

City of Grand Blanc City Council
Minutes of May 10, 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.

Guests: Bob Burdette, Karl Haiser, Don Becker, John Freel, Bob Courneya, Cathy Lane, Paula Schmidt, members of the Fire Department 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 Blondell supported by Nielsen to approve the minutes of April 12, 2017 as presented. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Bills. Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to accept the recommendation from Finance and approve payment of April invoices in the amount of \$536,847.86. Motion carried.

Mayor Soderstrom thanked everyone who worked on the First Friday Food Truck Festival on May 5th. It was a great success and there are several planned events going on in downtown Grand Blanc this summer.

4. Public Hearing – Truth in Taxation for establishment of the 2017 millage rates. Budget amendments for 2016-17, 2017-18 budgets and approval for 2018-19 budget.

Mayor Soderstrom opened the public hearing at 7:05P.M.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to approve Resolution #17-05-01 Budget Adoption and General Appropriations Act. Roll call vote: Blondell, yes; Creasey, yes; Nas, yes; Douglas, yes; Nielsen, yes; Weasel, yes. Motion carries 6-0.

Mayor Soderstrom closed the public hearing at 7:10 P.M.

Mayor Soderstrom reopened the regular meeting

Public Comment – none.

5. Communications.
 - a) Michigan Public Policy Survey. – Received and filed.
 - b) Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission. – Local Impact of US Dept. of HUD funding. – Received and filed.
6. New Business.
 - a) Genesee County Metro Planning Commission - Request
 - b) Committee Reports.

Finance

Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to accept the recommendation from Finance and approve the revised fee schedule. Motion carried.

Motion by Blondell supported by Creasey to accept the recommendation from Finance and approve the MTT Stipulation for First Merit Bank/Huntington National Bank, Parcel number 56-15-501-083 MTT Docket #16-0032589 as presented in the memorandum dated May 3, 2017. Motion carried.

Motion by Blondell supported by Creasey to accept the recommendation from Finance and approve the Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation 1st half installment invoice in the amount of \$55,927.50 for FY 2018. Motion carried.

Motion by Creasey supported by Blondell to accept the recommendation from Finance and allow the City Administration to donate old unused office equipment to a charity of our choosing as requested by the City Clerk. Motion carried.

9. Other Business

- a. Police Department – Monthly report received and filed.
- b. DPW Director – Discussed the proposal from Consumers Energy to install equipment on utility poles on S. Saginaw Street. The purpose is to provide reliability of service to the greater Grand Blanc area. It was the consensus of Council that utility reliability was important and although aesthetically the equipment is not pleasing it is necessary.
- c. Building Inspector's Report – received and filed.
- d. Fire Chief Burdette Report – Discussion of the proposed millage increase.
Chief Burdette addressed the questions that were posed by Council regarding the proposal for an increase in the current millage rate for the Fire Department. He stated that Station 1 will continue to be the primary station despite discussion at the joint meeting that the manned station would be moved out of the City. Council had several questions and requests for the Chief and Karl Haiser the Fire Commission Treasurer:
 - Councilwoman Blondell **requested a detail by run report for the 2016 runs.**
 - Councilwoman Nielsen requested cost recovery information – Chief Burdette felt that to implement cost recovery efforts it would take a full time position.
 - Mayor Soderstrom asked if response times could be improved upon and how many times had the Fire Department been delayed by a train on a call. Chief Burdette suggested that there were none that he could recall and that under current conditions a decrease in response times would not be likely.
 - Council asked what was the need for an additional full time firefighter and if an additional firefighter is hired would that reduce the need for part-time firefighters. Chief Burdette suggested that the part-time firefighters have already been reduced through attrition and an additional fulltime firefighter would not change those numbers. The addition would give the department the ability to fulfill the commercial and multi-family residential inspection program.
 - When is a new station required? Is the proposed Tech Village in the Township expecting dedicated fire service? Chief Burdette noted that there are no plans currently for a new station.
 - Council **requested from Treasurer Haiser budget to actual numbers for recent years to determine if the Fire Department is in a deficit.**
 - There was considerable discussion surrounding the spreadsheet that was provided at the joint meeting by the Township Manager. The Fire Commission is tasked to verify those numbers and provide the Council with valid numbers delineating the millage need. Treasurer Haiser stated that he did not have any calculations at this time to back up his initial estimated need of .5 additional from each unit of government and he would need to do some more work to determine the actual millage increase needed to fund the Fire Department.
 - Councilman Douglas **requested that the Fire Commission provide comparative depreciation schedules for units of government similar to Grand Blanc and the annual cost of vehicle maintenance.**
 - Mayor Soderstrom questioned the spreadsheet provided by the Township Manager regarding the Internal Service Fund. Chief Burdette suggested that those numbers were incorrect and there should be \$405,000 contributed annually to the Internal Service Fund for equipment. The spreadsheet failed to take into account the \$210,000 that is currently contributed.
 - Council discussed the shortfall for three years that the Township did not contribute the full amount to the Fire Department the .5 from their General Fund.

e. City Attorney Griffin –

Moratorium on Signs – Resolution to create a deferral of review of applications for sign permits and sign variances except for temporary sign permits for a period of 90 days until the proposed sign ordinance amendment is adopted. Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to place a 90 day moratorium on signs or variances excluding temporary signage until the current ordinance is in place unless there is a compelling reason for an applicant to receive relief during that 90 day period. Motion carried.

Ordinance ##1705-01 Regulating Precious Metal and Gem Dealers – Motion by Blondell supported by Douglas to approve the first reading of Ordinance #1705-01 and waive the reading. Motion carried.

f. City Clerk/Assistant City Manager - Election results report.

g. Finance Director/Treasurer. – nothing to report.

h. City Managers Report – received and filed.

i. Members of Council - The Food Truck Festival was a great success, thanks to all who worked on the event.

j. Mayor Soderstrom - Will be scheduling Legal and Legislative Committee meeting.

Motion by Nas supported by Blondell to authorize a closed session of the City Council to discuss union negotiation strategy in accordance with the State of Michigan Open Meetings Act. Roll call vote: Nas, yes; Blondell, yes; Nielsen, yes; Douglas, yes; Weasel, yes; Creasey, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Soderstrom closed the regular meeting to go into executive session at 8:28 P.M.

Mayor Soderstrom re-opened the regular meeting at 8:54 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany J. Smith, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk