

**GROVE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021
6:00 PM
MINUTES**

The Grove City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 6:00 PM with Mayor, Ed Trumbull presiding. Members present were Josh McElhaney, Matt Henderson and Ivan Devitt. Member, Marty Dyer was absent. Also present was City Manager, Bill Keefer; Attorney, Darren Cook; Assistant City Manager, Debbie Bottoroff; City Treasurer, Lisa Allred; Public Works Director, Deric Douthit and City Clerk, Bonnie Buzzard.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marshall Green addressed the Council to respectfully ask about the upcoming Comprehensive Plan. Green reported that he has read a similar plan in the past, and it always appears that no action is every taken from the City Council. Green respectfully noted that if the City is going to take the initiative to put in the manpower, and incur the cost into this type of project, that they fulfill their do diligent to implement the projected projects. Green entertained questions and comments from the Council and Staff.

Ryan Beavers addressed the Council in regards to Ordinance #795. Beavers respectfully reported on the declining Covid-19 cases for the City of Grove and Delaware County, and the reasoning being is due to the heavy availability of vaccines that have a 99% recovery rate. Beavers added that Governor, Stitt has announced that he is no longer enforcing mask mandating at the Capital. Beavers strongly encouraged the City of Grove to consider lifting their mask mandate ordinance.

Trumbull read in it's entirely a Proclamation declaring April 2021 World Autism Awareness Month & April 2, 2021 as World Autism Day.

Devitt made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2021 regular meeting. Seconded by McElhaney. AYE: McElhaney, Henderson, Devitt and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Devitt made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2021 special meeting. Seconded by McElhaney. AYE: McElhaney, Henderson, Devitt and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Devitt made the motion to approve the purchase order register. Seconded by McElhaney. AYE: McElhaney, Henderson, Devitt and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Trumbull opened the floor for discussion and presentation of the 2019-2020 Annual Financial Report (Audit) for the City of Grove. Anna Elfrink – MS, CPA presented and discussed in detail her report on the Audit of Financial Statement for the year ending 06.30.20. Elfrink reported that this audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statement that collectively comprise the City of Grove's financial statements as a whole. Elfrink reported no major discrepancies in the audit being presented. Elfrink fielded questions from the Council. The audit presentation last for approximately 10 minutes. Elfrink added that this is an unqualified opinion of the audit, and that it contains no issues. Devitt made the motion to accept the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year audit as presented

and discussed. Seconded by McElhaney. AYE: McElhaney, Henderson, Devitt and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Trumbull opened the floor for discussion with respect a Construction Agreement with the Grove School District. Keefer reported that the scope of the project includes some minor patching and an asphalt overlay of a section of roadway located on school property off of 7th Street. The agreement was prepared by Attorney Cook, and was reviewed and approved by the Grove School District. Devitt made the motion to approve the construction agreement as presented and discussed. Seconded by McElhaney. AYE: McElhaney, Henderson, Devitt and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Trumbull opened the floor for discussion with respect to an Ordinance amending Part 15, Section 15-401 of the City of Grove's Code of Ordinances as it pertains to speed regulations. Keefer reported that several months back the City Council approve an Ordinance amending the speed limit on streets throughout the city to ensure the safety of drivers as well as pedestrians. Since that time the city has received a request from Cedar Oaks Homeowners Association to consider an amendment to include Cedar Oaks Drive. Although, the request did not include Sunset Circle, Staff is recommending to include that section of street as well since it serves as the entrance into the neighborhood. Devitt made the motion to approve the Ordinance as presented and discussed. Seconded by McElhaney. AYE: McElhaney, Henderson, Devitt and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Trumbull opened the floor for discussion with respect to declaring a 2004 Kubota M9000 tractor as surplus equipment. Keefer reported that the Staff would like to utilize this equipment as part of a trade-in negotiations for a new tractor but the Council has to declare it as surplus first. Devitt made the motion to declare the 2004 Kubota tractor as surplus. Seconded by McElhaney. AYE: McElhaney, Henderson, Devitt and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Trumbull then opened the floor for discussion with respect to a Sales Tax Incentive Application and Agreement with Sharie Cox, dba Grove's Royal Party Solutions. Bottoroff reported that this business has recently sold, and the new owner is making application for Sales Tax Incentive reimbursement. The previous owner made the same application to the GEDA Board / City Council and was approved. Since that application was under the previous owner, the Staff felt like the new owner would need to make application. Bottoroff added that this application also went before the GEDA Board and was approved upon recommendation to the Mayor and City Council. Devitt made the motion to approve the Sales Tax Incentive application and agreement with Sharie Cox as presented and discussed. Seconded by McElhaney. AYE: McElhaney, Henderson, Devitt and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Trumbull opened the floor for discussion with respect to the selection of a Recruitment Services Consultant. Henderson reported that he reached to the City of Miami as a reference check on SGR to learn that they utilized them 3 different times in the last 5 years, and that they highly recommended them. Henderson added that he had contacted an outside resource, and it was communicated to him that SGR did a great job for them, and was very informative on each process of the event. Henderson recommended SGR search firm, and felt very confident that they would do a great job for the City. Devitt confirmed with Henderson, and added that he had contacted an actual candidate that went through the application & interviewing process with SGR, and heard no negative comments about SGR. Henderson then suggested that an Advisory Committee be formed of the following individuals to assist with the application review and recommendation process:

- ✓ City Attorney, Darren Cook
- ✓ Assistant City Manager, Debbie Bottoroff

- ✓ Police Chief, Mark Morris
- ✓ Fire Chief, Mike Reed
- ✓ Chamber Director, Donnie Crain, and
- ✓ 1 leadership position from the Grove Rotary Club

Devitt made the motion to approve the selection of SGR as the recruitment consultant and direct Attorney, Cook to negotiate an agreement to bring back before the Council for consideration at a future meeting, and to approve the appointment of the Advisory Committee as presented by Henderson. Seconded by McElhaney. AYE: McElhaney, Henderson, Devitt and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Keefer reported that some months ago he received an interest from Air-Evac of Claremore on a tract of land owned by GEDA / City of Grove directly in behind the EMS (ambulance) facility. Keefer announced that they are interested in 1-2 acres along the far South section adjacent to the EMS facility for a helicopter pad and structure. Keefer noted that he presented this to the GEDA Board during their meeting this past Monday to entertain their input. It was the consensus of the Board to continue conversation(s) with the party. Keefer entertained reaction from the Council. Keefer advised that he would keep them updated on any new developments on the project.

WARD REPORTS:

McElhaney asked for an update on the recent gas situation. Keefer reported that he has made contact with Southern Star and that they informed him that they are about two weeks out on official notification on any possible penalty fee waivers, and that no billing has been received from Constellation at this time.

McElhaney expressed thanks to Marshall Green and Ryan Beavers for their public comments this evening.

McElhaney wanted clarification from Bottoroff on the Sign Ordinance in regards to the election signs placement. Bottoroff assured McElhaney that all of the candidates are being treated equally when it comes to their signs.

At 7:10 PM Devitt made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Henderson. AYE: McElhaney, Henderson, Devitt and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.