

A regular session of the Grundy Center City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 16, 2026, in the Council Chambers by Mayor Eberline. Present: Mcdonald, Stensland, Smith, Lamp, and Kuester. Absent: None. Visitors: Mel Bowen, Mark Morgan, Rich Ahlberg.

Smith moved and Mcdonald seconded the approval of the meeting agenda with no conflicts of interest. No discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Kuester moved and Mcdonald seconded action for approval of the minutes of the regular session held Monday, February 2, 2026, and approval of the January 2026 Treasurers Report. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

January 2026 Expenditures per fund: General: \$125110; Road Use Tax: \$16714; Employee Benefits: \$74769; Local Option Sales Tax Fund: \$42751; Community Betterment Fund: \$4250; Library Gift Trust: \$260; Ambulance Gift Trust Fund: \$5000; Continuing Projects: \$7879; Water Fund: \$43589; Water Reserves Fund: \$4700; Sanitary Sewer Fund: \$30855; Sanitary Sewer Reserve Fund: \$15875; Sanitation Fund: \$32674; Ambulance Fund: \$66565; Storm Sewer Fund: \$2887; Total: \$473877. January 2026 Revenues per fund: General: \$87111; Road Use Tax: \$32195; Employee Benefits Fund: \$3521; Local Option Sales Tax: \$42751; Hotel Motel Tax Fund: \$6900; TIF Fund: \$1282; Community Betterment Fund: \$21376; Fire Equipment Reserve Fund: \$7221; Library Gift Trust: \$3768; Debt Service Fund: \$1334; Water Fund: \$49147; Water Reserve Sinking Fund: \$4700; Sanitary Sewer Fund: \$44035; Sewer Sinking fund: \$15875; Sanitation Fund: \$33526; Ambulance Fund: \$45643; Ambulance Equipment Reserve Fund: \$928; Storm Sewer Fund: \$4316; Total: \$405628.

Smith moved and Mcdonald seconded action on Resolution 2026-11, a resolution authorizing a pre-levy for the 2020 Street Improvement General Obligation Bond for the fiscal year 2027 city budget. Eberline explained this resolution is recommended by Maggie Burger, Speer Financial, to levy an additional principle payment for this bond for the next fiscal year. No further discussions, motion carried five ayes.

Lamp moved and Smith seconded action on Resolution 2026-12, a resolution authorizing Mayor Eberline to sign the estimate for GO Gov app for text alerts and notifications. Stensland asked if a website redesign should be considered before or after this new app goes live. Eberline commented on this app is to increase communications with the public. Smith commented that Chamber Main Street has agreed to assist with the fee for this app of one-fourth of the cost up to \$1000. Plan is to have this app live in the next couple of months. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline opened the discussion on Ordinance 590, an ordinance to amend Chapter 18.01 City Clerk and Chapter 21.01 Public Works Director and possibly act to publish for a public hearing on March 2, 2026. Eberline explained currently these two positions are appointed annually and explained concerns with the importance of having stability in them. This amendment is to remove the annual appointment. Once appointed, the employee will remain until they left employment or proper human resource policy is followed for removal. Stensland commented on the indefinite terms, will this limit future city councils and cost more in legal fees. Kuester explained since our state is an "at will" state, human resource policies would need to be followed anyway. Eberline commented these two positions are critical to the function of the city and annual appointments are not necessary. Kuester moved and Lamp seconded action to approve to publish for a public hearing on Ordinance 590 for March 2, 2026. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline opened the discussion on the fiscal year 2027 annual city budget preparations. Clerk Sawyer explained that the city received a 4.59% increase in property tax valuations for fiscal year 2027, however with the HF718 from 2025, the city also received a 2% reduction in this growth and will be credited with only 2.54% increase. Due to this reduction the general fund property tax revenues will only increase by \$24,000. Sawyer reviewed a draft of the proposed property tax levy notice showing potential worst-case scenario of an increase of \$0.39/\$1000 of property tax valuation which includes the additional debt service levy amount for the approved pre-levy for the 2020 Street Improvement GO Bond. Sawyer explained Finance Committee is working through the draft audit currently and will return with more revisions. No further discussions or action taken.

Mcdonald moved and Smith seconded action to approve the Mayor's appointments to the Board of Adjustments of Trevor Schellhorn, term ending December 31, 2026, and Erik Freese, term ending December 31, 3030. Kuester commented that they will need to take the Open Records/Open Meetings class. No further discussions, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline opened the public forum at 6.59pm. Rich Ahlberg commented on State DOT in town filling potholes and asked when we could do our city streets. No further comments were made, public forum closed at 7:03pm.

Finance Committee/Clerk commented on cybersecurity projects have begun; attending Caselle User Forum tomorrow; and Park Board meeting this week.

Public Safety Committee made no comments.

Public Works Committee commented on attending the IRUA Spring Conference last week.

Council Member Mcdonald commented on the Grundy Center Wellness Committee collaboration with the hospital and YMCA to provide Dexascan to individuals free of charge. Kuester commented that the building inspectors are running into problems with contractors not following our policy to complete necessary inspections on building projects. Kuester also complimented all city department heads for working hard on their annual budget requests and looking for many other revenue streams to provide the services our community can offer, as not all communities do that.

Smith moved and Mcdonald seconded adjournment of the meeting at 7:20pm. Motion carried five ayes. Next meeting will be Monday, March 2, 2026, at 6:30pm.

---

Attest: Kristy Sawyer, City Clerk

---

Dr. Paul Eberline, Mayor