

GRAND MEADOW COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
GRAND MEADOW COMMUNITY CENTER

Present: Mayor Tim Fenton, Councilor Blayne Stejskal, Councilor Thomas Oehlke, Councilor Caden Fruth, City Administrator James Christian, City Clerk Chris Hyrkas, Fire Chief Joe Gehling, Ambulance Director Lori Brogan

Absent: Councilor Isaac Tangen

Also present: Derek Olinger (Bolton & Menk), Carman Ament, Ron Young, Travis Warmka, Lori Hanson, Teri Fruth

(Prior to the start of the meeting, Mayor Fenton and Councilors Oehlke and Fruth were sworn in by Clerk Hyrkas. Councilor Tangen was sworn in on Tuesday, January 21st.)

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Fenton called the meeting to order at 6:05, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor Fenton asked if there were any questions or concerns. There were none. Stejskal motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, Oehlke 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

- A. Approve additions & corrections to agenda
- B. Approve minutes - December regular meeting
- C. Approve General Fund bills \$187,213.75
- D. Approve posting place for notice of meetings
 - i. City Hall
- E. Approve designated services
 - i. Bank – First Farmers and Merchants
 - ii. Investment Services – 4M Fund – PMA Financial
 - iii. Newspaper – Mower County Independent
 - iv. Legal Services – Hoversten Law
 - v. Auditing Services – Smith and Schafer
 - vi. Engineering Services – Bolton and Menk

3. **APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:** Mayor Fenton asked if everyone was comfortable with their assignments. Stejskal motioned to approve the Committee Assignments, Fruth 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

- A. Mayor Pro Tem [B. Stejskal]
- B. Library [C. Fruth]
- C. Fire [B. Stejskal]
- D. Ambulance [B. Stejskal]
- E. Police [I. Tangen]
- F. Public Works [T. Oehlke]
- G. EDA (x2) [T. Fenton, I. Tangen]
- H. Planning and Zoning [T. Oehlke]
- I. Parks [C. Fruth]

4. OPEN FORUM – Carmen Ament and Ron Young were present to discuss the ongoing issue with semi-truck parking in the 200 block of 4th St NE. Council had previously given them a deadline of January 13th to come up with an alternate place to park. They have been parking the trucks at Meyerhofer Steel’s lot in the industrial park. Young questioned whether she would be able to park the trucks on their 4th St NE lot if she had a building erected. Fenton stated that she needed to submit a building permit application with all of the pertinent details. Christian stated that the building would require a conditional use permit, as well, due to the size and intended usage. Christian explained that the CUP would require a public hearing and notification of surrounding residents. Ament was told that she needed to submit a permit application before Council or Planning and Zoning would consider the matter.

5. REPORTS

A. Library – Annual report will be submitted in February

B. Ambulance – Report provided. Brogan asked for approval to pay a Stewartville Truck Service invoice in the amount of \$7,590.33 for repairs to the 2017 Dodge ambulance. Fruth made a motion to approve the payment, 2nd by Fenton. Motion passed unanimously. Brogan discussed the EMT class that GMAAS is hosting with Riverland College. She asked Council to approve Emily Kelzer, Wendi Dolton and Gabrielle Vargas joining the service through the class. Stejskal motioned to approve the applicants, Fruth 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Brogan asked Council to approve the 2025 GMAAS rates (GMAAS Base Rate - \$1,400 [\$100 increase], GMAAS Mileage - \$30.00/mile [no change], ALS1 - \$1750 [\$100 increase], ALS2 - \$1770 [\$100 increase]). Stejskal motioned to approve the 2025 GMAAS rates, Fruth 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Maintenance – Report provided. Stejskal asked Christian if there was a price estimate on the failing chlorine booster pump, Christian responded approximately \$2300.00. Stejskal inquired if the crack sealing project in Pheasant Run had been completed and approved, and Christian responded in the affirmative. Christian stated that he would be getting quotes soon for sealing the SW side of town in 2025.

D. Police – Report provided, no questions from Council.

E. Fire – Report provided. Gehling stated that Jeremy Kassel had resigned from the department, and they would be looking for a replacement, as they are currently 3 members short.

F. Clerk - Hyrkas discussed the upcoming move to the new city hall and the preparations being made.

G. City Administrator- Report provided. Christian brought the new members of Council up to date on his efforts to get the 45-mph speed limit zone on Highway 16 extended to the city limits on the east and west sides of town, explaining that MNDAOT had done a speed study in the summer of 2024, but had not made any decisions. Christian stated that Chief Richardson and Grand Meadow Schools Superintendent Paul Besel would work together on doing a study of the traffic flows in and out of the school on Hwy 16 that MNDOT could use in its decision. Christian also mentioned that he was working on getting quotes for the 2025 fireworks display, as Mark Schneider retired after many decades of running the program.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Bolten & Menk – Phase 2 Wastewater Improvements – Derek Olinger gave a brief presentation on the proposed Wastewater Facility Improvement Plan, and the timeline the state requires for submittals. Stejskal made a motion to approve the Wastewater Facility Improvement Plan Update work in the amount of \$41,200, Oehlke 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

B. 4M Investment – Christian explained that the previous Council had approved the City participating in the League of Minnesota Cities’ 4M Investment Fund but had left the decision of

how much to invest up to the new Council. After some discussion, Stejskal motioned to invest \$250,000 in the 4M fund, 2nd by Fruth. Motion passed unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Industrial Park Property Split PID 25.020.0050 – TMT Properties – Christian explained that the property has a deed restriction from the City that it cannot be transferred within 10 years of the initial sale without Council's approval, and that the ten years would be up at the end of 2027. Christian stated that Travis Warmka had asked Council in March of 2023 the split off a portion of the land he owns with his partners in TMT Properties, LLC, and Council declined at that time, due to the presence of the decommissioned windmill blades illegally stored on the property, telling him to come back when they were cleaned up. Warmka would like to transfer the portion of the property with the building on it into Warmka Real Estate. Council discussed the initial contract and what would be needed to allow the transfer and directed Christian to check with the City Attorney. Stejskal motioned to table the matter until the next meeting, 2nd by Oehlke. Motion passed unanimously.

8. ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn by Fruth, 2nd by Oehlke. Motion passed unanimously. The time was 7:01 pm.