

CITY OF GRAYLING
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 11, 2022

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

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

Members Absent: None

Vacant Seats: None

Also, in Attendance: Chelsea Goodwin, City Clerk/Treasurer, Erich Podjaske, Zoning Administrator, Fire Chief Rodney VanDeCastele, Firefighter Mark Brown, Grayling Firefighters, and members of the public.

IV. Public Comment

None.

V. Introduction/Swearing In of Fire Chief Rodney VanDeCastele

VanDeCastele thanked everyone for the support in welcoming him to the Fire Department as the new Fire Chief. He is looking forward to working with and getting to know everyone. He is excited to see what the future holds.

Firefighter Mark Brown thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as the Fire Chief for the last year. It was an honor to work with everyone and he looks forward to working with the new Fire Chief during the transition.

VI. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Forbes asked for the removal of the consent agenda pending revisions.

22-061

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Pettyjohn to approve the agenda with the removal of the consent agenda pending revisions.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

VII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Baum was not present. Members had no questions or concerns with his Manager's report included in their packet.

VIII. MAINSTREET MANAGER'S REPORT

Main Street manager Jillian Tremonti was not present.

IX. PROJECT UPDATES

A. 150TH Sesquicentennial of Grayling

Pettyjohn stated there is a meeting next Thursday and will update Council at their next meeting.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Interim City Manager Contract Draft

Mayor Forbes noted the revisions needed to be made to the interim city manager's contract draft.

Paragraph two - clarify with city attorney Edwards phrase "terminate at any time" that conflicts with paragraph three. City attorney Edwards clarified via telephone. The word "and/or" should be changed to "and" to show agreeance between Council and the City Manager.

Schreiner noted that he wanted to make sure there was no conflict and make sure that the Council as well as Erich, were comfortable with the contract.

Mayor Forbes also wanted it noted that if Podjaske chose not to stay in the position of the City Manager, he would be eligible to go back to his old job as zoning administrator.

Compensation - Members agreed the salary should be \$78,000 for the duration of the eighth month interim contract.

Benefits - the life insurance policy, if any, city manager does not qualify for health reasons, city Council will readdress immediately. Schreiner stated he felt bad that he missed it on current City Manager Baum's contract.

Education - expect and show good faith effort in completing training for managing and budgeting.

Evaluation - verbiage for 1/2 way review, meaning four months to evaluate and point out improvements needed for the remainder of the eight month contract.

Schreiner asked Podjaske if he completed a list of goals. Podjaske replied that he was working on it.

Mayor Forbes stated the reviews would be in December and March.

22-062

Moved by Sloan seconded by Pettyjohn to approve raising the maximum allowed registration fee from \$400 to \$600.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

22-063

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Pettyjohn to approve the Interim City Manager's contract for Erich Podjaske pending the noted changes.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

B. Fred Bear Monument at City Park

John, the founder of Fred Bear Day, gave a brief background on how Fred Bear Day came to be. He is requesting permission from Council to place a statue of Fred Bear in the city park. The statue will cost approximately \$100,000 in which they are in the process of raising. MEDC currently has a crowdfunding grant campaign in which they will match \$50,000 towards the cost of the statue. The statue will take approximately 8 to 12 months to build once funding is raised. They have set up a Go Fund me page and their website will be live as of July 18, 2022. Ted Nugent is also a close friend and will be helping with the project. The statue will be approximately 7 1/2 feet tall. They chose to place the statue near the pavilion in the event a camera or a light is needed down the road and would be able to be mounted on the end gable.

22-064

Moved by Sloan seconded by Schreiner to approve the placement of the Fred Bear Statue in the city park.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

C. ARPA Funds

Members discussed the amount of ARPA funds noted in the handout. ARPA funds may only be used for specific purposes. Mayor Forbes noted that Grayling Township would be using their

ARPA funds for purchasing the platform truck. Schreiner felt that \$5000 should be taken from Parks and added to Water/Sewer due to the greater need in those departments. Members agreed.

22-065

Moved by Sloan seconded by Schreiner to approve the ARPA Fund amounts with the change of \$10,000 for Parks and \$35,000 for Water/Sewer.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

D. State St & I-75 BL Intersection – No Left Turn

Mayor Forbes referred to the MDOT letter that was handed out. She knows the issue had been brought up in the past. Mayor Forbes asked Police Chief Clough her thoughts on the issue. She felt it wouldn't be a bad idea but citizens would still try to turn left or would cut through the parking lots of 7-Eleven and Burger King. Schreiner stated he felt there were more than two crashes in five years, but during his time as an officer, witnessed hundreds of near accidents. Pettyjohn wasn't sure how or where signage would be placed without impeding traffic and obstructing views. Mosher felt a crosswalk light at the nature center was more warranted. Schreiner asked Police Chief Clough if she felt it was needed. She replied she would need to check crash reports and history before deciding. Schreiner suggested for the City Manager to draft a letter to MDOT asking why now and why not at other intersections we felt it was more needed. Members agreed.

E. FD Ladder Truck – Disposal of Assets

22-066

Moved by Pettyjohn seconded by Schreiner to approve the disposal of assets of the ladder truck towards the purchase of the platform truck.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

XI. REPORTS

None.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Podjaske mentioned that Rick Rawlings was looking to rezone the old Keyport building to put in a laundromat. It was currently going to Planning Commission and then would be coming to City Council. It would be a zoning amendment only for the 300 block of Michigan Avenue.

Pettyjohn asked if he presented his design ideas. Podjaske replied that he wasn't planning for a remodel on the outside but still needs to submit engineering plans for the inside improvements.

XIII. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Schreiner said he was glad to have fireworks but were the worst he's seen in Grayling. He saw many people leaving before they were even over.

Podjaske explained that the committee did what they could last minute and literally the week before.

Mayor Forbes said that it was mentioned multiple times that they did not have the big mortars to shoot off and it would be nothing like the regular firework shows.

Schreiner said he was glad to see all the patrol cars out and that he felt they kept things calm.

Mayor Forbes mentioned she received many comments on how great the 150th float was and how impressed they were. She said that Pettyjohn had done a great job on it.

Pettyjohn stated that he would love to see the float grow in the future. He mentioned that the float would also be in the Christmas Walk Parade.

Moshier asked what the refrigeration leak was on the FD Activity report.

Police Chief Clough stated it was a call the FD responded to at the ice plant with an ammonia leak.

XIV. CORRESPONDENCE

XV. ADJOURNMENT

22-067

Moved by Sloan seconded by Pettyjohn to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote

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

Mayor Forbes adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.

Chelsea Goodwin
City Clerk/Treasurer

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