

Grand Meadow Council Meeting
February 13, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.
Grand Meadow Community Center

Present: Mayor James Christian, Councilor Justin Bain, Councilor Blayne Stejskal, Councilor Aaron Myhre, City Administrator Scott Kerrins, Officer Domanic Merkel (GMPD), Derek Olinger via ZOOM (Bolton & Menk), Brian and Terri Fruth and Greg Lamp.

Absent: Councilor Ryan Queensland, City Clerk Chris Hyrkas

CALL TO ORDER – The monthly meeting of the Grand Meadow City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion by J. Bain, second by A. Myhre to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

STREET/LIFT STATION PROJECTS

- A. Lift Station and Forcemain Project** – D. Olinger reviewed the expenses associated with pay application #3. J. Bain asked the timeline for completion of the lift station project. D. Olinger did not have the contract in front of him at the time, but said they have most of the summer with the end date being sometime in September. J. Bain inquired if the project was on schedule, which D. Olinger confirmed. Motion by A. Myhre, second by J. Bain to approve pay application #3 in the amount of \$442,512.30. Motion carried.
- B. County Road 8 Storm Sewer** – D. Olinger explained request for bids was sent to Ulland Brothers, Mike Bustad, and Joe O’Connell. Bustad was not interested, O’Connell did not respond, and a bid of \$126,776.70 was received from Ulland. D. Olinger’s initial quote was \$165,000.00, but changes were made to the plan to reduce costs. In reviewing the bid pricing, the estimate is right on track, if not a little below bids for similar work in the area. D. Olinger explained that the city has approximately \$130,000.00 in American Rescue Plan funds with approximately \$27,000.00 earmarked for the public safety communications equipment antenna system. The ARPA funds could be used for this project; however, the city would need to identify a separate funding source to cover the difference. J. Bain noticed on the quote a mobilization fee and wondered what this was for, since they were already onsite for the street project. D. Olinger explained the mobilization fee is not just for getting equipment onsite, but other administrative fees as well. Motion by B. Stejskal, second by J. Bain to accept the quote in the amount of \$126,776.70 from Ulland Brothers. Motion carried. As a final point, J. Bain wanted confirmation this needed to be done now and not to kick the can down the road. D. Olinger confirmed

this absolutely needed to be done, but had been more of a timing issue with Mower County cleaning out the ditch.

REPORTS

- A. Library** – Written report submitted. No questions from council.
- B. Ambulance** – Written report submitted. No questions from council.
- C. Public Works** – Written report submitted. B. Stejskal asked who will be filling in when Tom is on vacation. S. Kerrins explained Collin Jacobson and Warren Miner assist when additional help is needed, and that S. Kerrins is available too.
- D. Police** – In addition to the submitted report, D. Merkel stated it was another busy month. There were training opportunities that came up in which the department was able to take advantage of. With the weather fluctuation, there were vehicles in ditches to contend with.
- E. Fire** – Written report submitted. No questions from council.
 - i.** Travis Warmka was not available to brief the council regarding radios. S. Kerrins was directed to have it on the agenda next month.
- F. City Clerk** – S. Kerrins reported that C. Hyrkas has been working with Banyon and Core & Main to get utility billing set up in Banyon. All the data has been imported and the plan is to use Banyon for billing in March.
- G. City Administrator** – In addition to the submitted report, S. Kerrins explained he took the liberty of signing the council up for the League of Minnesota Cities bulletins so they will be receiving emails regarding Minnesota issues being addressed at the legislative level.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Approve Cannabinoid ordinance** – B. Stejskal inquired who wrote the ordinance and if it was similar to surrounding cities ordinance. S. Kerrins replied the ordinance was written by the City Attorney Craig Byram, who also wrote the ordinance for the City of Austin. B. Stejskal countered if there was a timeline of when it needed to be approved in which S. Kerrins responded it would be better to have it in place before a business starts to sell the product so they know the requirements ahead of time; rather, then enforcing the requirements after they have started to sell. J. Bain asked if any businesses had shown any interest, which S. Kerrins reported none. Motion by A. Myhre, second by J. Bain to adopt the Tobacco and Edible Cannabinoid Products Ordinance effective upon publication. Motion carried.
- B. Sidewalk requirement locations** – After a brief discussion, it was determined this would best be resolved during a workshop in the Spring once the snow has melted.
- C. Summary enforcement pleading** – J. Bain stated he wants to make sure we follow up and are consistent with all properties in town. Motion by J. Bain, second by A. Myhre to proceed with summary enforcement pleading on properties 317 Main St N and 312 1st St NW. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Warmka parcel split – In Travis Warmka’s absence, S. Kerrins explained the details of the request. B. Stejskal inquired if it met the requirements of coverage and setbacks in which J. Christian confirmed it did and this split would not make the parcel non-conforming. With T. Warmka not available to answer questions, motion by J. Christian, second by B. Stejskal to table until March. Motion carried.

B. Greg Lamp

i. Lions raffle – With council’s approval, the raffle will occur on August 20. The raffle has raised over \$70,000.00, which has been spent in town. Motion by A. Myhre, second by J. Bain to approve the raffle. Motion carried.

ii. Fireworks – 4th of July fireworks will be the same. Funding is approved a year ahead of time so 2023 is already paid. With the increase in costs, the Lions are kicking in an extra \$500 for a total of \$2,000.00 and is requesting the city to pay its usual amount of \$1,000.00. Motion by B. Stejskal, second by A. Myhre to pay \$1,000.00 towards fireworks. Motion carried.

iii. Meadowfest – G. Lamp briefed the council that Meadowfest will take place June 23-25, which is the last full weekend of the month. Meadowfest is always the last full weekend and will not roll over into July. Fran Baudoin will once again coordinate the parade with G. Lamp once again coordinating Meadowfest. Activities will be basically the same. The city typically covers the costs to advertise in the Mower County Independent and the kids carnival from Parties Made Simple. Motion by A. Myhre, second by J. Bain to cover the cost of the flyers. Motion carried. Motion by J. Bain, second by B. Stejskal to cover the cost of the kids carnival. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM – Brian Fruth asked what they were doing with the sidewalks in the street project area and whether they were doing everything in town. It was explained that sidewalks will only be replaced where there has been damaged during construction. If a sidewalk wasn’t previously there a new one will not be constructed. Terri Fruth was concerned with the agenda item that was tabled requiring sidewalks and if sidewalks were going to be required everywhere. J. Christian responded that sidewalks will not be required everywhere to which Terri asked if they could tell the construction crew not to replace the damaged sections on their property, because they are thinking of removing the whole thing. J. Christian replied that we are not there yet, but a decision will be made soon.

In follow up to the comments of treating all property equal in reference to the summary enforcement pleading, J. Christian stated he feels we need to continue to move forward with resolving the windmill issue, even if they have a plan. B. Stejskal asked if there’s been any discussion or where are things at. S. Kerrins replied that Travis Warmka said he’s exploring options in Fillmore County. S. Kerrins was directed to add this to the agenda in March and ask Travis to attend the meeting. J. Christian continued that properties not in compliance need to be

addressed on a routine basis and not just once a year. The ordinance specifies the standard; however, it must be enforced uniformly. The council plans to address properties needing work in the Spring during the workshop.

ADJOURN – Motion by B. Stejskal, second by J. Bain to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.
The time was 6:45 p.m.