk commented on next meeting will have a presentation from City Auditor, CMS Director and Tyson Albright.

Public Safety Committee commented on annual calls for services statistics, applicant turned down the police officer position, testing for other applicants and "Back the Blue" law signed by Governor Reynolds.

Public Works Committee made no comments.

Mayor Eberline commented that he met with the City Attorney to discuss the agreement on the Sports Complex with the School District.

Kuester moved and Smith seconded adjournment of the meeting at 8:15 pm. Motion carried five ayes. Next meeting will be Monday, March 7, 2022 at 6:30pm.

Attest: Kristy Sawyer, City Clerk

Dr. Paul Eberline, Mayor