

GRAND MEADOW COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 14, 2025 @ 6:00 PM  
GRAND MEADOW CITY HALL

**Present:** Mayor Tim Fenton, Councilor Blayne Stejskal, Councilor Caden Fruth, City Administrator James Christian, Fire Chief Joe Gehling, Ambulance Director Lori Brogan, Police Chief Jim Richardson. Also present: Representative Patricia Mueller, Chuck Kerrins, Lori Hanson, Carmen Ament, Ron Young, Christene Lieffort, Gretchen Mensink Lovejoy

**Absent:** Councilor Isaac Tangen, Councilor Thomas Oehlke

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Fenton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. PUBLIC HEARING: Amending Section 71.05 of City Ordinance Title XI: Mayor Fenton suspended the regular meeting and opened the public hearing at 6:01 pm. Lori Hanson spoke in favor of the ordinance amendment. With nobody else present wishing to speak, Mayor Fenton motioned to close the public hearing, Stejskal 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting resumed at 6:03 PM.
3. CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Fenton asked if there were any comments or changes. There were none. Fruth motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, Stejskal 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unanimously
  - A. Approve additions & corrections to the agenda
  - B. Approve March regular meeting minutes
  - C. Approve General Fund payments in the amount of \$90,914.33
4. REP. PATRICIA MUELLER: Representative Mueller gave an update on the legislative activities at the Statehouse, and asked if the City had any concerns or issues. Christian responded that he was concerned about the bills related to zoning ordinances and the effect that would have on smaller cities.
5. OPEN FORUM: There was no one present wishing to speak at the open forum.
6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS
  - A. Library – Report provided. Stejskal had some questions about the library’s reserve, and Christian responded that they were waiting for the final numbers from the audit before they allocated their reserves.
  - B. Ambulance – Report provided. Brogan stated that training with the Southeast Consortium had begun. Council congratulated GMAAS on their Certificate of Excellence from the state.
  - C. Public Works – Report provided. Stejskal asked if staff was going to have to haul off the ash piles from the dump again this year, and Christian replied that they will be cleaning up later this year. Fruth asked about the sewer jetting, and Christian explained the process.
  - D. Police – Report provided. Richardson stated that he had gotten some information on a new squad and would provide that to Council before the next meeting.
  - E. Fire – Report provided. Gehling stated that the department is investigating a fee structure for lift assists.
  - F. City Clerk – Christian stated that Clerk Hyrkas had completed the document retention sorting and will be getting quotes on having the saved documents scanned for retention. Stejskal asked if there were any issues from the electrical brownout, and Christian responded that the only issue was the Clerk’s computer.
  - G. City Administrator – Report provided. Stejskal asked when the draft audit presentation would be, and Christian responded it had not been scheduled yet, but he expected late April or the first week of May.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION NO. 2025-003: Resolution Amending City Code 71.05: Mayor Fenton read aloud the new language of 71.05. Stejskal motioned to pass the resolution amending the ordinance, Fruth 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unanimously.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Liquor Licenses: Skjenke Bom – Stejskal motioned to approve the renewal of on-sale and off-sale liquor licenses for Skjenke Bom Lounge, Fruth 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unanimously. Honest Liquors - Stejskal motioned to approve the renewal of the off-sale liquor license for Honest Liquors, Fruth 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Tobacco Licenses: Skjenke Bom - Stejskal motioned to approve the renewal of the tobacco license for Skjenke Bom Lounge, Fruth 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unanimously. Glynn's Motor Mart - Fruth motioned to approve the renewal of the tobacco license for Glynn's Motor Mart, Stejskal 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unanimously. GM Smoke Shop - Stejskal motioned to approve the renewal of the tobacco license for GM Smoke Shop, Fruth 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unanimously.

### C. Permits

1. 216 3<sup>rd</sup> St NE – Garage: Ron Young presented exterior drawings of the proposed garage. Christian explained to Council that planning and zoning discussed the application and had concerns that the height of the building and the setback would cause water to shed from the roof onto the neighboring property. Young stated that he would be willing to move the building over to prevent that. Stejskal asked if the setback would be from the building wall or the fascia; Christian responded that it would have to be from the fascia. Christian asked Young to verify that the building would be stick-framed and sided and roofed to match the house. Young affirmed that it would be. Stejskal asked Christian what the recommendation from Planning and Zoning was, and Christian responded that they didn't like the building and thought it was too commercial for a residential area, but that it met the ordinance requirements. Motion by Stejskal to approve the permit, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fruth. Motion passed unanimously.

2. 304 5<sup>th</sup> St NE – Deck: Christian explained that Planning and Zoning recommended approval. Motion by Stejskal to approve the permit, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fruth. Motion passed unanimously.

3. 120 5<sup>th</sup> St SE – Fence: Christian explained that Planning and Zoning recommended approval. Motion by Stejskal to approve the permit, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fruth. Motion passed unanimously.

4. 408 2<sup>nd</sup> St NE – Chickens: Christian explained that Planning and Zoning said the application met required setbacks. Christian stated that the property owner got the chickens before applying for the license and had not notified the neighbors of her intention to apply for a license, as required in the ordinance. Christian stated that the resident also has unlicensed dogs and had been made aware that she needed to have them licensed. Stejskal motioned to deny the permit. Fruth asked Christian what happens if Council deny the permit; would she have to get rid of the chickens? Christian responded in the affirmative, and that she could reapply. Fruth seconded Stejskal's motion.

D. Safety Policy: Christian presented the updated safety policy, explaining that it was due for reapproval by Council. Stejskal motioned to approve the updated policy, Fruth 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Resolution 2025-004 – Accepting Donation – Hanson: Stejskal motioned to accept a \$500 donation to the library from Ann Hanson, Fruth 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Resolution 2025-005 – Accepting Donation – Grand Meadow Township: Stejskal motioned to accept a \$300 donation to the library from Grand Meadow Township, Fruth 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unanimously.

G. Utility Bill Adjustment Request – Grand Meadow Mobile Home Park: Christian explained that Grand Meadow MHP had requested a reduction on the utility bill resulting from a water leak on one of the trailers. Christian explained that since the leak occurred outside of the trailer, the water did not enter the sanitary sewer. Stejskal motioned to waive late fees and charge average sewer usage for that period. Fruth 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unanimously.

9. ADJOURN: Motion by Stejskal to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fruth. Motion passed unanimously. The time was 7:13 pm.