

City of Grand Blanc City Council
Minutes of December 11, 2019

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

Staff: Wendy Jean-Buhrer, Mary Hopkins, Brian Lipe, Matt Wurtz, Walt Griffin, Dennis Smith, Dianne Waterworth, Steve Hill, Ted Szczepanski.

Guests: Geric Rose, Gary Gould, Elena Rendon-Owens, Pat Oakes, 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 contained in the agenda packet of December 11, 2019. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Bills
Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to approve bills in amount of \$682,724.40. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment
Elena Rendon-Owens – 8497 Pepper Ridge Dr.
5. Communication.
 - a) Comcast Programing Change – Received and Filed
6. New Business
 - a) 2020 Calendar and Appointments
Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to adopt the 2020 Calendar as presented in the agenda. Motion carried.
 - b) Ordinance #1911-01 DDA/TIFA Plans Amendment Second Reading
Motion by Blondell supported by Creasey to present Ordinance #1911-01 for the DDA Plan Update for the second reading and request waiving of the reading. Motion carried.
 - c) Ordinance #1911-02 Fire Department Parking Regulation Second Reading
Motion by Nielsen supported by Creasey to present #1911-02 for the Fire Department Parking Regulation for the second reading and request waiving of the reading. Motion carried.
 - d) Grand Blanc Market Place PUD
Brian Borden from Safe Built explained the process for the PUD
Mark Drane the project architect presented the PUD to the Council
DPW Director Matt Wurtz discussed four concerns that he had with the PUD
 1. Parking Lot Encroachment
 2. Extension of Sidewalk
 3. Drive Thru Stacking
 4. Traffic Impact StudyPlanning Commissioner Bob Courneya spoke on behalf of the Planning Commission.

Motion by Carr supported by Blondell to postpone a decision on the Grand Blanc Market Place PUD
Motion carried.

e) Committee Reports

Public Works

Motion by Nas supported by Nielsen to approve the Fleis and Vandenbrink preliminary engineering services contract in the amount of \$29,000 for the FY 2020 Safety Improvement Project for the citywide traffic safety improvements. Motion carried.

Motion by Nas supported by Nielsen to approve the Fleis and Vandenbrink engineering services contract in the amount of \$2,500 for the removal of the existing traffic signal at Bush/Davis/Jewett intersection. Motion carried.

Finance

Motion by Douglas supported by Nielsen to approve Payment No. 2 for Horcha Excavating for the Physicians Ice Rink/Splash Pad in the amount of \$40,160. Motion carried.

Motion by Douglas supported by Nielsen to approve the Rauhorn Electric, Inc. Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$18,183.35 for the Saginaw St. & Reid Road Traffic Signal Modernization project. Motion carried.

Motion by Douglas supported by Nielsen to approve the Rauhorn Electric, Inc. Payment No. 3 of \$23,632.86 for the Saginaw St. & Reid Road Traffic Signal Modernization project. Motion carried.

Motion by Douglas supported by Nielsen to approve Resolution 19-1201 Multiple Year Deficit Elimination Plan. Motion carried.

Motion by Douglas supported by Nielsen to approve request for proposal of cost of service and rate design study. Motion carried.

Motion by Douglas supported by Nielsen to approve the Owens invoice for the Physicians Park Ice Rink/Splash Pad in the amount of \$16,550. Motion carried.

Motion by Douglas supported by Carr to approve Custom Ice invoice #6805 for the Physicians Ice Rink/Splash Pad in the amount of \$23,956.50. Motion carried.

Motion by Douglas supported by Carr to approve Custom Ice invoice #6806 for the Physicians Ice Rink/Splash Pad in the amount of \$2,245.60. Motion carried.

Motion by Douglas supported by Carr to approve Custom Ice invoice #6808 for the Physicians Ice Rink/Splash Pad in the amount of \$2,425.50. Motion carried.

Motion by Douglas supported by Carr to recommend to City Council approval of the Change Order No. 1 from RL White for the Physicians Park Restroom improvements in the amount of \$10,506.90. Motion carried.

Motion by Douglas supported by Nielsen to adopt McFarlen Library 2020 budget as presented. Motion carried.

Personnel

Motion by Blondell supported by Creasey to approve revised Command Unit Memorandum of Understanding. Motion carried.

13. Other Business

- a.) Police Chief Lipe – received and filed
- b.) DPW Director – nothing to report.
- c.) Building Inspector's Report – received and filed
- d.) Fire Chief Smith – received and filed

Mayor Soderstrom read a prepared statement:

The Township Board needs to stop fear mongering and take care of their own business.

The City and the Township fire departments are recognized as equivalent by national criteria. They are both combination departments. As discussed by our consultant last fall, in order to be categorized as a full-time 24/7 department, one would need a staff of 26 full-time firefighters. The Township staffs one station. They have four (4) full-time firefighters and a full-time Chief. Their second station by Genesys Hospital is not staffed. Therefore, it is incorrect to claim that the Township fire department is “full-time”. It is not. It is a combination department. (Part-paid and some full-time).

By that criteria, we are providing the same fire protection to our city schools and our residents. If the Township has a significant fire, their “part paid” firemen are called in, following the exact same process we follow.

The City of Grand Blanc Fire Department's response times as reported, from 911 call to arrival, have averaged 4.88 minutes. That response time is what one would expect from a long-established “full-time” Fire Department. We are very proud of this achievement in such a short time and congratulate our firefighters for doing such a fantastic job of protecting our community.

Station Number One, in the center of our City, is strategically located in relation to our schools. Remember, before the Fire Commission dissolution, which the Township forced upon us last January, we could get no guarantee that Fire Station One would be kept open. Fire Station One is .3 miles from the high school, the Perry Center, Brendel Elementary and Holy Family. The Township's fire station on South Saginaw is three miles from all of those schools. The proximity of the City's Fire Station One to schools in this community is a huge advantage when one considers fire protection, but, keep in mind, this is the very station Township trustees might have closed down. Fire Station one in the City is also much closer to several schools in the Township, including Cook Elementary and the East Middle School. The Grand Blanc City Fire Department is perfectly located to provide quick assistance.

We are determined to provide this City with the best fire protection it has ever had. In one month, we will have completed arduous cross-training for some members of our police department and the department of public works so that these persons will be certified firefighters. These individuals will be in the City and available for fire fighting duties during school hours. In April, the City's High School Liaison police officer, who is in the high school every day, will be a certified firefighter as well.

When the City Fire Department asked the Township for written fire inspection reports of businesses in the City, we were told they had none. We are in the process of correcting that significant deficiency. For firefighters, it is critical for their safety to know what hazardous materials might be present, should there be a fire.

The City is properly covered with fire hydrants, but much of the Township is not.

As I said, we will not stop until we provide the best fire protection this City has ever had. Since July, Fire Station One has been refurbished and updated, much of the work done by our firefighters. We have a fire department second to none.

e.) City Attorney Griffin

Attorney Griffin gave an update on the Memorandum of Understanding that was presented to him from Grand Blanc Township regarding Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation. It was the consensus of the Council to proceed to negotiate with the Township regarding Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation.

Attorney Griffin gave an update on the Memorandum of Understanding on the disillusion of the Fire Commission.

Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to approve Memorandum of Understanding on Division of Grand Blanc Fire Commission Assets. Motion carried.

f.) City Clerk – nothing to report

g.) Finance Director/Treasurer – nothing to report

h.) City Manager's Report

Thanked all the City Departments for making the Festival of Lights a success.

i.) Members of Council

Councilman Carr – stated that it is disturbing that the Grand Blanc Community cannot work together on joint issues as in regards to Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation. He thought the Festival of Lights was very nice.

Councilman Creasey – agreed with Councilman Carr regarding Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation issue. He also commented on the Festival Lights and how nice the evening was.

Councilwoman Nielsen – Happy Holidays

Councilman Douglas – also agreed with Councilman Carr. He stated that the City is not who is asking for these dissolutions.

j.) Mayor Soderstrom

Motion by Creasey supported by Blondell to appoint Donald Becker as the Citizen Representative to the Genesee County Metropolitan Alliance. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary B. Hopkins
City Clerk