

A regular session of the Grundy Center City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 17, 2024, in the Council Chambers by Mayor Eberline. Present: Smith, Kuester, McDonald, Lamp and Rasmussen. Absent: None. Visitors: Rich Ahlberg, James Natvig, Mel Bowen, Lindsey Freese, Wayne Lubbert. Please join my meeting on your computer, tablet, or smartphone. <https://meet.goto.com/345144277> You can also dial in using your phone. Access Code: 345-144-277 United States: +1 (571) 317-3122.

Rasmussen moved and Kuester seconded the approval of the meeting agenda with a conflict of interest with Rasmussen on Item 10. No discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Smith moved and Lamp seconded action to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held Monday, June 3, 2024; and approval of the May 2024 Treasurers Report; and approval of the annual liquor license for Crystal Bowl, 1602 G Avenue; and approval to close 11th Street from F Avenue intersection north to the driveway of 503 11th Street for American Lutheran Church every Wednesday night starting September 4, 2024, through April 30, 2025, from 5:00-7:30pm. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

May 2024 Expenditures per fund: General: \$209317; Road Use Tax: \$9056; Employee Benefits: \$33445; Local Option Sales Tax: \$31367; Hotel Motel Tax: \$14633; Community Betterment Fund: \$8875; Library Gift Trust: \$2046; Community Center Gift Trust: \$60000; Tree Gift Trust: \$6984; Debt Service Fund: \$352546; Water Fund: \$52941; Water Reserves Fund: \$4650; Water Reserves Sinking Fund: \$46832; Sanitary Sewer Fund: \$24043; Sanitary Sewer Reserves Fund: \$15800; Sewer Sinking Fund: \$166453; Sanitation Fund: \$31768; Ambulance Fund: \$48549; Storm Sewer Fund: \$3188; Total: \$1122492.

May 2024 Revenues per fund: General: \$91340; Cultural Scientific Levy Fund: \$1063; Road Use Tax: \$31841; Employee Benefits Fund: \$14679; Emergency Fund: \$1063; Local Option Sales Tax: \$31367; Hotel Motel Fund: \$6995; TIF Fund: \$9683; Community Betterment Fund: \$15684; Swimming Pool Reserve Fund: \$4307; Equipment Reserve PW Fund: \$100; Fire Equipment Reserve Fund: \$16819; Police Reserve Fund: \$100; Library Gift Trust: \$3527; Tree Gift Trust: \$8464; Debt Service Fund: \$10003; Water Fund: \$47142; Water Reserve Sinking Fund: \$4650; Sanitary Sewer Fund: \$42221; Sewer Sinking fund: \$15800; Sanitation Fund: \$32290; Ambulance Fund: \$75548; Ambulance Equipment Reserve: \$4037; Storm Sewer: \$4270; Total: \$472993.

Kuester moved and Rasmussen seconded action on the Second Reading of Ordinance 575 - Water Rates, an ordinance amending water rates by 2% effective July 1, 2024. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Lamp moved and McDonald seconded action on the Second Reading of Ordinance 576 – Sewer Rates, an ordinance amending sewer rates by 2% effective July 1, 2024. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Smith moved and Lamp seconded action on the Second Reading of Ordinance 577 – Fireworks, an ordinance to amend the allowable dates and times for exploding fireworks within the City limits. This ordinance is to match the City code to the State of Iowa Code. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Rasmussen moved and McDonald seconded action on Resolution 2024-41, a resolution authorizing the fiscal year 2024 annual cash transfers. Sawyer explained the transfer from Emergency Fund to Employee Benefits Fund for property tax levied for EMS employee benefits; unused funds in the general fund for Fire Department and Community Center; and the transfer for the interfund loan from the Storm Water Fund to the Sanitary Sewer fund. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Lamp moved and Smith seconded approval for Mayor Eberline's appointment of Dean and Darrel Shuey for the vacant zoning/building inspector position for a term ending December 31, 2024. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

McDonald moved and Lamp seconded action on Resolution 2024-42, a resolution authorizing the vacation and comp time payout and setting annual wages for employees effective July 1, 2024. Kuester and Lamp questioned by the police and EMS department wages were set at 10% increases and remaining City department set at 3%. Eberline explained police department wages for our employees are lower than most departments our size and also a common statement made by our police department employees. Ambulance Department is a self-funding department, meaning no portion of the City general fund property tax revenue is allocated to the Ambulance Department. Kuester asked for call volume and revenues updates to support a 10% wage increase. Kuester commented that this will cause animosity between

different city departments if not kept the same across the board. Lamp agreed, other departments have employees with seniority and less turnover, however receiving much less of a wage increase. Lamp feels higher wages may not solve all the issues in the police department. Mcdonald commented that comparing completely different skill sets and jobs. Lindsey Freese, Library Director, commented that the Library Association of the State distributes a wage survey to all libraries annually and feels the wages for her department are comparable to those with the same size as ours. Smith asked what will be gained by tabling the resolution. Mcdonal moved and Smith seconded action to approve the vacation and comp time payouts and table the setting the wages for FY2025 until July 1, 2024, meeting. No further discussion, motion carried four ayes (Mcdonald, Smith, Lamp, and Kuester) and one abstain (Rasmussen).

Rasmussen moved and Mcdonald seconded action on Resolution 2024-43, a resolution to accept a letter resignation from Officer Jessica Bradley and approval to appoint Officer James Natvig as Interim Police Chief, effective July 1, 2024. Lamp asked if Officer Natvig was aware of the appointment. Officer Natvig was acknowledged and confirmed he was aware of and was not interested in the Chief position long term but willing to fill in. Natvig commented that he agrees that an applicant with more Chief experience and ability to reside in Grundy Center is what is needed and important. Kuester asked if other officers with more longevity were asked to fill in, Mayor Eberline confirmed they had not. Smith asked if there are any other options. No further discussion, motion carried four ayes (Rasmussen, Mcdonald, Lamp and Smith) and one nay (Kuester).

Mcdonald moved and Lamp seconded approval of Mayor Eberline's appointments of Sally Lennard and Cindy Freese to the Library Board with terms ending June 30, 2030. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline opened the discussion on a letter of support for Nick Buseman, Grundy County Conservation for Pioneer Trail connection between Grundy Center and Holland. Mayor Eberline asked if Council had objections to submitting this letter of support. Smith agreed to proceed. No further discussion, no formal action needed.

Mayor Eberline opened the public forum at 7:17pm. Rich Ahlberg commented on more potholes throughout town, especially Norby's curb & gutter, and damage done to 4th Street, H – J Avenues over the weekend. Wayne Lubbert, 302 2nd Street, asked if C Avenue street would be resurfaced soon. No further comments, public forum closed at 7:23pm.

Finance Committee/Clerk made no comments.

Public Safety Committee made no comments.

Public Works Committee commented that tennis court at the Sports Complex will be sandblasted in July and resurfaced in August.

Rasmussen moved and Lamp seconded adjournment of the meeting at 7:30pm. Motion carried five ayes. Special meeting on Monday, June 24, 2024, at 6:30pm and next regular meeting will be Monday, July 1, 2024, at 6:30pm.

Attest: Kristy Sawyer, City Clerk

Dr. Paul Eberline, Mayor