

**CITY OF GRAYLING**  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, May 8, 2023**

**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, Chelsea Goodwin, Clerk/Treasurer,  
Members of the Public

**IV. Public Comment**

None

**V. Approval of Agenda**

**23-036**

**Moved by Nelson, seconded by Pettyjohn to approve the agenda with the addition  
under New Business item #E – Pedicab Ordinance.**

**Roll Call Vote**

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

**Motion Carried**

**VI. Approval of Consent Agenda**

**23-037**

**Moved by Sloan, seconded by Pettyjohn 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**

City manager Podjaske went over his admin report.

He handed out a map he received from MDOT showing the potential island for the intersection at Burger King and Subway prohibiting left hand turns. He spoke with Danny from DPW and he's waiting for the weather to warm up to apply the crack seal. He would like it to be around 80 degrees before applying it.

### **VIII. Mainstreet Managers Report**

Main Street Manager Tremonti was not in attendance.

### **IX. Project Updates**

Nothing new to report.

### **X. Unfinished Business**

#### **A. Extending Water Service to Township - Discussion**

City Manager Podjaske spoke with Grayling Charter Township Supervisor Lacey Stephan. Stephan asked about potentially extended city water out to 4 mile road for homes that are affected by PFAS. It is unknown how many homes/connections there would be tapping into the city water. Potentially up to 300 homes Podjaske stated. Pettyjohn asked how this would benefit the city and if it in the city's best interest. Would the current infrastructure be able to sustain that many additional homes. Sloan stated that a third well would need to be installed first and the residents outside of the city would need to pay a PILOT. Podjaske stated this would get a third well paid for and would be on the township, not the city. Pettyjohn asked if they would also receive water bills. Podjaske replied yes and there could potentially be a higher rate for water for the non-residents. Sloan mentioned that if the water line is too long then you could end up with stale water having to travel too far. Yoder stated that the city already has a set of plans from Rowe Professional Services for the third well that would be at North Down River Road and Roberts Road, only 300 feet from the other current well.

### **XI. New Business**

#### **A. Water/Sewer for Commission on Aging Discussion**

Podjaske spoke with Alice from Commission on Aging. Back in 2020 they had a bond pass for \$3 million but then COVID hit and was stalled. They are now back up on track and hope to be up and running in November. Their previous plan was to hook up to city water and sewer but weighed the option of putting in their own system. Long term it is not beneficial to have their own system since they are so small and having the cost of maintaining it would be expensive. Commission on Aging is requesting their water tap fees and sewer tap fees be waived. They also requested the annual PILOT fee be waived. Sloan stated that since they do not pay property taxes, they would need to pay a PILOT fee to help maintain the system since they would be receiving city services. Members believed they should be good neighbors and agreed to waive the tap fees but would need to have further discussion about the PILOT fees.

**23-038**

**Moved by Sloan, seconded by Pettyjohn to approve waiving the tap fees for the Commission on Aging and move forward with a later discussion about the PILOT fees.**

**Roll Call Vote**

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

**Motion Carried**

**B. GPA Flagpole by the Welcome to Grayling Sign**

The GPA ladies were requesting permission to put a flagpole in by the Welcome to Grayling Sign. Moshier asked if they had plans for lighting. Sloan replied they were not required to have lighting. Podjaske stated that MDOT approved it after making them move the location of it so that it doesn't block the billboard.

**23-039**

**Moved by Sloan, seconded by Pettyjohn to approve GPA placing a flagpole by the Welcome to Grayling Sign.**

**Roll Call Vote**

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

**Motion Carried**

**C. Employee Manual Updates**

**23-040**

**Moved by Pettyjohn, seconded by Nelson to approve the Employee Manual Updates.**

**Roll Call Vote**

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

**Motion Carried**

**D. Water/Sewer Benefit Fee From 2006**

City Manager Podjaske explained that he recently found a water/sewer benefit fee schedule that was passed by City Council back in 2006 but hasn't been implemented since 2009. All the homes and businesses that have gone in since then should have been assessed and paid this fee but have not since no one was aware of it. The new apartments would have been assessed on the 108 units and had to pay over \$260,000. He asked how the Council would like to move forward. Pettyjohn felt that this fee would deter businesses from coming in. Mayor Forbes asked if the fees should be reevaluated since they were from 2005-2006. Sloan felt that bigger businesses coming to town are aware of this fee and that other cities also require this benefit fee for tapping into city services.

**23-041**

**Moved by Sloan that all projects not completed be assessed and required to pay this benefit fee. No second.**

**Motion failed.**

Mayor Forbes felt that any projects already approved, whether completed or not, does not count and should not be assessed the fee.

**23-042**

**Moved by Pettyjohn, seconded by Nelson that any permits submitted moving forward be assessed the water/sewer benefit fee previously approved by City council.**

**Roll Call Vote**

**Ayes: 4 Nays: 1 (Sloan), Abstain 0, Absent: 0, Vacant: 0**

**Motion Carried**

#### **E. Pedicab Ordinance**

City Manager Podjaske asked if this was something the council would be interested in moving forward with before the Planning Commission started working on it. No approvals would be needed tonight. Members agreed to move forward with it.

#### **XII. Reports**

Nothing to report.

#### **XIII. Public Comment**

None.

#### **XIV. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

None.

#### **XV. Adjournment**

**23-043**

**Moved by Pettyjohn, seconded by Sloan that the meeting is adjourned.**

**Roll Call Vote**

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

**Motion Carried**

**Adjourned at 7:44 PM**