

GRAND MEADOW COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
FEBRUARY 10, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
GRAND MEADOW CITY HALL

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, Library Director Sarah Burmeister. Also present: Alle Hardecopf, Rae Hardecopf, Kathy Carman, Lori Hanson, Chuck Kerrins, Morgan Rask, Greg Lamp, Carmen Ament, Ron Young, Gretchen Mensink

Absent: Councilor Isaac Tangen

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Fenton called the meeting to order at 6:00, 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 the agenda
- B. Approve January workshop and regular meeting minutes
- C. Approve General Fund payments in the amount of \$472,311.47

3. LIONS CLUB – Greg Lamp

A. Meadowfest Update: Lamp presented an update on Meadowfest '25 (June 27-29). Lamp stated that he had been coordinating the activities for nearly 20 years. Lamp stated that Fran Baudoin had agreed to organize the parade again this year, but Lamp was unsure how many years either he or Baudoin would continue and was hoping somebody would step in to learn the ropes. Morgan Rask is planning a local vendor event in Veterans Memorial Park and was asking for Council approval to use the park on the Saturday of Meadowfest (June 28th). Fenton motioned to approve the use of the park for Meadowfest in general, Fruth 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Lamp asked if the City was still planning on helping out with the activities in the park (bounce houses, etc.) and Council agreed that they would. Lamp presented the quote for the flyer printing from Evans Publishing for \$420. Christian noted that Evans had kept the price the same for the past three years, and Lamp noted that it included market saturation of the Mower County Independent to non-subscribers with the flyer.

B. 2025 Fireworks: Lamp noted that Mark Schneider had retired after many decades running the 4th of July fireworks display, and there was nobody local that was licensed to take over. Christian had contacted a number of fireworks display companies, but only received a quote from one in the amount of \$6,500. The company was booked on the 4th of July, but Christian explored the Sunday of Meadowfest (June 29th). Stejskal noted that in the past, the City had donated \$1,000, the fire Dept. \$1,000, and the Lion's Club made up the difference of the approximately \$3,500 cost of the display. Stejskal asked if it would be a good idea to hold off on the fireworks for a year, since the price was nearly double, and they couldn't be held on the 4th. Lamp stated that he had spoken with Schneider about the proposal Christian received, and that the shell count was similar, but the fireworks were smaller. Lamp suggested that getting a local person licensed would be a better use of the money in the future. Discussion was held that if the community wants a bigger display, then perhaps the community should contribute to the cost. Noting that the extra cost had not be accounted for in the budget, Stejskal motioned to suspend the fireworks display in 2025 and begin planning for 2026; Fruth 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

C. GM Lions 20th Annual Raffle: Lamp asked for permission for the Lion's Club to offer the annual raffle again. Lamp noted that the raffle had brought approximately \$81,000 to the community over the last 20 years. Stejskal motioned to approve the gambling license for the 2025 GM Lions Raffle, Fenton 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

4. OPEN FORUM: Kathy Carmen was on hand regarding the bulk water billing for Carmen Farms. She had contacted the city in early 2023 regarding payment and did not hear back. She When she contacted the city in 2024 regarding her bill, Christian explained the usage and the rates, and the accrual of late fees from 2023.

Carman asked Council to waive the late fee as she had been waiting on information. Fruth made a motion to waive the late fee of \$404.82, Stejskal 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Chuck Kerrins presented a letter to Council stating his opposition to CR Transportation building a shed to house semis on their 4th Street NE residential property. Kerrins stated that when he was looking to buy property in Grand Meadow approximately 3 years previous, he was told he would not be allowed to build such a structure to house his semi in a residential area. Lori Hanson asked Council why this was back on the table since Council had stated in November of 2024 that there would be no more truck parking in town. Fenton stated that nothing had been brought to Council yet.

5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- A. Library – Report provided. Burmeister stated that she didn't have anything to add to the report, and there were no questions from Council
- B. Ambulance – Report provided. Brogan stated that four EMTs were recertifying this year, and that they had found enough people to hold the EMT class with Riverland.
- C. Public Works – Report provided. Christian updated Council on replacement of a pump at the wellhouse and some future equipment needs.
- D. Police – Report provided. Council had some questions on the locations of the dog complaints, and Christian responded that the barking dogs were on South Main St, and the loose dog was in the Pheasant Run neighborhood.
- E. Fire – Report provided. Gehling asked if there were any questions on the report; there were none. Gehling asked for approval of the temporary liquor licenses for Meadowfest and the GMEF auctions. Stejskal motioned to approve the temporary liquor license for Meadowfest, Fenton 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Stejskal motioned to approve the temporary liquor license for the GMEF auction on November 22nd, Fruth 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.
- F. City Clerk – Hyrkas stated that the move to the new building went well. Stejskal asked if there was enough document storage at the new building, and Hyrkas said there was.
- G. City Administrator – Report provided. Christian reported that he was finishing up bank reconciliations and that the auditors would be at City Hall in the first week of March.

6. OLD BUSINESS - None

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Egan Water Bill: Ray Egan had requested an adjustment to the water bill at his father's house on 4th St NE, where there was high usage due to a toilet running for the previous month. Discussion was held regarding the fact that the water was used and di flow into the sewer, and Council felt that the property owner should pay the entire amount owed. Stejskal motioned to allow the property owner to make payments over 6 months without accruing late fees, Fenton 2nd. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Bank Signatories: Christian asked that former Mayor Ryan Queensland be removed as a signatory on the City's bank accounts. Fruth motioned to remove Queensland from the accounts, Oehlke 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Christian asked that Mayor Tim Fenton be added to the City's accounts as a signatory. Stejskal motioned that Fenton be added to the City's accounts, Fruth 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

C. EDA Appointment: Christian stated that the EDA had voted to appoint Morgan Rask to the board position vacated by Elaine Iverson's resignation. Fruth motioned to approve the appointment, Oehlke 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

8. ADJOURN: Stejskal motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm, Oehlke 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.