

GRAND MEADOW COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
GRAND MEADOW CITY HALL

Present: Mayor Tim Fenton, Councilor Blayne Stejskal, Councilor Isaac Tangen, Councilor Caden Fruth, City Administrator James Christian, City Clerk Chris Hyrkas, Police Chief Jim Richardson, Jason Boynton (Smith & Shafer).

Absent: 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. CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Fenton asked if there were any comments or changes. There were none. Stejskal motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, Tangen 2nd. Motion passed unanimously

- A. Approve additions & corrections to the agenda
- B. Approve February regular meeting minutes
- C. Approve General Fund payments in the amount of \$120,187.99

3. AUDIT REVIEW – Jason Boynton of Smith Schafer presented the 2024 audit results. He gave the City a “clean” opinion.

4. OPEN FORUM: None

5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- A. Library – No meeting
- B. Ambulance – Report provided. Tangen asked if the GMAAS had been keeping up on reimbursing the City for costs; Christian replied that they were paid up for 2024 but had not paid for first quarter of 2025.
- C. Public Works – Report provided. Christian stated that he would be advertising for summer help to keep up with mowing.
- D. Police – Report provided. Tangen asked Chief Richardson if he would be getting rid of the older squad, and Richardson responded that he would be re-using as much of the equipment from the 2019 squad in the new one and then it would go off to auction. Christian estimated the value of the old squad at around \$15,000. Tangen brought up the subject of the Chief retiring sometime in the future and asked if there was a succession plan. A brief discussion of what the transition would look like followed. Richardson then discussed the yard and vehicle violations that he and Christian were working on, and that letters would be going out soon.
- E. Fire – Report provided. Fruth reported that Dan Geier would be taking a 1-year leave of absence from the department, and Karson Ulwelling and Steve Meyerhofer would be taking over his duties. Tangen asked what the lift assist issue was, and Fruth filled him in on the previous month’s discussion.
- F. City Clerk – Hyrkas reported that she had picked up the flowers for the downtown pots, and they would be planted withing the coming weeks.

G. City Administrator – Report provided. Fruth asked where the ash trees to be removed were located, and Christian relayed that they were at the EMS building, the ball diamonds, and Pine Lawn Park.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Asphalt Sealing: Christian presented a quote from Corrective Asphalt Materials to seal the new asphalt on the south side of town (Main, 1st, 2nd Streets, 2^d, 3rd, and 4th Aves) in the amount of \$26,243.00. Tangen motioned to approve the quote, second by Fruth. Motion passed unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Utility Bill Adjustment – Grand Meadow Smoke Shop: The owner had asked for an adjustment to their utility bill due to high usage. Christian informed Council that the high usage was due to faulty plumbing fixtures within the building that had since been repaired. Motion by Tangen to deny the adjustment request, 2nd by Stejskal. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Liquor ordinance – Amendment of ‘112.31 – Restrictions On Issuance (First Reading) Christian presented an amendment to the Liquor Ordinance regarding setback requirements for issuance, reducing the setback from churches and schools to 100’, defining what a “school” is, and giving an exemption for schools and churches that are located within business districts. Stejskal motioned to hold a public hearing on the amendment at the next regular meeting, Tangen 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Vehicle Purchases (Police & Public Works): Christian presented quotes for a 2025 Chevrolet Tahoe PPV for the Police Department and a 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 2500. Both vehicles would be purchased under the state bid. The Tahoe price is \$53,090.28 delivered, and the Silverado price is \$45,644.73 delivered. Christian had obtained Master Equipment Lease prices, but Council determined that they would prefer an outright purchase. Motion by Stejskal to approve the purchase of the Tahoe PPV at \$53090.28, 2nd by Fruth. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Tangen to purchase the Silverado 2500 for \$45,644.73, 2nd by Stejskal. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Document Scanning: Christian presented a quote from EO Johnson for document scanning of the archives in the amount of \$13,022.74. After brief discussion, Stejskal motioned to table the proposal, 2nd by Tangen. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Ash Tree Removal: Christian presented the quote tabulation for ash tree removal for the 2025 season. After discussion regarding preference for using a local company, Tangen motioned to award the contract to Olson Tree Service in the amount of \$10,209.96, seconded by Fruth. Motion passed with Fenton abstaining.

F. Resolution 2025-006 Accepting Donation – Carman: Motion by Tangen to accept a donation of \$1000 to the Grand Meadow Area Ambulance Service by the family of Gerald and Marcia Carman, 2nd by Fruth. Motion passed unanimously.

G. Permits: (As Planning & Zoning had not had an opportunity to review the permits, all building permits were approved with the stipulation that they would receive a recommendation from P&Z at the next meeting.)

1. 412 2nd St NE – Front porch/deck: Motion by Stejskal for approval of a new front deck at 412 2nd St NE, second by Fruth. Motion passed unanimously.

2. 312 Main St. S – House and garage addition: Motion by Tangen to approve the garage and house addition at 312 Main St S, second by Stejskal. Motion passed unanimously.

3. 308 1st St NW – Chickens: Motion by Tangen to approve a chicken permit for 308 1st St NW, second by Stejskal. Motion passed unanimously.

8. ADJOURN: Motion by Stejskal to adjourn second by Tangen. Motion passed unanimously.
The time was 7:31 pm