

Grand Meadow Council Meeting
July 10, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.
Grand Meadow Community Center

PRESENT – Mayor James Christian, Councilor Blayne Stejskal, Councilor Aaron Myhre, Councilor Christy Benson, City Administrator Scott Kerrins, City Clerk Chris Hyrkas, Chief Jim Richardson (GMPD), Representative Patricia Mueller (District 23B), Derek Olinger (Bolton & Menk), Ben Turnquist (Smith and Schafer), Gretchen Mensink (Mower County Independent), Doug and Polly Glynn, and Russ Schalma.

ABSENT – Councilor Ryan Queensland

CALL TO ORDER – The monthly meeting of the Grand Meadow City Council was called to order at 6:02 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITION AND CORRECTION TO AGENDA – J. Christian requested the following changes to the agenda:

Change item 7.A. to 2.5

Add 6.A.v. – Lift station interior building finish

Add 7.A. – Summer recreation donation

Motion by A. Myhre, second by C. Benson to approve the request. Motion carried.

AUDIT REVIEW – Ben Turnquist presented the 2022 review to the council. He noted this is the first year that all funds have a positive balance and the water/sewer fund is generating enough revenue to cover expenses.

WATER BILL ADJUSTMENT IN CONSTRUCTION AREA – J. Christian broached the topic that the contractor's requirement of watering the new sod is ending and in order to get residents to continue watering suggested adjusting bills to charge their normal average use. Motion by B. Stejskal, second by A. Myhre for owners along Main Street where new sod was planted to be charged their average use from now through September. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM – Polly Glynn addressed the council that she had spoken to the County Engineer today and they are not confident the excavating work done by Bustad along County 8 is going to solve the issue, so they are putting together a crew to continue excavating further South toward the creek with work being completed in the near future.

P. Glynn also wanted to point out to the council the storage of materials by the ball fields. She stated it's difficult for people to get in and out for parking and there are a lot of pipes and debris which are dangerous for kids to be around. She has also heard comments from parents expressing embarrassment when visitors come to town, because of limited parking and the danger. Finally, she wanted to thank the council for allowing adjustment for watering sod. Representative Mueller updated the council regarding the last legislative session. Key points are Grand Meadow should be receiving an increase in Local Government Aid from about

\$394,000.00 to \$427,000.00. There is also Small City Aid that Grand Meadow does not qualify for, but Mower County will be receiving \$29,000.00, with the possibility of some being available to cities within the county.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion by B. Stejskal, second by C. Benson to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

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 for confirmation of raising manholes along County 8 and street patching from repairs done last year. S. Kerrins confirmed they will be done next month. The submitted report stated a seasonal worker has not been hired, because of the dry weather and lack of mowing. Due to the time of the year and the length of the remaining mowing season left, T. Bleifus recommended not to hire until next year. The council agreed that was a good decision.
- D. Police** – Written report submitted. B. Stejskal wanted to recognize and congratulate Jim on the successful audit. Typically, an audit takes place yearly, but the auditor pushed it out for five years. J. Richardson explained the key updates to which B. Stejskal inquired how long the audit took. J. Richardson explained the time with the auditor was about an hour, but the prep to get everything ready was months.
- E. Fire** – No report submitted, since a meeting was not held, due to the holiday.
- F. City Clerk** – C. Hyrkas reported she will be on vacation next week.
- G. City Administrator** – Written report submitted. J. Christian wanted to highlight the fact that National Night Out is Tuesday, August 1st and welcomed all council members to help serve. B. Stejskal asked the reason for the change from Waste Management to LRS. S. Kerrins explained that Waste Management has been difficult to work with and LRS is a local company with better rates.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Construction Project

- i. General project update** – D. Olinger reported work continues on 1st St and 2nd Ave and work will soon move on to 3rd Ave. Once underground work is completed, they will start building the street up for pavement. B. Stejskal noted it doesn't seem like things are going very fast, which D. Olinger confirmed they are approximately three to four weeks behind. D. Olinger went on to explain that liquidated damages are being applied, but at the end of the day, it's their project to manage with Ulland Brothers being ultimately responsible. To date about \$41,000.00 of liquidated damages have been

applied. B. Stejskal inquired what work would be done on 4th Ave, which D. Olinger replied mill and overlay only.

- ii. **Street utility – Pay application # 6** – Motion by B. Stejskal, second by A. Myhre to approve pay application # 6 in the amount of \$179,325.35. Motion carried.
- iii. **Lift station – Pay application # 8** – D. Olinger reported progress is a completely different story with this project. Pember plans to be finished about a month ahead of schedule, but has not established an exact date. B. Stejskal asked if the gate being returned has been addressed to which D. Olinger replied the focus is on the building, but the gate will be part of the final punch list. Motion by A. Myhre, second B. Stejskal to approve pay application # 8 in the amount of \$264,251.52. Motion carried.
- iv. **Lift station – Change order # 2** – T. Bleifus has requested the back up generator be supplied by natural gas instead of LP. D. Olinger wasn't sure if it would be an operational cost savings, but from a use standpoint, it would be more reliable, since there wouldn't be an issue of running out of LP. The cost for the conversion would be \$5,692.50. B. Stejskal asked if there was a natural gas line close by to tap into. D. Olinger responded the cost to trench in the line is about \$2,200.00 of the total cost. B. Stejskal asked if we owned the LP tank to which J. Christian responded it was rented and would be returned. Motion by B. Stejskal, second by C. Benson to approve the conversion from LP to natural gas at a cost of \$5,692.50. Motion carried.
- v. **Lift station – Interior building finish** – D. Olinger stated the building specifications only called for plywood walls and that the design team did not have any discussion with Public Works regarding on finish. T. Bleifus would like it to be FRP, which would be easier to clean and maintain than wood. A bid was obtained from Pember which came back pretty high. Other material options were explored, but a local contractor was contacted who provided a bid of \$8,000.00, which is about \$6,000.00 less than Pember. D. Olinger has asked Pember to stop work inside the building so the FRP can be installed this week. B. Stejskal asked what would be inside the building. D. Olinger explained the electrical panel for the pump, water spickets and sampler equipment. Motion by B. Stejskal, second by C. Benson to approve the local contractor at a cost of \$8,000.00. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Summer recreation donation** – S. Kerrins reported the Grand Meadow School requested a donation for the summer recreation program. The city has donated \$3,000.00 each year in the past. Motion by B. Stejskal, second by C. Benson to donate \$3,000.00 to the Grand Meadow School. Motion carried.

ADJOURN – Motion by B. Stejskal, second by A. Myhre to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The time was 6:53 p.m.