

A regular session of the Grundy Center City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2026, in the Council Chambers by Mayor Eberline. Present: Mcdonald, Stensland, Smith, Lamp, and Kuester. Absent: None. Visitors: Mel Bowen, Katie Rasmussen, Leonard Stephens, Rich Ahlberg, Kelly & David Brown, CJ Wegmann, Lindsey Freese, Matt Graham, Jay Duncan, and Dan Butler.

Kuester moved and Mcdonald seconded the approval of the meeting agenda with conflicts of interest by Lamp and Mcdonald on items #8. No discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Smith moved and Lamp seconded action for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held Monday, May 4, 2026; Approval of the April 2026 Treasurers Report; and approval of the annual liquor licenses for Caseys #3055, 504 G Avenue and Caseys #1589, 1708 G Avenue. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

April 2026 Expenditures per fund: General: \$364613; Road Use Tax: \$15626; Employee Benefits: \$35382; Local Option Sales Tax Fund: \$33968; Library Gift Trust: \$913; Economic Development Gift Fund: \$7250; Continuing Projects: \$725; Water Fund: \$46815; Water Reserves Fund: \$4700; Sanitary Sewer Fund: \$25449; Sanitary Sewer Reserve Fund: \$15875; Sanitation Fund: \$33844; Ambulance Fund: \$72630; Storm Sewer Fund: \$4056. Total: \$661845. April 2026 Revenues per fund: General: \$491334; Road Use Tax: \$32147; Employee Benefits Fund: \$180807; Local Option Sales Tax: \$33968; Hotel Motel Tax Fund: \$1663; TIF Fund: \$62964; Community Betterment Fund: \$16984; Fire Equipment Reserve Fund: \$1386; Library Gift Trust: \$5185; Economic Development Gift Fund: \$7250; Debt Service Fund: \$68383; Water Fund: \$52917; Water Reserve Sinking Fund: \$4700; Sanitary Sewer Fund: \$44368; Sewer Sinking fund: \$15875; Sanitation Fund: \$34876; Ambulance Fund: \$78072; Ambulance Equipment Reserve Fund: \$2590; Storm Sewer Fund: \$4328; Total: \$1139796.

Mayor Eberline introduced Matt Graham, Kinetic Utility Project Coordinator, for a discussion about installing fiber optics in the city right-of-way. Kinetic has recently taken over Windstream Communications. A request to install fiber optic lines along the city streets which would provide 2gig upload/download capabilities to all residents. Graham commented he is aware there are other providers with lines already throughout the city and that competition is a good thing to keep prices comparable. Graham commented that their project would be to install pedestals between every other property for their fiber optic services. Kuester asked about the current pedestals that are damaged throughout the city and not being repaired. Bangasser commented and showed pictures of Windstream cables laying in an alley, sinkhole damages, lines nailed to trees and mold growing on current property on 8th Street. Smith asked if this upgrade project will improve the current Kinetic fiber that the local hospital has troubles with and if there is a franchise agreement in place. No further discussion or action taken.

Stensland moved and Smith seconded action on the Third Reading of Ordinance 592, an ordinance to amend Chapter 28.04 Ambulance Chief and Section 35.06 Police Chief positions to three-year appointment terms. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Mcdonald moved and lamp seconded action on the Second Reading on Ordinance 593, an ordinance to amend Chapter 51 Junk, Hobby Vehicles and Junk Vehicles. No further discussions, motion carried five ayes.

Stensland moved and Smith seconded action on Resolution 2016-24, a resolution to set wages for additional lifeguards and concessions staff for 2026 summer season. No further discussion, motion carried three ayes (Stensland, Smith and Kuester) and two abstains (Lamp & Mcdonald).

Lamp moved and Stensland seconded action on Resolution 2026-25, a resolution to authorize Mayor Eberline and Chief Natvig to sign a quote for a 2026 Ford Police Interceptor. Chief Natvig discussed this new vehicle will replace the 2021 Ford Explorer that currently has 113,000 miles and 18,000 hours. Quotes were received from Karl Emergency Vehicles - \$64128 and McGrath Ford - \$64097. Warranty on new one will be 10 years or 100,000 miles and powertrain up to 60,000. Natvig recommended the vehicle from McGrath Auto due to the turnaround time for outfitting the squad would be quicker. Kuester moved and Lamp seconded action to amend the motion to accept the bid from McGrath Auto for \$64097. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline opened the discussion on Ordinance 594 – Chapter 92.02 Water Rates and Ordinance 595 – Chapter 99.07 Sewer Rates for the 2% increase effective July 1st and possibly publish for a public hearing on June 1, 2026. Bangasser explained this is the standard annual increase in the code of ordinances. No further discussions, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline opened the discussion on a fiscal year 2026 Budget Amendment and possible take action to set a public hearing on June 1, 2026. Sawyer explained this amendment is to increase revenues for grant funds and donations received and increases to expenditures for fire department helmet replacement project; snow removal wages and removing the expenses for the Catalyst Grant that expired. McDonald moved and Lamp seconded action to publish for the public hearing for June 1, 2026, for this budget amendment. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline opened the discussion on Ragbrai planning and a city logo for the event. Two logo designs were presented. Stensland moved and Smith seconded the approval of logo #2 with modifications to the water tower, courthouse and gear shapes. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline opened the public forum at 7:21pm. Lindsey Freese, Kling Memorial Library, announced that the fundraiser goal of \$80,000 for the remodel of the children's area has been fully met and construction has begun. Jay Duncan, Heart of Iowa, made comments on his crew cleaning up areas from their fiber installation projection. Rich Ahlberg thanked the streets department for fixing the potholes. CJ Wegmann commented about the power outage that occurred on May 2 and asked for further explanation of what happened. No further comments made, public forum closed at 7:41pm.

Council Member comments from Stensland requesting more formalized committee updates; McDonald distributed handout and map for June 1-7th Heath Week activities; and Kuester asked about abandoned properties.

Finance Committee/Clerk made no comments.

Public Safety Committee commented that five applicants will be testing this weekend for open officer position; Officer McCormack has graduated from the academy and is certified.

Public Works Committee commented on repairs to a sinkhole, prepping pool for opening on June 1, 2026.

Smith moved and McDonald seconded adjournment of the meeting at 7:55pm. Motion carried five ayes. Next meeting will be Monday, June 1, 2026, at 6:30pm.

Attest: Kristy Sawyer, City Clerk

Dr. Paul Eberline, Mayor