

A special session of the Grundy Center City Council was called to order at 5:45 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2026, in the Council Chambers by Mayor Eberline. Present: McDonald, Stensland, Smith, and Lamp. Absent: Kuester. Visitors: Rich Ahlberg, Lee Koch, Leonard Stephens, Kyle Dudden, and Wayne Lubbert.

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

Lamp moved and McDonald seconded action for approval of the minutes of the regular session held Monday, March 16, 2026.

Smith moved and Lamp seconded action on the Second Reading of Ordinance 590, an ordinance to amend Chapter 18.01 City Clerk and Chapter 21.01 Public Works Director positions. No further discussion, motions carried four 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.

Mayor Eberline opened the discussion on Ordinance 592, an ordinance to amend Chapter 28 Ambulance Board and Chapter 35 Police Department for the appointment terms for the Ambulance and Police Chief and take action to publish for a public hearing on April 20, 2026. Sawyer explained that when the public hearing was held for Ordinance 590, Chapter 28 and 35 amendments were not included. Therefore, Ordinance 592 will be completed separately. This ordinance will amend the term for the Police Chief and Ambulance Chief for a three-year appointment. Smith moved and McDonald seconded action to publish for a public hearing on April 20, 2026, for Ordinance 592. No further discussion, motion carried four ayes.

Mayor Eberline opened the discussion on fiscal year 2027 annual city budget preparations and action to publish for the public hearing on April 20, 2026, for the fiscal year 2027 property tax and budget adoption. Eberline acknowledged Sawyer who explained different options for the Council to consider for the certified levy for fiscal year 2027. Option 1 is the set at the published proposed tax levy maximum of \$16.64063/\$1000 assessed valuation. Option 2 is to levy less for liability, property and self-insurance and employee benefit funds with a tax levy of \$16.42261/\$1000 assessed valuation. Option 3, the lowest possible levy, would be \$16.36009/\$1000 assess valuation. The city would take on risk with the lowest levy, by lowering the employee benefit fund further due to not all employees would use all their self-fund deductibles. Smith explained the average tax amount on a \$100,000 residential property is \$845. With option 3, the calculated tax on \$100,000 residential property is \$729, below the average. Smith moved and McDonald seconded action to publish for a public hearing on April 20, 2026, for the option 3 notice for \$16.36009/\$1000 assessed value for fiscal year 2027 certified budget. No further discussion, motion carried four ayes.

Lamp moved and Smith seconded approval to publish a help wanted ad for the fifth full-time police officer position, which was vacated by previous resignations. No further discussion, motion carried four ayes.

Mayor Eberline opened the discussion on the Ordinance 591 to amend Chapter 51, Junk and Junk Vehicles, written by Seth Schroeder, City Attorney. Schroeder explained that he as not pleased with this draft explaining by adding a "racing season" of April 1st-September 30th, no junk or junk vehicle nuisances could be enforced in that six months. Stensland commented that the first year used to identify the properties with the most nuisance issues and then following enforcement should be simpler. Eberline commented that the nuisance process is not cut and dry process where each property needs to be addressed individually. Some of the properties have been in violation for a long time and cleanup will be a continued process. Eberline addressed Lee Koch who commented he felt junk and junk vehicles have been enforced fairly in the past and that if any surrounding neighbors have problems with a property in violation, they should be the ones who file complaints, not just anyone in town. Eberline also addressed Leonard Stephens, who commented on the enforcement, identification of problem properties and how to separate the junk and junk vehicles into their own ordinances. Discussion was also held on commercial businesses who leave iron, steel and scrap iron located on their property and how that may also be considered a nuisance. Schroeder explained certain provisions should be added to exempt these commercial properties. Further updates will be made to this draft and next review will occur on April 20, 2026, at the council meeting. No further discussions or actions taken.

Mayor Eberline opened the public forum at 6:34pm. Leonard Stephens, 309 2nd Street, asked about open burning. Kyle Dudden, Grundy County Ag Society presented a letter to Council regarding their 501 3c status. No further comments made, and the public forum closed at 6:39pm.

Finance Committee/Clerk commented on meeting with Dorsey & Whitney bond council regarding upcoming projects; GO Gov app was presented; summer recreation registration upgrade; and Felix Committee will present street closures.

Public Safety Committee made no comments.

Public Works Committee commented on the fundraiser for Easter Seals, on April 4, 2026, 8-10am; street sweeping continuing; and hydrant flushing April 13-17, 2026.

Smith moved and McDonald seconded adjournment of the meeting at 6:40pm. Motion carried four ayes. Next regular meeting will be on Monday, April 6, 2026 at 6:30pm.

Attest: Kristy Sawyer, City Clerk

Dr. Paul Eberline, Mayor