

**GROVE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023  
4:30 PM  
MINUTES**

The Grove City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 4:30 PM with Mayor, Ed Trumbull presiding. Council members present were Andy Stewart, Marty Dyer, and Ivan Devitt. Member Steven Thomas was absent. Also present were City Manager, Debbie Bottoroff; Attorney, Darren Cook; City Treasurer, Lisa Allred; Public Works Director, Deric Douthit and City Clerk, Bonnie Buzzard.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mayor Trumbull presented and read in its entirety a letter from A.I.C Paul Hawk of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drug Control recognizing the outstanding work done by Detective Sgt John Morrow who was responsible for setting into motion a large-scale drug conspiracy case which resulted in the successful prosecution of Luis Alfredo Jacobo, William Johnson, Kelly Bryant and many other co-conspirators that were involved in trafficking methamphetamine into Northeast Oklahoma and Southwestern Missouri. Morrow was present to receive the recognition.

Devitt made the motion to approve the minutes from the May 30, 2023 special meeting. Seconded by Dyer. AYE: Stewart, Dyer, Devitt, and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Devitt made the motion to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2023 regular meeting. Seconded by Dyer. AYE: Stewart, Dyer, Devitt, and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

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

Trumbull opened the floor for discussion with respect to a 2-Year Agreement with Richard James for Municipal Judge Services. James was present to entertain any questions from the Council. Devitt made the motion to approve the agreement with Richard James for Municipal Judge services to include a \$250.00 per month pay adjustment per the 2023-2024 budget. Seconded by Stewart. AYE: Stewart, Dyer, Devitt, and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Trumbull opened the floor for discussion with respect to a request from Grove Municipal Airport Managing Authority (GMAMA) for Darren Cook, City Attorney, to provide Legal Services for the following:

1. Write up an estimate of what it would cost if litigation through the court system is required for acquiring the Hutchison property, including imminent domain;
2. Negotiate with Mr. Hutchison's attorney on the purchasing price of the land;

Airport Manager, Lisa Jewett addressed the Council to report that she has been working with the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission and the Federal Aviation Administration regarding the land acquisition requirements from Mr. Hutchison. Jewett respectfully requesting legal services assistance from City Attorney, Cook with the negotiating from Hutchison's attorney on the purchasing price of the land, and any other litigation thru the court system. Dyer made the motion to authorize the

request from the Airport for legal assistance from City Attorney Cook. Seconded by Stewart. AYE: Stewart, Dyer, Devitt, and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Trumbull opened the floor for discussion with respect to the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with AARP for grant funding to purchase and install two (2) push button lighted crosswalks, one (1) advanced warning signal and six (6) lights that illuminate crosswalks in the downtown area. Bottoroff reported that the City of Grove was awarded this grant in the amount of \$12,700 and that it will be utilized for the purchase and installation of lighted crosswalk signals plus one (1) advanced warning signal on the south side of 3<sup>rd</sup> street. Bottoroff added that AARP will provide a press release to the newspaper on June 28, 2023 to announce the grants awarded. Devitt made the motion to approve the MOU as presented and discussed. Seconded by Dyer. AYE: Stewart, Dyer, Devitt, and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Dyer made the motion to authorize the use of the City's Escrow Balance in the amount of \$3,629 with Oklahoma Municipal Assurance Group (OMAG) towards the 2023-2024 premium for OMAG Worker's Compensation renewal. Seconded by Devitt. AYE: Stewart, Dyer, Devitt, and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Trumbull opened the floor for discussion with respect to appointment of Trustees to the Grove Municipal Services Authority to fulfill a term that will expire September 30, 2023. Trumbull announced that this vacant position was advertised and that his letter of application was only one received. Dyer made the motion to appoint Ed Trumbull to the Grove Municipal Services Board of Trustees to fulfill the unexpired term thru September 2023. Seconded by Stewart. AYE: Stewart, Dyer, Devitt, and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Stewart made the motion to approve the acknowledgment of receipt for Permit Exception #WLMC0021230392 for the construction of 980 linear feet of two (2) inch PVC potable water line and all appurtenances to serve the new Industrial Building, Delaware County, Oklahoma. Seconded by Dyer. AYE: Stewart, Dyer, Devitt, and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

#### **STAFF REPORT:**

Bottoroff reported that the Staff has been working with the architectural firm on the Public Safety Facility to bring the project cost down to a dollar amount that would be feasible for the City of Grove. Jon Wolff – Municipal Finance Services, Inc., and Bond Counsel Allan Brooks would like to address the City Council on Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 PM during a proposed special meeting for a presentation explaining the regulations and process of calling for a Special GO Bond Election.

Bottoroff added that the Kansas Drag Boat Association (KDBA) will be holding the Wolf Creek National drag boat races on July 8-9, 2023, and that they will be requesting 20 volunteers to assist with the launching and loading of boats. Bottoroff reported that several city employees have volunteered but we're not close to the 20 volunteers needed. Devitt suggested that the Rotary Staff might be a great source to utilize.

Bottoroff reported that the city crews will begin picking up storm debris on Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. The crews will only pick up the tree debris that is cut to a maximum of 6' in length and placed at the curbside in the right-of-way.

Cook reported that the city has closed on the 46 acres of lands as described in a recent article of the Grove Sun for a designated park area.

Douthit reported that it was a busy weekend for his crew. They worked hard around the clock on getting the tree debris cleared from the streets and getting the water intake and few left stations up and running from the power outage.

**WARD REPORT:**

The Council all expressed their tremendous thanks to the city “Great Team” of crews for their long and hard hours worked on getting the debris cleared from the streets and public works facilities.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Trumbull announced that with respect to an Executive Session for the purpose of conferring on matter pertaining to confidential communications between a public body and its attorney concerning a pending investigation, claim, or action if the public body, with the advice of its attorney, determines that disclosure will seriously impair the ability of the public body to process the claim or conduct a pending investigation, litigation, or proceeding in the public interest, Pursuant to Title 25 O.S. Section 307.B.4. (Confidential Communication). No action needed as per City Attorney Cook.

At 5:06 PM Devitt made the motion for the Council to recess into an Executive Session for the following:

- to discuss the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of any individual salaried public officer or employee, pursuant to Title 25 O.S. Section 307.B.1; City Treasurer’s annual evaluation to include participation from Lisa Allred and Debbie Bottoroff,
- to discuss the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of any individual salaried public officer or employee, pursuant to Title 25 O.S. Section 307.B.1; City Attorney’s annual evaluation to include participation from Debbie Bottoroff, and
- to discuss the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of any individual salaried public officer or employee, pursuant to Title 25 O.S. Section 307.B.1; City Manager’s annual evaluation to include participation from Debbie Bottoroff.

Seconded by Stewart. AYE: Stewart, Dyer, Devitt, and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

At 5:45 PM Stewart made the motion for the Council to come out of Executive Session with no action taken. Seconded by Dyer. AYE: Stewart, Dyer, Devitt, and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Trumbull opened the floor for discussion with respect to agenda item E.2, E.3 and E.4 of the above-mentioned agenda item. Devitt made the motion to approve a one-year contract with each of the three public officers or employees. Seconded by Dyer. AYE: Stewart, Dyer, Devitt, and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.

At 5:46 PM Stewart made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Devitt. AYE: Stewart, Dyer, Devitt, and Trumbull. NAY: None. Motion carried.