

**CITY OF GRAYLING
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 12, 2022**

I. Meeting called to order by Mayor Forbes at 6:30 pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Members Present: Forbes, Pettyjohn, Sloan, Nelson, Moshier

Members Absent: None

Vacant Seats: None

Also, in Attendance: Erich Podjaske, City Manager, Ben Yoder, Zoning/Cemetery, Lahken Maher, Utility Billing/Property Tax Clerk, Jillian Tremonti, DDA Mainstreet Director, Caleb Casey, Members of the Public, Ralph Opperman, Cari Opperman, Rodney Vandecasteele, Aaron Wendzoz, Justin Johnson and Jen Mascarello Johnson.

IV. Public Comment: None

V. Approval of Agenda

22-111

Moved by Pettyjohn, seconded by Sloan to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent:, Vacant: 0

Motion Carried

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

22-112

Moved by Sloan, seconded by Nelson to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0, Abstain 0, Absent: 0, Vacant: 0

Motion Carried

VII. City Managers Report

Erich Podjaske, City Manager addressed the current delay on the status of the water bills. Stated that the goal of the Utility Billing is to get them out by the end of the week. As well, he mentioned the letter that has been posted to the City's website addressing and explaining the issue.

VIII. Mainstreet Managers Report

Jillian Tremonti, Mainstreet Director spoke on the annual Christmas walk stating that despite it not being as busy as the previous year due to inclement weather, it was a successful turnout.

Tremonti gave update on a grant to be received by Hidden Nook Book Store from Match on Main. The grant consists of \$25,000 to be put towards expanding inventory and shelving space.

Currently Tremonti is working with the Chamber of Commerce to secure a co working space located on Gambles Corner. The space would be shared between the DDA, the Chamber and the Grayling Visitors Bureau.

Lastly, details were given on the upcoming Brew Shoe event to be held February 11, 2023. This will be a ticketed outdoor event that allows people to snow shoe a designated path at Hanson Hills Recreational Facility while stopping along the way to enjoy a beer provided by various vendors/breweries. The hope is to make it an annual event given a favorable turnout.

IX. Project Updates

Erich Podjaske, City Manager gave update on the progress of the new apartments and stated that it was seemingly going well.

He also stated that there hasn't been any new information regarding the Krist gas station being built where Smokin Bucks was previously located.

Podjaske stated that he will be getting together for a meeting with hotel developers who are hoping to bring a new development to Grayling. They currently have two other projects in the works.

X. Unfinished Business

A. SRF Grant, Rowe Contract

Podjaske, City Manager, pointed out that the proposal for the contract was in the council member packets which included the work design, construction and oversight. He then introduced Aaron Wendzoz who was able to give more insight. Wendzoz included that they will be doing work at the waste water treatment center as they want to make that process more efficient as well as went over the bidding fees being covered by the state through the SRF grant. He also mentioned that there will be no changes made to the lift station however they will be putting VFD's on the blowers at the lagoon which will in turn decrease the amount of money spent on electricity.

B. Marijuana Ordinance

Tabled until next meeting.

C. BS&A Security

Erich Podjaske, City Manager explained that the company is based out of two locations, California and Virginia and that this will be a much better program than we are currently working with. He also stated that he had yet to sign the contract as he was interested in the input of City Council members, however if everyone was okay with moving forward

that he would sign it the following day. When asked about how long it would take to get set into motion, Podjaske responded that it will take about a year but will make for a much easier process once completed.

D. EMS Discussion

Erich Podjaske, City Manager, stated that Frederic Township would like to take over all 911 calls. A meeting was held with Frederic and Beaver Creek Townships as well as Munson Healthcare to discuss the matter. Podjaske also cited that he personally feels that we should leave the current routing of EMS calls as is.

Rodney Vandecasteele, Fire Chief then explained that he agreed with Podjaske and that he saw no benefit to citizens in making the change.

XI. New Business

A. 800 Michigan Ave., Fence Discussion

Ben Yoder, Zoning Director summarized the matter in stating, “Mr. Johnson put up a trellis in hopes of gaining some privacy due to the height of the window in Dr. Opperman’s office that gives patients the ability to see directly into his home. The height of the trellis however exceeds that of which is stated in City Ordinance, now Mr. Johnson is working towards a variance,

Justin Johnson asked to interject to which Jack Pettyjohn, Mayor Pro-Term, responded that he would like to hear from both parties involved.

Justin Johnson continued in explaining that “The base of their windows start at 6 feet, we installed a trellis in order to block the view of patients into our home. The City has accused us of adding a fence, however under the definition of the word *Fence* it states: “A permanent or temporary barrier enclosing or bordering a plot of land or portion thereof composed of suitable man-made materials for the purpose of preventing or controlling entrance or to confine within or to mark boundary.” This definition can be found in the glossary of terms in the Grayling City Ordinance. Our Trellis does not meet that definition. We are now requesting a height variance and asking that you please allow us to maintain our privacy as well as block out the light pollution that comes from their night time lights.”

Jack Pettyjohn inquired about the max height allowable for a structure such as this as well as the height to the top of Mr .Johnsons Trellis.

Podjaske then responded, “The max height is 8 feet within the City.”

Johnson also added that the height to the top of his trellis is 10 feet.

PettyJohn commented that “ I understand where you are coming from, and the concerns, I do feel that it effects both properties. Second, many live in the city and unfortunately light is going to be an issue for everyone, especially those who live by commercial properties.

Johnson refuted stating “When it is due to security lights late at night within 10-15 feet of our home with no shades this can be an issue. Other commercial buildings

have shades or no lights at all. I just want to maintain privacy given the foot traffic. We are just asking for some flexibility; we've tried going about it in the best way possible."

Heather Forbes, Mayor, directed a question to Dr. Ralph Opperman, asking if there were additional security lights being turned on outside his building to which his reply was "No."

Pettyjohn. "Is there an ability to put in shades that can be closed at night?"

Dr. Opperman, "The lighting is part of a mandatory ordinance, unfortunately we cannot put in shades."

Mayor Forbes, "Is tinting of the windows a possibility?"

Pettyjohn, "We are trying to come up with some sort of happy medium because realistically this is meant to be a fence."

Johnson, "Look at the definition, it clearly states the function of a fence. I'd say this is a gray area. I am open to suggestions but I still want my privacy."

Pettyjohn, "what would be a happy medium? Is there anything in the ordinance that says no 10 ft. Trellise"

Podjaske, "Once it is used to keep something out or sued as a barrier, it is a fence. We had our lawyer look into it."

Mayor Forbes, "Mr. Johnson a definition was given, your trellis falls under the definition of a fence."

Johnson, "I disagree."

Mayor Forbes, "You can disagree but it is clearly written."

Johnson, "I had my lawyer look into it as well. I want to maintain my 10 feet."

Mayor Forbes, "We are asking for 8."

Johnson, "It seems we are at a stalemate."

Pettyjohn, "There has to be some sort of compromise, at this point you are not giving us anything to work with, you say you are okay with give and take yet you're not willing to compromise."

Johnson, "I didn't say no."

Pettyjohn, "That's not what we are hearing when you say Stale Mate."

Johnson, "We will do 8 feet but we do request that it wait until the spring due to the weather."

B. Approve City Council Meeting Dates for 2023

Erich Podjaske, City Manager, asked if everyone was okay with the annual all boards meeting being scheduled for January 23, 2023 to which all council members agreed to leave as is. Podjaske then addressed the June 12, 2023 work session to be held at 5:30, inquiring if council would prefer to keep it as a work session or change it to a regular meeting in case the budget is ready to be reviewed.

Pettyjohn expressed his preference in turning it into a regular meeting to be held at 6:30.

Dennis Sloan, City Council stated that he would prefer that as well.

Podjaske then mentioned keeping the budget workshop as is currently scheduled for April 24, 2023.

22-113

Moved by Pettyjohn seconded by ~~Richard Mosher~~ Roger Moshier to approve the 2023 City Council Meeting Dates with the amendment of June 12, 2023 moving from a 5:30 pm Work Session to a regular meeting to be held at 6:30 pm

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0, Abstain 0, Absent: 0, Vacant: 0

Motion Carried

C. Appoint Ben Yoder to the Crawford County Planning Commission

22-114

Moved by Sloan, seconded by Pettyjohn to appoint Ben Yoder to the Crawford County Planning Commission.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0, Abstain 0, Absent: 0, Vacant: 0

Motion Carried

D. Unsold Tax Foreclosed Property

Foreclosed property on the corner of Ogemaw St. and Plum St. Parcel size is 30x30x40 feet. The home went to auction however no one bid on it therefore by state law it will be given to the City of Grayling.

E. MML Training

Erich Podjaske, City Manager, mentioned that there will be a training held for newly elected or long-term members for a refresher on two separate dates. January 12, 2023 is an in-person meeting and there is a virtual meeting to be held on December 15, 2022.

XII. Reports

There were no questions or additional input by any of the members. It was stated that due to many being sick there has been a lack of meetings.

XIII. Public Comment

None

XIV. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Pettyjohn, Mayor Pro term, stated that at 4:45 in the morning Waste Management was already out picking up trash causing noise disturbance. Podjaske mentioned he has experienced the same issue and will be getting in touch with them as they are picking up much before the agreed contract time.

Mayor Forbes thanked Pettyjohn for hosting the City Christmas Party. She then mentioned that the current lawyer for the city has accepted a position of prosecuting attorney in Roscommon, MI therefore we will now need to find a replacement.

Podjaske then mentioned the issue of the lights at the South end of the I75 business loop being out and that they have been for a while and that he would like to have them fixed. They did get an estimate from a company out of Traverse City however they were very expensive. He would still like to move forward with getting a quote from the original company with the boards blessing. Council members agreed that they were in agreement as the lights have been out for quite some time.

XV. Adjournment

22-115

Moved by Pettyjohn, seconded by Nelson that the meeting is adjourned.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0, Abstain 0, Absent: 0, Vacant: 0

Motion Carried

Adjourned the meeting at 7:57 PM