

A regular session of the Grundy Center City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 15, 2024, in the Council Chambers by Mayor Eberline. Present: Smith, Kuester, Mcdonald, Lamp and Rasmussen. Absent: None. Visitors: Rich Ahlberg, John Jensen, Nathan Kappel, Mel Bowen. Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone. <https://meet.goto.com/710357941> You can also dial in using your phone. Access Code: 710-357-941 United States: +1 (872) 240-3212.

Smith moved and Rasmussen seconded the approval of the meeting agenda with a conflict of interest with Lamp on Item 4c. No discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Rasmussen moved and Smith seconded action to approve the minutes of the regular and work sessions held Monday, July 1, 2024, and approval of the June 2024 Treasurers Report; and approval of the annual liquor license for Scotty's Saloon, 806 G Avenue. No further discussion, motion carried four ayes (Rasmussen, Mcdonald, Kuester and Smith) and one abstain (Lamp).

June 2024 Expenditures per fund: General: \$234114; Cultural & Scientific Levy Fund: \$7468; Road Use Tax: \$38325; Employee Benefits: \$31912; Emergency Fund: \$30039; Local Option Sales Tax: \$22323; TIF Fund: \$181017; Library Gift Trust: \$2152; Tree Gift Trust: \$278; Debt Service Fund: \$500; Water Fund: \$46122; Water Reserves Fund: \$6650; Sanitary Sewer Fund: \$18163; Sanitary Sewer Reserves Fund: \$15800; Sanitation Fund: \$29249; Ambulance Fund: \$71188; Storm Sewer Fund: \$11305; Total: \$746606.

June 2024 Revenues per fund: General: \$114235; Cultural Scientific Levy Fund: \$206; Road Use Tax: \$59580; Employee Benefits Fund: \$32879; Emergency Fund: \$206; Local Option Sales Tax: \$22323; TIF Fund: \$96; Community Betterment Fund: \$11162; Swimming Pool Reserve Fund: \$-2344; Equipment Reserve PW Fund: \$25000; Fire Equipment Reserve Fund: \$36226; Police Reserve Fund: \$15000; Fire Dept Gift Trust: \$230; Library Gift Trust: \$1606; Community Center Gift Trust: \$35000; Debt Service Fund: \$109907; Water Fund: \$49385; Water Reserve Sinking Fund: \$6650; Sanitary Sewer Fund: \$41609; Sewer Sinking fund: \$25800; Sanitation Fund: \$31776; Ambulance Fund: \$103169; Ambulance Equipment Reserve: \$54; Storm Sewer: \$4207; Total: \$723961

Mayor Eberline acknowledged Nathan Kappel, Fire Chief, for an update on the Fire Department needs. Kappel explained that OSHA is proposing new emergency response standards for fire departments. The standards will cost more than \$14,000 for a small volunteer fire department to comply with these proposed standards, DOT inspection training of trucks and brakes required annually, medical exams for all firefighters every two years costing up to \$2500 per exam, all officers will be required to have or exceed NFPA 1021 Fire Officer Training, and many additional administrative duties. Kappel expressed concerns that these proposed standards could potentially close many small fire departments throughout the Grundy County and our county seat department will be required to cover the entire county which will increase response times over 20 minutes per call. Public comments on these standards are to be made to the NVFC by July 22, 2024. No further discussion, no formal action taken.

Mayor Eberline opened the discussion on posting for vacant police officer position, future wages with pay scale upgrades, and possibly take action. Eberline mentioned the Finance Committee met to look at different wage scales from different cities and are recommending the following: Chief of Police starting salary at \$35.00 per hour; Police Captain starting at \$32.75 per hour; Senior Patrol Officer starting at \$32.50 per hour; certified Police Officer starting at \$30.00 per hour; uncertified Police Officer starting at \$28.00 per hour, once certified a \$2.00 per hour increase; a \$0.50 per hour per year up to five years of experience; Certified Part Time Officer starting at \$27.00 per hour; Non-certified Part Time Reserve starting at \$25.00 per hour. Rasmussen commented that these salary increases may be subsidized by contracts with Grundy County Memorial Hospital; Grundy Center School District; etc. Until the property tax levy is increased for fiscal year 2026, the City will use reserve funds to cover these salary increases. Smith expressed his commitment to increase wages to increase the attractiveness of our department for the officers we need. Eberline commented that many details on a contract with Grundy County Memorial Hospital are being worked through. Lamp asked if every city position will be looked at for a market adjustment. Smith explained the plan is to do so prior to next budget season and recommendations for wage adjustments will be considered for all employees. Rasmussen moved and Mcdonald seconded a motion to proceed with publishing for the vacant police officer position and set wages by position as listed above effective immediately. No further discussion, motion carried three ayes (Rasmussen, Smith and Mcdonald) and two nays (Kuester and Lamp).

Smith moved and Rasmussen seconded action on Resolution 2024-46, a resolution authorizing the

purchase of a new BEE III standard radar unit for the new squad car from MPH Industries, Inc for \$2,239. Interim Chief Natvig explained this unit will be paid for from a private donation the department received. The radar will be shipped and installed in the new squad car prior to completion of equipment installation. Natvig explained the department will not have to wait until the GTSB grant funds are received and car is already here before installing a new radar unit. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Smith moved and Mcdonald seconded action to table Resolution 2024-47, a resolution to authorize the purchase of security camera systems for City Hall/Community Center, until more questions can be answered from vendors. Seven quotes have been received with several different systems. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Lamp moved and Rasmussen seconded action to approve Mayor's appointment of Brandy Bingman to the Community Center Board for a three-year term ending June 30, 2027. One vacant seat is still available. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline opened the public forum at 7:18pm. Rich Ahlberg commented on junk letters sent out and time limits given. No further comments, public forum closed at 7:22pm.

Finance Committee/Clerk made no comments.

Public Safety Committee made no comments.

Public Works Committee commented on sand filtration system for pool; painting/sandblasting project for pool; sealcoating streets this week; installed two new water valves involving Creekside; and complaints on social media regarding storm water intakes due to being plugged by grass clippings in the street.

Rasmussen moved and Smith seconded adjournment of the meeting at 7:35pm. Motion carried five ayes. Next meeting will be Monday, August 5, 2024, at 6:30pm.

Attest: Kristy Sawyer, City Clerk

Dr. Paul Eberline, Mayor