

**CITY OF GRAYLING
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, June 14, 2021**

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Forbes, Kersey, Moshier, Sloan, Schreiner

Members Absent: None

Vacant Seats: None

Also, in Attendance:

Via Phone/Video: Doug Baum, City Manager, Lisa Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Goodwin, Erich Podjaske, Economic Development Officer, Rae Gosling, Main Street Manager and other members of the public. (See attached)

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Forbes asked to add item #J under new business, GPA Fireworks Permit

21-064

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Sloan to approve the agenda with changes of #J GPA Fireworks Permit.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

V. Approval of Consent Agenda

21-065

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

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

Adjourned Regular meeting of Public Hearing at 6:34 pm

VI. Grayling Main Street Continued Investment Presentation

Jill Tremonti and Josie Swander members of the DDA/GMS Board presented to members an overview of the services received to date for Main Street and also Grants received that would not have been received if Grayling was not a Main Street Community. They also explained the chart on where funds are spent and what revenues are received to cover the Main Street Managers position.

Member Kersey asked if the city funds contributed to Main Street goes to programing.

Tremonti and Swander said yes

Swander explained how they were working on becoming self-supporting, but due to COVID this has delayed this process.

Member Schreiner asked when that would happen.

Tremonti mentioned the board hopes within 3 to 5 years.

Member Schreiner mentioned “so you will be coming back and asking for council support in future years”

Tremonti said yes, since they were unsure how long it will take to be self-supporting and the board is looking at resources to help support the programing.

Member Schreiner asked what COVID did to the budget.

Tremonti said events could not take place due to COVID, so no revenues came in.

Member Schreiner said the past budget looked the same to him.

Tremonti then read a letter from Matthew Shaw the DDA/GMS Chair in support of the Main Street Program.

Tremonti was going to read another letter from Tracy Cook with the Chamber and Member Kersey said we have those in front of us and have read them.

Tremonti thanked Council for allowing them to present their presentation and asked they continue to support the program in the 21/22 budget.

Mayor Forbes closed the regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing at 6:50 pm

VII. Public Hearing

A. 21-22 City Budget

City Manager Baum explained the overview of the Budget and the surplus within all funds was \$72,888. He also explained a workshop was held with council to go over the draft budget and to answer any questions they may have. Only a few items were adjusted.

No Public Comments were made.

Mayor Forbes Closed Public Hearing and Resumed the Regular meeting at 6:52 pm

VIII. City Managers Report

City Manager Baum explained his report. He asked if there were any questions.

Member Kersey asked if the Shoppenagon building was safe.

City Manager Baum said yes.

IX. Mainstreet Managers Report

Mainstreet Manager Gosling mentioned a new business was up for sale downtown. “Damn It Do It Day” went well and most of the crosswalks were painted. She mentioned DPW helped out with cleaning grates and other items as well. She mentioned the Block party on Friday night 6/11/21 went well.

X. Project Updates

City Manager Baum mentioned that Michigan State University is updating the feasibility study for the Northern Market and the Business plan is also being worked on to get that updated as well. There is a food supply chain study that had just been completed and it also mentions a need for a food hub in Northern Michigan. He talked with Senator Stabenow’s office and there will be 3.9 billion of grant funds coming available soon and he would be working on a grant to try and secure some funds from that for the Market as well. He mentioned there are also grants available through D Sip for communities that are home to military facilities and we would be applying for grants for that as well. Member Schreiner asked if the other adjoining property the City purchased would also be eligible for grants from DCIP for a community center. City Manager Baum said he thought it would be.

XI. Unfinished Business

None

XII. New Business

A. Poverty Exemption Standards

City Manager Baum explained he reviewed this with the City Assessor and that she mentioned Council could consider making changes to the Asset Test but felt it was fine as it is. The City Assessor recommended Council leave the same.

21-066

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Sloan to approve the Poverty Exemption Standards as presented.

Member Schreiner mentioned he feels it is very generous.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

B. Master Service Agreement between Utility Service Co and the City of Grayling (Suez mass meter change out)

City Manager Baum explained this has been included in the city budget as only additional revenues being received, as payments are deferred for one year and will start in the 22-23 fiscal year.

Member Sloan mentioned he doesn't agree with the restocking fee in the agreement and asked if that could be removed.

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Goodwin mentioned she didn't feel the city would be charged and would look into that.

21-067

Moved by Sloan seconded by Forbes to Approve the Master Service Agreement between Utility Service Co and the City of Grayling (Suez master meter change out) without paying restocking fee.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

C. Master Service Agreement Terms and Conditions

Members asked what this is for.

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Goodwin mentioned it was the scope of work to complete the mass install.

21-068

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Sloan Approve the Master Service Agreement terms and Conditions as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

D. Resolution 2021-069 millage and Fiscal year 21-22 City Budgets.

Member Sloan asked what pages were changed in the updated Draft Budget.

City Clerk/Treasurer Johnson mentioned she didn't know exactly but the error found of \$15K was changed and that reduced the revenue needed from the city budget. The overall budget amounts for each fund didn't change, only changed items to correct items found at the workshop. She will get him a copy of the budget with the items highlighted that were changed.

21-069

Moved by Moshier seconded by Schreiner to waive the reading of the resolution.

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

Motion Carried

21-070

~~Moved by Moshier seconded by Forbes to approve the Resolution 2021-069 approving the 2021-2022 millage rate and city budgets as presented.~~

It was asked if two motions were needed.

City Clerk/Treasurer Johnson mentioned they have approved either separately or jointly in past years.

Members wished to have two motions made.

Member Moshier asked that his motion be changed to approve the Resolution 2021-069 approving the 2021-2022 millage rate. Member Forbes was good with supporting the new motion

21-070

Moved by Moshier seconded by Forbes to Approve the Resolution 2021-069 to set the 2021-2022 millage rate as presented.

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

Motion Carried

21-071

Moved by Moshier seconded by Forbes to Approve the 2021-2022 City Budgets as presented.

Mayor Forbes asked if members had any questions.

None were asked.

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

Motion Carried

E. Delinquent Water Sewer accounts to be placed on 2021 Summer Taxes

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Goodwin explained 4 were unpaid from the unpaid accounts during COVID others were other accounts over 90 days due.

21-072

Moved by Sloan seconded by Schreiner to place the delinquent Water Sewer accounts on the 2021 Summer Tax bills.

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

Motion Carried

F. 20-21 Budget Amendments

City Clerk/Treasurer Johnson explained she did the amendments differently this time to hopefully be clearer to the members and so they could see the overall areas of each fund/departments.

21-073

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Sloan to approve the 20-21 Budget Amendments as presented.

Mayor Forbes asked if any members had questions.

No questions were asked.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

G. Joint Fire Department Agreement

City Manager Baum explained the changes and that it was just a couple wording changes.

Member Moshier mentioned it is now following the city's fiscal year.

City Manager Baum mentioned the agreement was going in front of the Township Board at their next meeting for approval as well.

21-074

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Kersey to approve the Joint Fire Department Agreement as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

H. Application for Parcel Combination-Schreiner

Member Schreiner explained that he is asking for a conditional approval as he will not pay the past taxes until the Combination is approved.

He also mentioned he is abstaining from voting on this approval.

21-075

Moved by Sloan seconded by Kersey to approve the Application for Parcel Combination with conditions.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0, Abstain:1, Absent: 0, Vacant 0

Motion Carried

I. Confirm City Managers reappointment of Jill Tremonti and Jack Pettyjohn to the DDA/GMS board

21-076

Moved by Sloan seconded by Schreiner to confirm the City Managers reappointment of Jill Tremonti and Jack Pettyjohn to the DDA/GMS board.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

J. Multi-Use Permit - GPS Fireworks

City Manager Baum explained

21-077

Moved by Moshier seconded by Kersey to Approve the Multi-Use Permit for GPA Fireworks as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

XIII. Reports

Mayor Forbes asked if any members had questions on the reports. Members asked no questions.

XIV. Public Comment

Deputy Chief Clough mentioned she would not give her address due to security reasons. I am pretty disappointed, I've been hearing a lot of rumors around town including my officers being approached the last couple of weeks about disbanding our police department, defunding Public Safety. I just want it known, that its unacceptable for our city leaders to be discussing these things publicly and it getting back to my officers and making them question whether or not they have a job at the end of the night.

Member Sloan said "well that's news to me"

Member Schreiner said "especially defunding the police department".

Member Sloan said "I don't think that has been brought up by me or anyone else"

Deputy Chief Clough said " it came out of our prosecutors office"

Member Kersey said "actually no, that's not accurate I talked to one of your officers today and told him that's not true, that there have been a lot of rumors going on. I have, we have been questioning public safety and what each officer does and who is certified in what and um scheduling and coverage and how much of the city limits is covered by the county. I have brought that up to other board members, but never defunding. Um that has not and I talked to one of your officers today specifically about that. He came into my office and shut the door, where we had a conversation. I said that and that was that. Um I feel that council does have a right to know and we are addressing that at the next meeting on the 28th. I think council has the right to know what public safety entails, because I've asked before, it was oh we're fire, we're police, we're EMS".

Deputy Chief Clough said "we've asked that council come ride along with us, come see what we do"

Member Kersey said "I specifically said that to your officer today. I said I would like to do a ride along. He said absolutely, here's my availability this week let me know when you would like to go. I said great, thank you".

Deputy Chief Clough said "It would be great if you guys did".

Member Kersey said "My job at the prosecutor's office is separate than my job here. I'm an elected official. I don't cross them. It is difficult when I have officers from both city and county pop into my office and ask me questions regarding council, because I don't want to not talk to the officers. They can talk to me at anytime but again at the place of my employment is probably not the best way. Um everyone can call me up".

Deputy Chief Clough said “county officers?”

Member Kersey said “I had two county officers come in yesterday and ask me some questions about it and I told them the same thing I told the city officer today”.

Member Schreiner said “Defunding the department has never been discussed”.

Member Sloan agreed

Member Kersey said “That is not a conversation we have had”.

Mayor Forbes said “I do agree that there is confusion in what public safety is. Whether it is the title or description and that is something we did ask and Doug is well aware the need, it needs to be explained better on the 28th so we no longer have a misinterpretation of it because I think there has been. I’m just as guilty of it and Doug has been great about explaining it to me”.

Deputy Chief Clough said “I do believe that it was told to the officer today that both council members Sloan and Schreiner had discussion about trying to do a joint law enforcement agency and just go down to one agency”.

Member Kersey said “ No that’s not”.

Deputy Chief Clough said “Council Member Kersey said today to officer Grosberg”

Member Sloan said “I’ve never, I’ve said I’d like not to have public safety”

Member Kersey said “Correct”

Member Sloan said “but I’d like to have the police”

Member Kersey said “Correct”

Member Sloan said “and fire department, not one or the other”

Member Kersey said “Correct”

Member Sloan said “I’ve always supported the police”.

Member Kersey said “Correct”

Member Sloan said “I don’t know if I support public safety the way it is, but I do support the police.

Deputy Chief Clough said “Is there a reason why you don’t support public safety”

Member Sloan said “I think it adds a huge cost”.

Deputy Chief Clough said “How does it add cost”.

Member Sloan said “I don’t know, the budget is just way higher than it used to be”.

Member Schreiner said “This isn’t the best place to discuss this”.

Member Kersey said “No”

Member Sloan said “As it stands, I support the police just don’t know if I support public safety as one entity”.

Member Kersey said “Correct”

Member Sloan said “I like the idea of a fire department and a police department, but I’ve never stated that I want to disband the fire department/police department”.

Deputy Chief Clough said “Do you know why we went to public safety”.

Member Sloan said “No I haven’t discussed that”.

Deputy Chief Clough explained a fire that happened and Officer Art Clough, Chief Baum and herself responded to a fire call. They were not public safety or fire trained at that time and sitting outside of the house listening to those crying for help, listening to babies crying and a mother and child died in the fire and how hopeless we felt standing outside and not doing anything. That’s why we’re public safety. Because now Chief Baum and every police officer on the department is fire trained. To serve the community. So, I get that you don’t like it, but there’s reasons for it to be in place.

Member Sloan said “ok and I’m reasonable and I’m listening to what you are saying”.

Member Kersey said “and those are the questions we have been asking”.

Mayor Forbes said “So again I apologize Officer Cough, it’s been three minutes, I’m not asking you to leave. Um this is why I think the 28th needs to happen and everyone is welcome. I think there’s a lot of things that some of us don’t understand, myself included and I think that we need the opportunity to talk it through and understand it better and I fully welcome all of you and I know the experience you are talking about. I watched it. I would love if all of you could join us on the 28th and share your experiences and explain and help us understand what it is. Because I don’t want to see any of you leave. I don’t want our community to suffer because not all of us are understanding”.

Member Sloan said “Right, just a misunderstanding because some of the statements you’re saying that were made weren’t made. There’s been no conversation between us to change anything”.

Member Kersey said “There’s no talk of defunding the police department”.

Member Sloan said “No that’s never and I’ve never thought about it”.

Member Kersey said “It’s questionable why we have a fire department and public safety and I apologize for the confusion and gossip. But I’m not going to apologize for asking questions”.

Deputy Chief Clough said “Four different officers have been approached from different people saying” (Over talking of members, could not hear the rest).

Member Kersey said “I’ve have had half a dozen officers stop in at work and each of them are told of the June 28th meeting and my office at my place of employment is not an appropriate place for city or county officers to come in and discuss council stuff with me. So that was going to be discussed under council comments. I was going to address that”.

Member Moshier said “We just passed the budget, the moneys there”.

Member Sloan said “Nobody wants to get rid of the police officers”.

Mayor Forbes said “Thank you”

Mayor Forbes asked if anyone else had public comments.

None were made.

XV. Council Member Comments

Member Moshier mentioned he was contacted by one of the farm market vendors about only one day for the market.

City Manager Baum explained

Member Schreiner mentioned he feels the Zoning Ordinance needs to be reconsidered for chain link fences to be allowed in front yard. He also mentioned the 4-way stop at Michigan and Maple and the issue there with running the stop sign. He never sees an officer sitting and watching to write tickets. He also feels the city still needs to look at the draft Blight Ordinance and see if it can be written to work for the city and also the Renter’s Ordinance. He feels these are needed for the community.

Member Kersey asked if he wanted the Blight Ordinance back on the agenda. I got ridiculed for voting no on the ordinance before. It is insulting that no city residents worked on that “she said”.

Member Schreiner said no not at this time he will mark up his draft copy first.

Mayor Forbes thanked everyone for attending and said you’re always welcome. Sorry for any discomfort or problems. Come the 28th and be more transparent.

City Manager Baum mentioned that Officer Paille has been busy dealing with blight such as cars and garbage. We are also trying to help residents as well as they may be on fixed incomes and just need some help. He also mentioned that Grass and Weed violations will be worked on soon and he is looking at getting prices from private contractors to do the

mowing, so it doesn't take away from our DPW employees and other items they need to be working on.

City Clerk/Treasurer Johnson mentioned do they wish to cancel the June 28th meeting and hold it as a workshop since the budget was approved.

City Manager Baum mentioned with a workshop it is more of an open conversation discussion, but no actions can be taken.

21-078

Moved by Schreiner seconded Kersey to cancel the June 28th City Council meeting and hold a Work session on June 28th.

Roll Call Vote

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

XVI. Correspondence

Members thanked the LaFontaine's for the fence update for the cemetery.

XVII. Adjournment

21-079

Moved by Schreiner seconded Kersey that the meeting is adjourned.

Roll Call Vote

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

Mayor Forbes adjourned the meeting at 7:66 pm.

Lisa K Johnson

City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved Minutes can be found on our website: www.cityofgrayling.org