

A regular session of the Grundy Center City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2026, in the Council Chambers by Mayor Eberline. Present: McDonald, Stensland via online link, Smith, Lamp, and Kuester. Absent: None. Visitors: Rachelle Thompson via online link, Mel Bowen, Rich Ahlberg, Holly Fleshner, Luke Davis, Connor and Lee Koch, Dwight Gliem, and Leonard Stephens.

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

McDonald moved and Kuester seconded action for approval of the minutes of the regular session held Monday, March 2, 2026; approval of the February 2026 Treasurers Report; and approval to Crystal Luke Davis to use a parking spot on G Avenue for mobile food truck vendors on April 26, May 10 & 17, June 14 & 21, July 26, and August 23, 2026 from 11am – 7:30pm. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

February 2026 Expenditures per fund: General: \$111923; Road Use Tax: \$14439; Employee Benefits: \$31564; Local Option Sales Tax Fund: \$26800; Library Gift Trust: \$500; Continuing Projects: \$15300; Water Fund: \$44945; Water Reserves Fund: \$4700; Sanitary Sewer Fund: \$32555; Sanitary Sewer Reserve Fund: \$15875; Sanitation Fund: \$31298; Ambulance Fund: \$54475; Storm Sewer Fund: \$1523 Total: \$385898. February 2026 Revenues per fund: General: \$43271; Road Use Tax: \$25395; Employee Benefits Fund: \$1989; Local Option Sales Tax: \$26800; Hotel Motel Tax Fund: \$1228; TIF Fund: \$747; Community Betterment Fund: \$13400; Fire Equipment Reserve Fund: \$-1019; Library Gift Trust: \$15408; Debt Service Fund: \$754; Water Fund: \$47419; Water Reserve Sinking Fund: \$4700; Sanitary Sewer Fund: \$42439; Sewer Sinking fund: \$15875; Sanitation Fund: \$33187; Ambulance Fund: \$61794; Storm Sewer Fund: \$4210; Total: \$337597.

Mayor Eberline introduced Holly Fleshner, Pony Express Easter Seals representative, for a presentation regarding upcoming fundraiser for April 4, 2026. Fleshner explained in the years past her family has raised \$57,984 for Easter Seals on the Easter weekend, due to the collection done on G Avenue on Saturday from 8-10am. Fleshner requested the stop light switched to flashing on Saturday, April 4, 2026, from 8-10am for this year's event. No further discussion or action needed, council agreed.

Mayor Eberline introduced Rachelle Thompson, CPA, to present the fiscal year 2025 annual city audit. Thompson explained she gave the city an unmodified opinion, which is the best opinion possible. The financial statements were presented fairly in all material respects, the cash-based financial position of the governmental and business type activities. Findings given included segregation of duties, more control over utility billing, collections and delinquent accounts are necessary. Eberline asked if there was anything critical to address immediately, which Thompson stated a collection policy and review of delinquent utility billings should be addressed. No further discussion or action.

Lamp moved and Smith seconded action on the First Reading of Ordinance 590, an ordinance to amend Chapter 18.01 City Clerk and Chapter 21.01 Public Works Director positions, previously tabled. Eberline acknowledged Sawyer, who read a statement of opposition of Ordinance 590 by Stensland. Eberline stated Smith, Stensland and himself met with the city attorney to discuss the state codes previously mentioned by Stensland regarding appointed staff. City attorney disagreed with Stensland code references, stating they were inaccurate and did not apply to these sections of the city code. Stensland proposed amending the ordinance to include multi-year appointments; automatic annual renewals; severance agreements and mandatory performance reviews. Smith commented in favor of not having indefinite appointments and an amendment for a multi-year appointment. Discussion led to including the Police Chief and EMS Director positions in this ordinance. Lamp commented that in her years on council, the city has had five different people in the Police Chief position, what is the purpose of a multi-year appointment when the city has difficulty in securing the stability in the position as it is. Smith moved and McDonald seconded a motion to amend Ordinance 590, to include the City Clerk, Public Works Director, Police Chief and EMS Director for a 3-year appointment and include a policy for an annual performance review of each position completed by the mayor. No further discussion, motions carried five ayes.

Smith moved and Lamp seconded action on Resolution 2026-13, a resolution authorizing Mayor Eberline to sign the five-year agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Lamp moved and Kuester seconded action to approve the mayor's appointments for Wes Beenken, David Stefl, and Sarah Nolder to the Community Center Board for a three-year term ending December 31,

2029. Kuester verified that the board members for the Community Center can have up to two members that live outside city limits. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline opened the discussion on the Ordinance 591 to amend Chapter 51, Junk and Junk Vehicles, written by Seth Schroeder, City Attorney. Sawyer explained this is first draft, more discussions on this will occur at next meeting on Monday, March 30, 2026. No further discussions or action taken.

Smith moved and McDonald seconded action to enter closed session at 7:04pm based on Chapter 21.5 (j) for discussion potential real estate purchase. Motion carried five ayes.

Lamp moved and Smith seconded action to close the closed session at 7:26pm and reenter into regular session and act if necessary. No discussion or action taken.

Mayor Eberline opened the public forum at 7:27pm. Leonard Stephens, 309 2nd Street, asked for a copy of Ordinance 591 draft. Lee and Connor Koch asked if any complaints have been received about racecars recently and requested a copy of Ordinance 591. No further comments made, and the public forum closed at 7:29pm.

Finance Committee/Clerk commented on request on the housing needs assessment by Jeff Kolb; building inspector amendments and fees; and committee meeting with Maggie Burger, Speer Financial, tomorrow.

Public Safety Committee commented that one officer left for academy this week.

Public Works Committee commented on Mid-American Energy fiber optic install coming to our city limits this summer.

Council Member McDonald commented on the Grundy Center Historical Society having completed an exhibit on our local fire department and their members. Open on Wednesdays from 1-3pm.

Smith moved and Lamp seconded adjournment of the meeting at 7:35pm. Motion carried five ayes.

A special meeting will be Monday, March 30, 2026, at 5:30pm and next regular meeting will be on Monday, April 6, 2026 at 6:30pm.

Attest: Kristy Sawyer, City Clerk

Dr. Paul Eberline, Mayor