

A work session of the Grundy Center City Council was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, in the Council Chambers by Mayor Eberline. Present: Smith, McDonald, Lamp and Stensland. Absent: Kuester. Visitors: Dan Bangasser, James Natvig, Seth Schroeder, Officer McCormack.

Mayor Eberline opened the discussion on the process and procedures necessary for Chapter 51 junk, hobby and junk vehicles. Sawyer explained notices were sent to five property owners that have now expired. Four of the property owners have made very little progress in cleaning up and abating the nuisance. Sawyer acknowledged Schroeder to explain the next steps such as the city abating the items by hiring a contractor and storing the junk until the courts allow it to be released. A municipal infraction citation would cite the owner into court, and a judge would order them to clean them up or be fined. City could take on liability if items were deemed valuable and/or lost. With the municipal infraction the city would have protection from the courts. Lamp asked if the city had the right to abate and Schroeder commented they could but also comes with many risks. Inventory would need to be taken and who would store it and for how long. McDonald commented that the city needs to proceed with action steps now that it has come this far. Lamp commented "do we want the junk cleaned up or do we want to fine the owners, which will take months". Schroeder asked for formal resolution by Council to proceed. Sawyer then mentioned an abandoned property and asked Schroeder to explain Chapter 657 of the State of Iowa Code regarding abandoned properties and a city being awarded title. Schroeder explained this is an option and the city would need to prove that it is abandoned by unpaid property taxes, housing code violations, boarded up, past due or utilities disconnected for a consecutive six months, etc. The city has one property that may qualify for this process. Sawyer will discuss it further with Schroeder. Stensland commented not only do we have properties with junk or junk vehicles, but we also have several properties that have fallen into disrepair and owners may not have the means to make the repairs. Smith commented this would be a great use of low-to-moderate income funds. City will have further discussions with INRCOG to implement a LMI policy and procedure. No further discussions were held and no action taken.

Smith moved and Lamp seconded adjournment of the meeting at 5:45pm. Motion carried four ayes.

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Attest: Kristy Sawyer, City Clerk

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Dr. Paul Eberline, Mayor