

City of Grand Blanc City Council  
Minutes of November 13, 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, Megan Mulder, Dennis Smith, Dianne Waterworth, Steve Hill.

Guests: Geric Rose, Gary Gould, Yvonne Wagner, Mary Owens, Sandy Jones, Beth and Dave Goman, Jane and Bill Burgess, Larry R. Smith, Scott Smith, Jennifer Daneshgari, Dr. Perry Daneshgari, Debra Baughan, George Rizik, Paige Treichl, John Nielsen, Bob Foote, Heather Moore, Dr. Meik Scholz-Daneshgari, David Hill, and others.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Soderstrom at 7:01 P.M.

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Oath of Office  
Susan Soderstrom – Mayor  
Christopher Carr – City Council  
John Creasey – City Council  
Chris Douglas – City Council  
Julie Nielsen – City Council
3. Approval of Minutes  
Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to approve the minutes contained in the agenda packet of November 13, 2019. Motion carried.
4. Approval of Bills  
Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to approve bills in amount of \$639,692.77. Motion carried.
5. Public Comment  
  
Janice Schiefer – 7805 Millington, Millington, MI
6. Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs Grant Check Presentation  
Jeff Garrett presented a check to City Manager Wendy Jean-Buhrer in the amount of \$40,000 that was awarded for the Grand Blanc McFarlen Library Roof Project.
7. Rehmann Robson 2019 Audit Presentation  
Doug Deeter from Rehmann Robson presented the 2019 Audit.
8. Public Hearing – Perry Rd. Road Diet  
Julie Kroll from Fleis & Vandenbrink presented the study on the Perry Rd. Road Diet.

Mayor Soderstrom closed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing at 7:26 P.M.

Public Comment: David Hill – 11890 Curwood Dr.  
John W. Creasey – 11604 Davis St.  
Beth & Dave Gomon – 4470 Perry Rd.  
Paul E. Duey – 11325 Woodbridge Dr.

Mayor Soderstrom closed the public hearing at 7:48 P.M.

Motion by Blondell supported by Carr to take the proposed road diet for Perry Rd. back to the DPW committee for further consideration. Motion carried 5-1.

9. Public Hearing – DDA Plan Update, Ordinance #1911-01 DDA/TIFA Plans Amendment First Reading  
City Manager Wendy Jean-Buhrer gave an update on the plan that the DDA has been working on in order to begin capturing tax revenue.

Mayor Soderstrom closed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing at 7:57 P.M.

Public Comment – None

Mayor Soderstrom closed the public hearing at 7:57 P.M.

Motion by Nielsen supported by Blondell to present Ordinance #1911-01 for the DDA Plan Update for the DDA Plan Update for the first reading and request waiving of the reading. Motion carried.

10. Public Hearing Zoning Board of Appeals – 363 E. Grand Blanc Rd. Fence Variance

Mayor Soderstrom closed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing at 8:12 P.M.

The petitioner Dr. Perry Daneshgari presented his request.

Public Comment: Larry Smith – 16525 Seymour

Mayor Soderstrom closed the public hearing at 8:18 P.M.

Motion by Carr supported by Blondell to deny the variance based on the fact that it does not meet the standards that would be applied for a variance. Motion carried.

11. Communication.  
a) Comcast Programing Change – Received and Filed  
b) MML Newly Elected Officials Training – Received and Filed

12. New Business  
a) Grand Blanc Play – Special Land Use and Site Plan Review  
Brian Borden from Safe Built Studio explained the request for the special land use. Jeff Schemanek owner of Grand Blanc Play explained that his business is an indoor play facility that is geared toward toddler through early teenage aged children. They also host parties, and the facility does include a café.

Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to approve the requests for special land use and site plan review based upon compliance with the criteria for special land uses found in Section 2102 of the City Zoning Ordinance and that the revised site plan dated 11/4/19 meets the conditions noted by the Planning Commission. Motion carried.

Mayor Soderstrom closed the regular meeting at 8:39 P.M. for a five-minute break.

Mayor Soderstrom reopened the regular meeting at 8:44 P.M.

- b) Medawar Discussion  
Attorney Rizik representing Mr. Medawar requested a 6-month extension as they pursue the best use of the property located at 11410 S. Saginaw Street.  
  
Motion by Blondell supported by Carr to approve extending the starting date of the development of the southwest corner of Reid and Saginaw to July 16, 2020 and add this as an amendment to the current purchase agreement. Motion carried.
- c) Ordinance #1911-02 Fire Department Parking Regulation First Reading  
Motion by Nielsen supported by Douglas to present #1911-02 for the Fire Department Parking Regulation for the first reading and request waiving of the reading. Motion carried.
- d) National League of Cities Membership Dues  
Motion by Carr supported by Creasey to approve the National League of Cities dues of \$1,172.00. Motion carried.
- e) Genesee County Metropolitan Alliance Membership Dues and Appointment of Elected, Citizen and Alternate Representatives  
Motion by Douglas supported by Creasey to approve Genesee County Metropolitan Alliance Dues of \$150.00 and appoint Chris Douglas as the elected representative, and Susan Soderstrom as the alternate representative, and will find a citizen representative at future date. Motion carried.
- f) Cooperative Mutual Aid Fire Control Agreement  
Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to approve the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Cooperative Mutual Aid Fire Control Agreement. Motion carried.
- g) Committee Reports

Finance

Motion by Nielsen supported by Creasey to approve Payment No. 1 for Horcha Excavating for the Physicians Ice Rink/Splash Pad in the amount of \$114,00. Motion carried

Motion by Nielsen supported by Creasey to proceed with the sale of DPW dump/plow truck through Bidcorp. Motion carried.

Motion by Nielsen supported by Creasey for approval of Walter P. Griffin as representative for the City of Grand Blanc with respect to coordinating the audit through Yeo & Yeo for dissolution of the Fire Commission and distribution of assets. Motion carried.

Motion by Nielsen supported by Creasey to approve the Fire Budget amendments as presented in the November 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting packet. Motion carried.

Motion by Nielsen supported by Creasey to approve the Rauhorn Electric, Inc. Payment No. 2 of \$150,088.39 for the Saginaw St. & Reid Road Traffic Signal Modernization project. Motion carried.

Motion by Nielsen supported by Creasey to select the bidder, RL White Construction for the Physicians Park Restroom Improvement project in the amount of \$21,500. Motion carried.

Public Safety

Motion by Douglas supported by Blondell to withdraw from the Automatic Mutual Aid agreement with Grand Blanc Township in all matters. Motion carried.

Parks & Recreation

Mayor Soderstrom stated that the interim director requested a meeting between the Grand Blanc Township lawyer, Grand Blanc Township Supervisor, Grand Blanc Township Superintendent, City Attorney, City Manager, and Mayor. The City of Grand has given dates that they are available however the Township of Grand Blanc has not yet replied to that request.

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  
Fire Chief Smith congratulated the Mayor and Council on their re-election.
- e.) City Attorney Mulder – nothing to report
- f.) City Clerk – received and filed
- g.) Finance Director/Treasurer – nothing to report
- h.) City Manager’s Report  
City Manager Jean-Buhrer reminded everyone of the Festival of Lights on December 6, 2019.
- i.) Members of Council  
**Councilwoman Nielsen** – stated that she is humbled to be sitting in her Council seat again, and that she is looking forward to the next four years. She also wanted to tell DPW Director Wurtz that downtown looks beautiful.  
**Councilman Douglas** – thanked the citizens of Grand Blanc for their support and his re-election to the Council. He stated that it is an honor to serve the City of Grand Blanc on the City Council. Thank you to the DPW for plowing the roads.  
**Councilwoman Blondell** – congratulations to the four Council members who were re-elected, and also to the Mayor.  
**Councilman Carr** – thanked everyone for his election to the City Council.  
**Councilman Creasey** – stated that he appreciated that other people like Yvonne Wagner ran for Council. That is what makes us a Democracy. He thanked City Clerk Hopkins for doing a fantastic job with the election with all of the recent changes. He also stated he was happy that the audit went well.  
**Councilwoman Nas** – congratulated to those who were elected and re-elected.
- j.) Mayor Soderstrom – thanked City Clerk Hopkins on the election, and stated how much the new changes with Absentee Voting changed the process of the election. She stated that she feels privileged to be here for another four years.

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary B. Hopkins  
City Clerk