**GROVE CITY COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**WORKSHOP SESSION**

**THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2011**

**12:00 PM**

The Grove City Council met in special session on Thursday, July 14, 2011 at 12:00 PM with Mayor Marty Follis presiding. Members present were Ed Trumbull; Ileta Bray; Marty Dyer and Berwin Kock. Also present was City Manager, Bruce Johnson; Assistant City Manager, Debbie Bottoroff; City Treasurer, Lisa Allred; Public Works Director, Jack Bower and City Clerk, Bonnie Buzzard.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to Grove Tax Incremental Financing District #1. Johnson reported on the following detailed summary of the proposed terms and conditions pertaining to the Grove TIF District #1 financing:

* Borrower: Grove Economic Development Authority
* Purpose: provide approximately $2.1 million for project cost

pay capitalized interest through June 1, 2013

pay cost of issuance

* Approx. Principal amount: 2,345,000
* Term: 2011 Notes matures June 1, 2036 = 25 years
* Est. Interest Rate: 5.0%
* Legal Opinion: The Public Finance Law Group PLLC – OKC, OK
* Interest Payment: commencing June 1, 2011
* Principal Payment: commencing June 1. 2014

The Council and Staff entertained questions, comments and concerns from the following individuals:

* Bill Miller, and
* Larry Sadler

No action was taken.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to sick leave upon separation of employment prior to vesting. Johnson reported that it is Staff’s recommendation to change this policy the following amendment:

Section 2-6.5 Sick Leave Upon Retirement

Sick leave is not payable or applied to employee’s retirement service credit upon separation from employment prior to completing the vesting period of 7 years and 7 months of continuous employment., and

Section 2-6.6 Sick Leave Upon Termination from Employment

Except as provided above for ~~retiring~~ vested employees, sick leave is not payable to any employee who is involuntarily terminated.

No action was taken.

Follis opened the floor with respect to YMCA contract. Johnson reported that this contract was made between the YMCA and the previous City Council member. Certain members of the Council strongly felt like this contract was way too long, therefore, he asked that the City Council review the contract, and make recommendation to him. No action was taken.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to street lighting fee. Johnson reported that in the previous years the budget reflected $60-65,000 for street lights, and now with the new lights along Highway 59 the current budget reflects $80,000. Johnson asked the Council to consider keeping this in the budget or removing it and make up the funding difference by amending the budget with other sources. Johnson added that if the Council elects to keep the budget as approved, then they may collect the funds by attaching a ‘street lighting fee’ onto the 3,900 GMSA customers that is located inside the corporate limits of Grove or they may elect to include the 2, 100 GMSA customers outside the corporate limits of Grove for a possible lesser fee per customer. The Council and Staff entertained questions, comments and concerns from the following individuals:

* Larry Sadler
* Bill Miller, and
* Judith Read

Follis suggested that the Council look at this policy in more detail for possible recommendation back to the Council prior to final approval. Bray suggested that the Staff implement a policy for this program. Kock understood that the Council needs to recover their cost by charging the GMSA customers, however suggested that the cost be buried in the current utility cost, and not itemized as a single cost. No action was taken.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to a new sick leave payout program prior to retirement. Johnson reported that currently the City offers their employees the option to:

1. Convert their sick leave over to their retirement system, or
2. Take one lump sum check when they leave

This plan would allow an employee, instead of receiving total sick leave cash benefit on their last paycheck, to have that amount paid out over their last three years of service. No action was taken.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to substance abuse policy. Johnson reported that there are several different policies that the City departments are utilizing for this project. Johnson indicated that the Staff would like to combine all of the various policies into one feasible policy for the Staff. No action was taken.

Follis opened the floor for with respect to water and sewer utility rates. Johnson reported that according to the Codified Ordinances of the City of Grove the City Council has control over the GMSA water & sewer rates; however the gas lines are owned and operated by the Grove Municipal Services Authority. Therefore, Johnson presented and discussed in detail with the Council the following proposed / current numbers for the average GMSA residential inside utility customer:

Water Sewer Nat. Gas Total

Proposed $18.28 $15.43 $60.03 $93.74

Current $14.69 $12.27 $56.46 $83.42

Difference $ 3.59 $ 3.16 $ 3.57 $10.32

The Council and Staff discussed this project in detail, and entertained questions, comments and concerns from the following individuals:

* Larry Sadler, and
* Bill Miller

No action was taken.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to contracts with other agencies. Johnson reported that he is still negotiating with the various organizations in regards to their contracts; therefore he will be presenting these contracts to the Council in the near future for possible consideration. No action was taken.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to white tail deer harvesting. Johnson reported that 2010 was the first year for allowing the harvesting of deer inside the corporate limits of Grove, and according to the records only nine (9) deer were harvested. Trumbull addressed the floor to report that he would like to see the Council consider the following amendment to the Ordinance:

Section 4-303.C …Individuals shall maintain a distance of ~~three hundred~~ (~~300~~) one hundred fifty (150) feet from any structure while hunting…

Section 4-303.D … (new addition) Hunters must harvest two (2) antlerless deer before receiving authorization to harvest an antlered deer. Antlered deer kills out of sequence will result in the immediate revocation of the hunters permit.

The Council and Staff entertained questions, comments and concerns from the following individuals:

* Bill Miller, and
* Judith Read

No action was taken.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to animal regulations. Johnson reported that the Staff is working with the Grove Police Department / Animal Control in rewriting this Ordinance in its entirety. Therefore, Johnson respectfully requested that the Council review this Ordinance for recommendation back to him. No action was taken.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to water treatment plant expansion. Johnson presented and discussed in detail with the Council the following Grove Municipal Services Authority Work Plan:

* Executive Summary
* Current Status of GMSA
  + General
  + Water Utility
  + Natural Gas
  + Operations
  + Treatment Plant Operations
* Challenges, Goals, and Action Item for GMSA
* Action Items Summary

Johnson respectfully requested that the Council review the document for implementation and funding recommendation back to him. No action was taken.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to Grove Economic Development Authority Strategic Plan, projects and tourism development. Johnson presented and discussed in detail with the Council the goals and strategy to the Grove Economic Development Authority Strategic Plan Outline:

1. Business Retention & Expansion Program
2. Economic Development Funding
3. Organizational Development
4. Industrial Development
5. Marketing
6. Retail Development
7. Downtown Revitalization
8. Retirement Development
9. Tourism Development
10. Infrastructure Plan
11. Real Estate Packaging & Development Process
12. Lakefront Development
13. Capital Facility Plan
14. Workforce Development
15. Neighborhood & Infill Nonresidential Development
16. Cluster Development
17. Entrepreneurship
18. Annexation
19. Higher Education

Johnson respectfully requested that the Council review the document for implementation and funding recommendation back to him. No action was taken.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to hospitality tax. Johnson announced that he is looking at placing this project for a vote of the people on the fall 2011 ballot. Johnson entertained questions, comments and concerns pertaining to this project in detail from the Council. No action was taken.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to sales tax collections. Johnson reported that currently the City of Grove is contracted with the Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC) for collection and disbursement of city sales tax at a rate of 1% administrative fee. The OTC delinquent list is confidential; however there are some local businesses that are cited in the 90 day delinquent column. Johnson noted that he would like the Council to consider implementing an Ordinance that would attach to the OTC contract allowing the City of Grove to revoke the occupation license of such businesses indicated in the 90 day delinquent column until such time all taxes are paid current. Johnson added the City of Bartlesville, and Muskogee has passed an Ordinance of this nature, and has been very successful with it. No action was taken.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to sexually oriented businesses. Johnson reported that a local government cannot totally prohibit a business that offers non-obscene but sexually explicit materials; however municipalities may elect to pass an Ordinance to restrict their zoning preference upon review and approval of the Grove Planning and Zoning Commission. Johnson anticipated this Ordinance will be coming before the before City Council for consideration in the near future. No action was taken.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to street speed limits. Johnson reported that he has received reports from Police Chief, Mark Morris in regards to the current and proposed ‘Speed Limits’ to certain City arterial and collector streets. The Staff is still waiting for additional information from Morris for a final draft Ordinance. Not action was taken.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to annexation plan. Johnson reported that this project is currently outlined in the GEDA Strategic Plan Outline; however when approached about a proposed annexation the City would like to assume it to be a positive move, and not that of a negative. Johnson reported that the immediate concerns from the Staff pertaining to existing subdivisions are:

1. the street maintenance, and
2. storm drainage.

The Council and Staff entertained questions, comments and concerns from the following individuals:

* Larry Sadler
* Bill Miller, and
* Judith Read

No action was taken.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to E-911. Johnson reported that the City is looking at purchasing additional equipment for E-911 which would help bring in approximately $80,000 worth of revenue from cell phone taxes. Johnson added that the Northern half of Delaware County is currently paying 5% for their land lines for 911, and the Southern half pays 15%. Johnson noted that Delaware County held an election several years ago allowing for higher collection from 5% to 8%, and then a Resolution was passed by the County Commissioners increasing it from 8% to 15%. Johnson reported that he is proposing to request from the County to have an election raising the Northern half at the same rates for additional revenues for the City of Grove E-911. The Council and staff entertained questions, comments and concerns from the following individuals:

* Bill Miller, and
* Larry Sadler

No action was taken.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to Delaware County Solid Waste District. Johnson reported that should the city collect and deliver its own trash to the Delaware County Solid Waste Transfer Station we would be paying a smaller fee than the city is currently paying for Bernice Sanitation to pick-up, and haul away. Delaware County considers the trash hauled by Bernice Sanitation as commercial trash, and charges more for that trash. Johnson indicated that he has requested a copy of the policies authorizing them to conduct the charges accordingly, and never received any documentation so he will place a second request for those documents for utilization to other communities to see if they charge each community a different rate. The Council entertained questions, comments and concerns from Bill Miller. No action was taken.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to Grand Lake O’ the Cherokees Watershed Alliance. Johnson reported that this organization has been around now for approximately two years with their main goal being to protect the watershed of Grand Lake. They have requested for the City of Grove to select a local committee. Johnson announced that he would be making recommendation to the Council for participation in a future meeting. No action was taken.

At 2:07 PM Kock made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Bray. AYE: Trumbull, Bray, Dyer, Kock and Follis. NAY: None. Motion carried.