

GRAND MEADOW COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 9, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
GRAND MEADOW CITY HALL

Present: Mayor Tim Fenton, Councilor Blayne Stejskal, Councilor Isaac Tangen, Councilor Caden Fruth, Councilor Thomas Oehlke, City Administrator James Christian, Clerk Chris Hyrkas, Police Chief Jim Richardson, GMAAS Director Lori Brogan, GMFD Chief Joe Gehling, Irene Jones, Ben Thompson, Gretchen Lovejoy-Mensink

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 112.31 (E) of City Ordinance Title XI: Fenton suspended the regular meeting at 6:01 pm and opened the public hearing. With nobody present wishing to speak, Stejskal motioned to close the public hearing, Tangen 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting resumed at 6:02 PM.

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

- A. Approve additions & corrections to the agenda
- B. Approve May regular meeting minutes
- C. Approve General Fund payments in the amount of \$129,541.13

4. OPEN FORUM: Ben Thompson discussed issues with the alley behind his house on 2nd St SW, including debris left in the alley by his neighbor, his neighbor parking in the alley, and tree branches that he believed were blocking the alley. He requested that the city maintain the alley. Fenton asked that Council have time to review the issue. Christian pointed out that the trees at issue were not on City property, and that Thompson's use of utility boxes as markers of the property lines was inaccurate, as utility boxes are not always placed on the property lines. Christian stated that the City does not maintain dead-end alleys. Fruth suggested that the discussion be continued later in the meeting when the agenda item comes up. There were no other comments for the open forum.

5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- A. Library – Report provided. There were no questions from Council.
- B. Ambulance – Report provided. Brogan stated that both departments (GMAAS and GMFD) had approved a lift-assist policy and will bring it to Council for fee approval.
- C. Public Works – Report provided. Stejskal asked if crews were going to start hauling ash from the burn pile or wait until fall; Christian responded that they would wait until later in the year.
- D. Police – Report provided. Richardson reported that the new squad had arrived and he will work with the outfitter to get it ready for service. Discussion was had about what parts will transfer from the old squad to the new. Fenton asked about the lot behind the Pheasant Run townhomes not being mowed, and Christian responded that he had just gotten the contact info for the owner.
- E. Fire – Report provided. Gehling noted that Dan Geier was taking a leave of absence and Carson Ulwelling and Steve Meyerhofer would fill in on the secretary duties. Gehling asked Council for permission to close off the 100 block of Grand Ave E for Meadowfest. Council gave permission. Stejskal asked that the stage trailer be parked at the city shop after Meadowfest rather than returning it to the Fire Hall.
- F. City Clerk – Report provided. Stejskal asked for a list of pet and golf cart licenses, Hyrkas said she would get that info. Fenton suggested side-by-sides should be registered as well; Stejskal pointed out that they are already licensed through the State.
- G. City Administrator – Report provided. Tangen asked about a trailer that had been parked on the street in the 200 block of 1st Ave SW; Christian responded that Richardson was working with the

owner to have it moved. Stejskal asked what the timeline for property owners to fix their violations was; Christian responded that they had 10 business days from receipt of the letter, which were sent out certified. Discussion was held about the new Public Works pickup, and whether to put a plow on the new vehicle or the current 2017 F-250.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION NO. 2025-007 – A Resolution Amending Section 112.13 (e) of the City Code (Liquor ordinance – Restrictions On Issuance). Tangen motioned to approve Resolution 2025-007, 2nd by Fruth. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Flood Study and Wastewater Project Prep – Bolton & Menk

1. 2025 MPCA Resiliency Grant – Christian reported that Council had approved a scaled- back project in March, as the State only gave half the grant amount requested. The MPCA combined two grants to fund the full project, so Christian asked Council to approve the increased grant and full project. Motion by Tangen, 2nd by Stejskal to approve the project. Motion passed unanimously.

2. 2025 Wastewater Facility Planning – Scope & Fee For Engineering & Planning Services: Christian presented the scope and fee for the Wastewater Facility project. Discussion was had about the potential construction area and access easements. Stejskal motioned to approve the proposal, not to exceed \$45,600, Tangen 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Utility Bill Adjustments – Irene Jones, Richard Hubbard: Irene Jones asked Council to reduce her utility bill due to high usage caused by a faulty water softener. Jones pointed out that the previous Council had done so last year for a resident and had set a precedent, and she wanted the same treatment. Council discussed the issue and agreed that the previous Council’s one-time decision to reduce a customer’s bill was a mistake, and that the general policy has been if the water runs through the meter it is billable, and if it runs through the sanitary sewer, it is billable. Fenton motioned to deny a bill adjustment, but did offer to let Jones pay over six months with no late fees; Tangen 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Christian presented another bill from a customer in the 500 block of Main St S who had excessive water use due to a leaking toilet and was asking for a reduction. Motion by Tangen to deny and adjustment, 2nd by Stejskal. Motion passed unanimously

B. Ben Thompson – Alley issues: Fenton asked if Thompson would be ok with Council reviewing the issue over the next month and revisit at the next regular meeting, and Thompson agreed.

C. Unopened Street and Alley Policy – Introduction: Tangen motioned to table the policy until the next meeting, Stejskal 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Permits:

1. 519 Glynn Ave – New Home Construction: Tangen motioned to approve the permit, Fruth 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

2. 514 Main St S – Fence: Motion by Stejskal to approve the permit, 2nd by Oehlke. Motion passed unanimously.

8. ADJOURN- Motion by Fruth to adjourn, 2nd by Stejskal. Motion passed unanimously. The time was 7:23 pm.