

City of Grand Blanc City Council  
Minutes of February 13, 2019

Present: Mayor Soderstrom      John Creasey              Julie Nielsen  
Chris Douglas                  Paula Nas

Absent: Lisa Blondell

Staff: Wendy Jean-Buhrer, Mary Hopkins, Dianne Waterworth, Brian Lipe, Christina Irwin, Bob Burdette

Guests: Paula Schmidt, Christy Knight, Gordon Stryker, Chris Carr, David Karpelenia, Randy Genord, David Blight, Paris Sirakis, Denny Chinonis, and others.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Soderstrom at 7:00 P.M.

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Minutes. Motion by Nielsen supported by Creasey to approve the minutes contained in the agenda packet of February 13, 2019. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Bills. Motion by Nielsen supported by Creasey to approve bills in amount of \$453,670.95. Motion carried.
4. Public Hearing. – Sale of 11415 Davis St.  
Mayor Soderstrom opened the public hearing opened at 7:02 P.M.

Public Comment: Randy Genord with Workhorse Properties stated that he would like to purchase 11415 Davis St. in order to combine the two adjacent lots that he owns to develop a project that can be marketed.

Mayor Soderstrom closed the public hearing at 7:06 P.M.

Motion by Creasey supported by Douglas to accept the offer subject to negotiation and with final approval by City Council. Motion carried.

5. Public Comment.

David Karpelenia of 619 Charring Cross stated he is interested in vacant council seat.

6. Communication.

a) MML Convention and Capital Conference – Received and filed.

7. New Business.

a) Physicians Park Meet Up and Eat Up Program Request.

Motion by Nielsen supported by Creasey to approve the Physicians Park Meet Up and Eat Up lunch program request for Summer 2019 as presented and to allow two signs. Motion carried.

Motion by Nielsen supported by Creasey to waive the park rental fee. Motion carried.

b) Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation – Hard Times Party Request.

Motion by Douglas supported by Nielsen to approve the donation of two boxes of garbage bags to the Hard Times Party. Motion carried.

- c) Fire Chief Burdette Salary Increase.  
Motion by Nielsen supported by Douglas to table the decision to approve the salary increase. Motion carried.
- d) National League of Cities Membership Renewal.  
Motion by Nielsen supported by Douglas to approve the National League of Cities renewal of \$1,150.51. Motion carried.
- e) Resolution #19-0203 – Delegates to the Water and Waste Services’ Advisory Committee.  
Motion by Creasey supported by Douglas to approve Resolution #19-0203 appointing Wendy Jean-Buhrer as the delegate and Susan Soderstrom as the alternate to the Water & Waste Services Advisory Committee. Motion carried.
- f) Ordinance #1902-01 – Marihuana.  
Motion by Douglas supported by Nielsen to present Ordinance #1902-01 for the prohibition of Marihuana Business and Establishments for the first reading and request waiving of the reading. Motion carried.
- g) Committee Reports.

Personnel.

Motion by Creasey supported by Douglas to recommend the appointment of Chris Carr to serve in the vacant City Council seat until the November 2019 election. Motion carried.

Oath of Office of Chris Carr.

Motion by Creasey supported by Douglas to accept the recommendation from Personnel the approval of the City Manager’s contract retroactive to June 2018, and to also give City Attorney Griffin and Mayor Soderstrom the ability to enter into further negotiations with City Manager Wendy Jean-Buhrer. Motion carried.

Finance.

Motion by Nielsen supported by Douglas to accept the recommendation from Finance to approve the Michigan Tax Tribunal proposed settlement for First Merit Bank, MTT Docket No. 18-001045 Parcel No. 56-15-501-083 as presented in memorandum dated January 23, 2019. Motion carried.

Motion by Nielsen supported by Douglas to accept the recommendation from Finance to approve the invoice from Dee Cramer for the Library Boiler System repair in the amount of \$21,520.00. Motion carried.

Motion by Nielsen supported by Douglas to accept the recommendation from Finance to approve the proposed budget amendments for FY 2018-19. Motion carried.

Motion by Nielsen supported by Douglas to accept the recommendation from Finance to approve the invoice to Joe Raica Excavating for the Terrance Drive & Grant Street watermain replacement in the amount of \$31,294.00. Motion carried.

Motion by Nielsen supported by Douglas to accept the recommendation from Finance to approve the \$25,000.00 transfer from General fund to Water Fund for costs associated with 12/31/2018 early retirement. Motion carried.

Motion by Nielsen supported by Creasey to accept the recommendation from Finance to approve the bid submitted by Rauhorn Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$193,418.00 for the traffic signal modernization project on Saginaw St and Reid Road. Motion carried.

Motion by Nielsen supported by Creasey to accept the recommendation from Finance to approve the rescission of Fire Department 2019 budget approval made on December 12, 2018 at 1.5 mill revenue approval. Motion carried.

Motion by Nielsen supported by Creasey to accept the recommendation from Finance to approve the Fire Department 2019 budget approval at 1.0 mill revenue approval. Motion carried.

- h) MGT Consultants.  
Gordon Stryker from MGT Consultants gave a presentation on the Grand Blanc Fire Department Study.

8. Other Business

- a.) Police Chief Lipe – received and filed. Police Chief Lipe stated that he had just returned from a week of training, and that he has prepared a presentation that he will be presenting to the Planning Commission.  
b.) DPW Director – not present.  
c.) Building Inspector's Report – received and filed.  
d.) Fire Chief Burdette – received and filed.  
e.) City Attorney Griffin. – nothing to report.  
f.) City Clerk – nothing to report.  
g.) Finance Director/Treasurer. – nothing to report  
h.) City Manager's Report.

Motion by Douglas supported by Nielsen to commit and approve Resolution 19-0201 Major Street Funds CMAQ Non-Motorized Project. Motion carried.

Motion by Creasey supported by Nielsen to commit and approve Resolution 19-0202 Major Street Funds Center Road from McFarland St. to Brainard St. Reconstruction Project. Motion carried.

- i.) Members of Council

**Councilwoman Nielsen** – congratulations to Mary, and welcome to Chris Carr. Councilwoman Nielsen mentioned that in the minutes of the Legal and Legislative Committee that it stated that no action would be taken regarding the removal of late fees on water bills. She stated that she felt strongly that we should have a policy in place for waiving fees.

Motion by Nielsen supported by Douglas to recommend to Legal and Legislative to make a policy change to the ordinance regarding waiving of late fees for water bills. Motion carried.

**Councilman Douglas** – welcomed Chris Carr. Councilman Douglas stated that he was disappointed with the Township in their decision to dissolve the Fire Commission.

Motion by Douglas supported by Carr to direct City Manager Jean-Buhrer to reach out to the Grand Township Superintendent to negotiate. Motion carried.

**Councilman Carr** – stated that the Fire service in this community is exceptional, and it's something that's not broke. It seems likes that both sides are trying to break it.

**Councilman Creasey** – Congratulations to both Mary and Councilman Carr.

**Councilwoman Nas** - Congratulation to both Mary and Councilman Carr.

- j.) Mayor Soderstrom  
Congratulations to Mary. Mayor Soderstrom expressed concern with not being able to work something out with Grand Blanc Township regarding the Fire Commission. She would like to see us come together and work proactively as a community.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary B. Hopkins  
City Clerk