GRAND MEADOW COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 11, 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, GMFD Chief Joe Gehling GMPD Chief Jim Richardson, appointed GMPD Chief Aaron Stoning.
Also present: Kali Lentz (Cohn-Reznick), Irene Jones, Linda Kreutzman, Gretchen Lovejoy Mensink

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

2. CONSENT AGENDA: Fenton asked to move the audit presentation to before the open forum. Tangen motioned to approve the consent agenda with that change, Stejskal 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

A. Approve additions & corrections to agenda
B. Approve minutes – April regular meeting minutes
C. Approve General Fund bills $293,596.88

3. 2025 AUDIT: CohnReznick Advisory, LLC: Kali Lentz with Cohn-Reznick presented an overview of the 2025 fiscal year, issuing an unmodified "clean" opinion on the 2025 financial statements.

4. OPEN FORUM – Irene Jones asked Council when water and sewer rates would ever go down. Discussion followed about the reasons for the rate increases and comparisons to surrounding towns.

5. REPORTS

A. Library – Report provided, no questions from Council
B. Ambulance – Report provided. Discussion was held regarding declining GMAAS revenues vs budgeted revenues and Medicaid/Medicare payments.
C. Fire – Report provided. Chief Gehling announced that Dan Geier had retired from the GMFD. Discussion was held regarding the Grand Meadow Mobile Home Park not having an emergency shelter for its residents. Christian stated that he had reported that fact to the MN Dept of Health but had not received a response.
D. Police – Report provided. Outgoing Chief Jim Richardson introduced newly appointed GMPD Chief Aaron Stoning.
E. Maintenance – Report provided. Discussion was had about a sidewalk on the corner of 1st St SE and 1st Ave SE, and an auto-flusher on a hydrant on 1st St NW.
F. Clerk – Hyrkas discussed downtown flowerpots for the 2026 season.
G. City Administrator- Report provided. Christian discussed security cameras he had installed at City Hall, the library, and the maintenance facility, adding the Emergency services building would be next, along with some in the parks. Christian also reported that he and the GMPD were looking at yard cleanups (junk vehicles, etc.) and would be notifying violators soon. Christian also discussed a water billing issue where many of the residents did not receive their April bill; it was unclear at that time whether the issue was with the billing company or the USPS.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. None

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 2026-007 – Resolution Accepting Donation: Grand Meadow Township ($300): Fruth motioned to accept the donation from Grand Meadow township, Oehlke 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.
B. Permit Applications
    1. 309 2nd Ct SE – Fence: Tangen motioned to approve the permit, Fruth 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

2. 109 Main St N – Canopy Shed: Fruth motioned to approve the permit, Tangen 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.
3. 203 2nd Ave NE – Fence: Stejskal motioned to approve the permit, Fruth 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.
4. 405 4th St NE – Fence: Stejskal motioned to approve the permit, Fruth 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

8. ADJOURN: Oehlke motioned to adjourn the meeting, Fruth 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.