

City of Grand Blanc City Council
Minutes of July 12, 2017

Present: Mayor Soderstrom Julie Nielsen Jamie Weasel John Creasey
Chris Douglas Paula Nas Lisa Blondell

Staff: Wendy Jean-Buhrer, Bethany Smith, Walter Griffin, Matt Wurtz, Brian Lipe, Dianne Waterworth, Bob Burdette.

Guests: Travis McCarrick and family, Timothy Mucciante.

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 Douglas to approve the minutes of June 14, 2017 as presented. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Bills. Motion by Creasey supported by Weasel to approve payment of July invoices in the amount of \$232,307.15. Motion carried.
4. Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing – 391 Bush Ave.

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

Public comment: There was no public comment.

Travis McCarrick attended the meeting to present his request.

Building Official Sczepanski discussed the surrounding area and existing non-conforming buildings in the area.

Motion by Creasey supported by Blondell to approve the variance requests as presented. Rationale: A variance is warranted due to the relatively large size of the site, frontage or building in comparison to the other establishments in the same zoning district. The request also meets the standards of hardship, minimum necessary size and no effect on health and safety.

Roll call: Creasey, yes; Blondell, yes; Douglas, yes; Nielsen, yes; Weasel, yes; Nas, no. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Soderstrom closed the public hearing and reopened the regular meeting at 7:31 P.M.

5. Public Comment – none.
6. Communications.
 - a) “Paint Our Town Blue Team” – Thank you. – Received and filed
7. New Business.
 - a) Grand Blanc Chamber - Request for Banners. Motion by Nielsen supported by Douglas to approve the Grand Blanc Chamber Request for installation of banners on Saginaw Street from August 12 through September 14, 2017. Motion carried.
 - b) Grand Blanc Art Fair - Request for Banners. Motion by Weasel supported by Creasey to approve the request from the Grand Blanc Arts Council for (2) two banners at Saginaw and Reid Road for the Art Fair from July 21 through August 6, 2017. Motion carried.

c) Fire Millage Discussion.

Council discussed the agenda items from the June 26th, Joint City/Township meeting.

1) Discussion of the millage request to fund future operations of the Fire Department.

Councilman Douglas described the difference between the City's numbers and the numbers on Mr. Haiser's report. The difference is the new cost purchase and depreciation costs added together on Mr. Haiser's report inflates the numbers needed to fund the Fire Department.

It was a consensus of Council, to request from the voters an additional .25 mills restricted to fund vehicles and equipment, request a renewal of the .5 millage currently on the taxes and the City will continue to contribute the .5 from the General Fund to complete Fire Department funding.

2) Review of Election Dates for the Ballot.

If there is no tie-bar on the ballot question with the Township – The Township will have to ask first, if it passes in the Township the City will request on the following election.

If there is a tie-bar – Both municipalities can ask at the same time but Council is not interested in asking at the May 2018 election. August of 2018 would be the Council's choice.

Ballot questions – Council consensus is one question for the renewal and one for the new.

3) Topics for the Task Force Discussion.

a) Building Costs – After much discussion, the Council determined that “Improvements and upgrades that are a permanent part of the structure or building” should be paid for by the City at Station 1 and the Township at Stations 2 & 3. Those improvements must be requested at budget time and go through the standard bid process the City uses for all projects.

Councilman Douglas requested from Chief Burdette statistics on the Community/Training Room use for possible cost sharing between the City and the Fire Commission.

b) Fund Balance Policy – yes. Should be written by the Fire Commission and passed by both the City and the Township.

c) Creation of Capital Improvement Fund – yes.

d) Millage Increase should be restricted to vehicle and equipment.

e) Vehicle Funding Policy – will be determined by the availability of funds and recommendations from the Fire Commission.

8. Other Business

- a. Police Department – nothing to report.
- b. DPW Director – nothing to report.
- c. Building Inspector's Report – nothing to report.
- d. Fire Chief Burdette – nothing to report.

e. City Attorney Griffin –

Sign Ordinance Revision #1480-01 – Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to approve the 2nd reading of Ordinance #1480-01 as recommended by Planning Commission and waive the reading. Motion carried.

f. City Clerk/Assistant City Manager – Nothing to report.

g. Finance Director/Treasurer. – Auditors will be August 7th.

h. City Managers Report

Phase 1 Testing at 11410 S. Saginaw St. – Motion by Blondell supported by Creasey to approve the grant of \$1,050 and City expenditure of \$1,050 for Phase 1 testing of 11410 S. Saginaw Street for the purpose of determining due diligence at the site and possible further environmental testing that may be required. Motion carried.

Internal Water Tower Painting – Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to approve the invoice from L&T Painting Inc. for the internal water tower painting in the amount of \$108,000. Motion carried.

i. Members of Council

Councilwoman Blondell - The Food Truck Festival was a great success, thanks to all who worked on the event.

Councilman Weasel – Would like to see a program to recognize properties in the City that make an effort to landscape their property.

Councilman Creasey – There is a lot going on in downtown Grand Blanc this summer. Food Truck Festivals, Tuesday Tunes and Concerts in the Parks.

j. Mayor Soderstrom - nothing to report.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany J. Smith, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk