

A regular session of the Grundy Center City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 18, 2023, in the Council Chambers by Mayor Eberline. Present: Smith, Kuester, Lamp, Rasmussen, and McDonald. Absent: None. Visitors: James Natvig and family, Matt Mahler, IRUA, and Rich Ahlberg. The City of Grundy Center held this regular city council meeting in person and electronically via an online meeting or conference call at a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Please join my meeting on your computer, tablet, or smartphone. <https://meet.goto.com/482393597> You can also dial in using your phone. Access Code: 482-393-597 United States: [+1 \(224\) 501-3412](tel:+12245013412).

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

McDonald moved and Rasmussen seconded action on the consent agenda consisting of approval of the minutes of the regular session held Monday, December 4, 2023. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline acknowledged Melody Hoy, President of Maroon & White, Inc, for the discussion on the next lease agreement for space at Kids Campus. Hoy expressed thank you to the City for maintaining the building/property for several years prior to Maroon & White, Inc. having the ability to proceed with construction. Hoy commented that there are currently 155 kids in and out of the building on a daily basis. Grundy Center Preschool & Childcare is not at full capacity, however unable to increase census until more staff are hired. Hoy explained the lease from last year was only a one-year lease and the lease amount will not change in years to come. Eberline suggested the lease be written as an auto-renewal with an annual update given to the City. Recommendation was to ask City Attorney to review. No further discussion or formal action taken.

Kuester moved and Rasmussen seconded action to open a public hearing at 6:44pm on Ordinance 573 – Chapter 148 – Trees. No public comments. Kuester moved and Rasmussen seconded action to close the public hearing at 6:45pm. No further discussions, motions carried five ayes.

Kuester moved and Rasmussen seconded action on the First Reading of Ordinance 573, an ordinance amending Chapter 148-Trees to update the list of acceptable trees to be planted within the city limits. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes. Kuester moved and Smith seconded action to suspend the rules to move to the Third Reading on Ordinance 573. No discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Rasmussen moved and McDonald seconded action on Resolution 2023-85, a resolution to approve the hiring of James Natvig to fill the vacant full-time Police Officer position and set his wage. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline swore in Officer Natvig and Natvig was pinned by his daughter.

Clerk Sawyer swore in Mayor Eberline and then Mayor Eberline swore in Rick Smith, Merideth McDonald and Jason “Butch” Kuester for terms beginning January 2, 2024.

Mayor Eberline acknowledged Matt Mahler, Iowa Rural Utilities Association, for a discussion on notice the City received regarding a 5% rate increase on water purchases effective January 2024. Mahler presented this rate increase is mostly due to the increase IRUA is receiving from the plants from Newton and Marshalltown. Both of which have been double digit increases over the past three years, along with interest rate increases on debt. According to Mahler, IRUA strives to bring on new customers to minimize the rate increases necessary to pass on to the wholesale users. No further discussion or action taken.

Mayor Eberline opened the discussion on Ordinance 574 – Chapter 92 Water Rates regarding a 3% rate increase and possible take action to publish for a public hearing for January 8, 2024. Rasmussen questioned Bangasser if 3% is enough to cover and Bangasser explained we initiated the 2% last July to the addition 3% is sufficient. Kuester moved and Smith seconded action to proceed with publishing for a public hearing for January 8, 2024, on Ordinance 574 – Chapter 92 Water Rates. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline opened the public forum at 7:18pm. Rich Ahlberg commented on junk cars along D Avenue and 4<sup>th</sup> Street properties; adding agenda to Channel 11; move public forum; and selling of city owned properties. Public forum closed at 7:32pm.

Finance Committee/Clerk commented on Park Board meeting this week; limited applicants for Community Center position; and Hazard Mitigation Plan draft was sent out for review.

Public Safety Committee made commented on Administrative Assistant out on medical leave for the time

being.

Public Works Committee commented on local snowmobile club request to use A Avenue to connect access trail from 4<sup>th</sup> Street to T37.

Rasmussen moved and Lamp seconded adjournment of the meeting at 7:45pm. Motion carried five ayes. Next meeting will be Monday, January 8, 2024, at 6:30pm.

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Attest: Kristy Sawyer, City Clerk

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Dr. Paul Eberline, Mayor