GRAND MEADOW COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 13, 2026 @ 6:00 PM
GRAND MEADOW CITY HALL

Present: Mayor Tim Fenton, Councilor Blayne Stejskal, Councilor Isaac Tangen, Councilor Thomas Oehlke, Councilor Caden Fruth, City Administrator James Christian, City Clerk Chris Hyrkas, GMAAS Director Lori Brogan, GMAAS Assistant Director Chelsea Wilson, GMFD Chief Joe Gehling

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

2. CONSENT AGENDA: Tangen motioned to approve the Consent agenda, Oehlke 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

A. Approve additions & corrections to agenda
B. Approve minutes – March regular meeting and March work session
C. Approve General Fund bills $216,053.17

4. OPEN FORUM – No comments from public.

6. AL STIER – 2026 FIREWORKS: Stier was present to give a short presentation regarding what to expect for the July 4, 2026 fireworks display, which will be significantly larger than previous years to honor the 250th birthday of the United States. The display will be shot off from the ballfields again this year, but at a location further removed from residences than in previous years. Stier presented an invoice from Flashing Thunder Fireworks in the amount of $6500.00. Council had previously voted to allocate $2000 towards the display, GMFD had allocated the same, and the Lions Club will cover the rest. Motion by Tangen, 2nd by Fruth to approve the payment. Motion passed unanimously.

7. REPORTS

A. Library – Report provided, no questions from Council
B. Ambulance – Report provided. Director Brogan introduced Assistant Director Chelsea Wilson to Council.
C. Maintenance – Report provided. Christian presented a quote from Pearson Brothers for seal coating Pheasant Run and 1st Ave SE to 5th St. Oehlke motioned to approve the contract with Pearson Brothers in the amount of $30,144.00, Tangen 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Discussion was held regarding gravel for the Fire Station and Industrial Park, as well as street repairs due to utility cuts.
D. Police – Report provided. No questions from Council.
E. Fire – Report provided. Gehling gave an update about Meadowfest plans, including new cornhole boards, and an update on the new brush truck.
F. Clerk –Clerk Hyrkas presented the list of election judges for the 2026 election season. Tangen motioned to approve the list of 11 judges, Fruth 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Hyrkas presented the on- and off-sale liquor license application from Skjenke Bom Lounge. Due to SBL changing hands, Council decided to table approval until all the paperwork was in. Hyrkas presented the off-sale liquor license application from Honest Liquors. Tangen motioned to approve the license, Fruth 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Hyrkas introduced the tobacco license applications for Glynn's Motor Mart, Skjenke Bom Lounge, Dollar General, and GM Smoke Shop. Tangen motioned to approve the licenses, Oehlke 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.
G. City Administrator- Report provided. Christian reported that the MPCA had not begun work on the wastewater permit, needed for the wastewater treatment facility project, so funding may be held up, but the city engineer is working with them to try to get it pushed through this year. Christian also reported that the city website had been updated and now meets all ADA requirements. Citywide cleanup is scheduled for May 9, 9am-noon.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. None

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mower County Sheriff Law Enforcement Proposal: Christian reviewed the proposal send by Mower County the previous month for law enforcement services. Council discussed the lack of local ordinance enforcement and the unknown future increases to the proposed contract. Oehlke motioned to table the proposal, Fruth 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

B. GMPD Chief Position; Christian reported that the city had come up with a candidate that he would like to hire for the Police Chief position. Christian asked for approval to make an offer of employment with a stepped salary. The salary would increase in two 90-day increments as long as the employee met target goals. Tangen motioned to approve hiring Aaron Stoning as the new Chief of Police, Oehlke 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Sidewalks

1. 305 2nd St NE – Requests permission to remove along 2nd Ave NE: Fruth motioned to approve sidewalk removal at 305 2nd St NE, Tangen 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.
2. 304 3rd St NE – Requests permission to remove along 3rd St NE: Fruth motioned to approve sidewalk removal at 305 2nd St NE, Oehlke 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

10. ADJOURN Tangen motioned to adjourn the meeting, Fruth 2nd. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.

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