

Council Meeting

The Graettinger City Council met in a regular session on Monday, November 11, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall with Mayor Armstrong presiding. Present were council members Alderson, T. Hoffman, Masters, Dyhrkopp, and T. Anderson. Present were employees Currans, C. Hoffman, and Anderson. Visitors: Barb Jacobsen, Leslie Faust, Gina Lowman-Hall, Donovan Young, Aaron Wilson, Jon Larson, Carter Manwarren, Jerry Petersen, Amanda Mart, Kendra Hough, Angie Sorbo, Morgan Skattebo, Owen DeMoss, and Megan Helmich.

Motion by Alderson, second by Dyhrkopp to approve the consent agenda. 1. Motion to approve agenda. 2. Motion to approve minutes. 3. Motion to approve bills. 4. Motion to approve financial statement. 5. Motion to approve Class B Retail Alcohol License for the Graettinger Country Store. All ayes. Carried.

The Graettinger Senior Center represented by Barb Jacobsen approaches the council regarding a concrete pad they would like installed on the south side, behind the Senior Center, for ADA access to their building. The Senior Center plans to ask PACGDC for a grant to cover concrete and installation. The Senior Center would like to help with a \$500 match if their grant gets approved. The access will allow our residents with walkers and wheelchairs to access the building from their vehicles.

Gina Lowman-Hall provided an update on the library, noting a surplus for FY24. She highlighted increased outside funding, book checkouts, door counts, and youth and adult programming. Lowman-Hall also praised the role of volunteers and reaffirmed the library's importance to the Graettinger community.

Brad Anderson provided updates on several ongoing projects. The pool leaks have been repaired, and the concrete work has been completed. Anderson and C. Hoffman also finished winterizing the pool for the season. Regarding the rig station, Anderson reported that work has been completed, including valve replacement, and all systems are now operational. He also updated the council on efforts to extend the gas service to two homes in town. He will look at getting numbers together for a snow truck purchase for the City of Graettinger.

The council discussed the storm sewer on S. Cedar Ave. A camera inspection will assess whether any sewer tiles are compromised, with repairs planned as necessary. CIT Sewer Solutions will perform the work, starting later this week. Anderson reports the ground on S. Cameron Ave will be monitored before finalizing repairs from the recent water main repair. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Motion by Dyhrkopp, seconded by T. Anderson to purchase a laptop for Collin Hoffman for city work. All Ayes. Carried.

Motion by Alderson, seconded by Dyhrkopp, to block off Robins Street for the Holiday Stroll on December 4th and allow them to have the nativity scene in Fahnstock Park. All ayes. Carried.

The Vision Committee, represented by Megan Helmich and Morgan Skattebo, revisited their plans for upgrading park equipment. They proposed replacing the playground equipment at the hilltop playground on Robins Street with new structures suitable for children ages 2-12, including swings and a surrounding sidewalk. The total project cost is \$141,000, with an additional \$17,000 requested for the sidewalk. The committee plans to apply for a PACGDC Grant and requests that the City of Graettinger contribute to the project if the grant is awarded. The proposal has been tabled until the next meeting.

The Little League Board approaches the council about updating scoreboards at Citizens Park. They are planning to replace the existing scoreboards. The new scoreboards will cost \$7,125 each, they would like to purchase two for a total of \$14,250. The committee plans to apply for a PACGDC Grant and requests that the City of Graettinger contribute to the project if the grant is awarded. The proposal has been tabled until the next meeting.

The council reviewed photos of ongoing nuisance violations. Nuisance abatement letters have been sent to Eide, Enderton, Nissen, Wall/Page, and Guinn residents for various city complaints. Residents will have to remove, clean up, or be assessed a penalty. The City of Graettinger would like to thank those residents who have taken the time to address nuisances and will continue efforts to maintain Graettinger's appearance.

The City Council is pleased to announce the recent acquisition of two new solar-powered speed signs courtesy of PACGDC. These signs are part of ongoing efforts to improve traffic safety and reduce accidents in our community. The new signs will be installed on **S. Cedar Ave** and **N. Van Gordon Ave** at strategic locations known for higher traffic volume and speeding concerns. The solar speed signs are designed to be energy-efficient, utilizing solar power to operate, reducing the need for external power sources. They are equipped to display real-time speed data to drivers, providing visual feedback and encouraging drivers to slow down to the posted speed limit. The City will monitor traffic patterns and gather data to evaluate the effectiveness of the signs in reducing speed and accidents. Additional signage or adjustments may be considered if further improvements are needed based on collected data.

Motion by Dyhrkopp, seconded by T. Anderson to approve the Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2024, with Light Plant numbers. All Ayes. Carried.

The City of Graettinger has been approved, pending review, to receive FEMA Public Assistance, pending final review. The next steps include completing the funding agreement and scheduling a

Recovery Scoping Meeting with FEMA to assess the impact of the recent flooding in June and develop a recovery plan.

The RVTC franchise agreement will be reviewed in December. The Graettinger City Council and River Valley Telecommunications Coop Board of Directors will meet to discuss renewal.

Masters introduced resolution no. 45-2024, “A resolution approving a mini-grant funding from PACGDC for the Graettinger Senior Center for a grant application for adding a cement pad on the south side of the building for ADFA access to the Graettinger Senior Center, grant not to exceed \$5000. ” and moved that it be adopted. Seconded by T. Anderson. Ayes-5. Resolution adopted.

Dyhrkopp introduced resolution no. 46-2024, “A resolution approving grant funding from PACGDC for the Graettinger Municipal Light Plant for a grant application for Christmas lights for the City of Graettinger Main Street, not to exceed \$24,000.” and moved that it be adopted. Seconded by T. Anderson. Ayes-5. Resolution adopted, Carried.

Hoffman introduced resolution no. 47-2024, “A resolution approving a mini-grant funding from PACGDC for the Graettinger Business Club for a grant application for Main Street Speakers for the City of Graettinger, grant not to exceed \$5000.” and moved that it be adopted. Seconded by Dyhrkopp. Ayes-5. Resolution adopted, Carried.

Dyhrkopp introduced resolution no. 48-2024, “A resolution authorizing mini-grant funding from PACGDC for the City of Graettinger for a grant application for City Cameras for the City of Graettinger, not to exceed \$5000.” and moved that it be adopted. Seconded by T. Anderson. Ayes-5. Resolution adopted, Carried.

Anderson introduced resolution no. 49-2024, “A resolution authorizing grant funding from PACGDC for the Graettinger Community Apartments for a grant application for new asphalt for their existing parking lot on Cedar Ave location, grant not to exceed \$50,000.” and moved that it be adopted. Seconded by Hoffman. Ayes-5. Resolution adopted, Carried.

The Council reviewed ideas for PACGDC for grants within the city. Tabled till next meeting.

Next Meeting Dec 9, 2024

Nov-24					
Amazon	Books	\$279.17	NWIA Lumbar	Supply	\$10.88
Arnold Motor	Supplies	\$239.38	Team Lab	Chemical	\$1,994.75
IRS	Tax	\$1,905.85	Treasurer State	Wet tax	\$610.51
Bomgaars	Uniforms	\$101.81	PEFA	Gas	\$1,623.42
Central State Lab	Testing	\$1,458.79	GWorks	Supplies	\$81.63
Clayton	Reservation	\$5,094.47	WB Library	Dues	\$30.00
DSG	Supplies	\$555.54	RVTC	Loan	\$8,101.85
GR Market	Supplies	\$50.89	Midwest Radiology	Deductible	
GMU	Electric	\$2,601.08	Peterson		\$163.60
Groeбner & Assoc	Supplies	\$277.74	City Laundering	Supplies	\$10.45
Harris Sanitation	Contract	\$5,920.30	CIT Sewer	Storm sewer	\$7,825.00
Hawkins	Chlorine	\$30.00	Parallel	Supplies	\$1,222.16
Sandy Henderson	Contract	\$180.00	Traffic Logix	Speed Signs	\$5,016.00
IAMU	Gas	\$3,359.51	Spencer Hsptl	Deductible	\$289.18
IA One Call	Locates	\$20.70	Cert Fire Ext.	Extinguisher	\$114.49
IPERS		\$2,702.97	Rich Ayers	Building	\$18,180.00
IA Rural Water Assoc	Dues	\$305.00	Payroll		\$6,484.34
IA Utilities Board	Assessment	\$283.00	Total	\$102,484.27	
Larry Lair Excavation	Water	\$2,480.00	General	\$29,892.95	
PA County treasurer	Contract	\$693.33	WR Grant	\$22,919.00	
Pro Coop	Gas	\$312.51	RUT	\$3,110.46	
RVTC	Phone	\$555.25	Emp Ben	\$3,291.13	
Treasurer State	Sales Tax	\$495.37	Debt	\$8,101.85	
US Cellular	Cell Phone	\$216.38	Water	\$6,843.16	
Wellmark	Insurance	\$6,910.64	Sewer	\$2,460.15	
PA Co Sheriff	Contract	\$5,231.33	Gas	\$17,328.67	
Continental Research	De-Icer	\$216.94	Storm sewer	\$7,825.00	
RVTC	Web	\$122.97	Self-Ins Fund	\$452.78	
Christensen Const	Pool	\$5,488.95	General	\$109,426.03	
Unity Point Clinic	Testing	\$42.00	WR Grant	\$1,798.50	
Visa	Supplies	\$1,198.90	RUT	\$9,319.54	
Culligan	Water	\$7.50	Emp Ben	\$30,260.82	
GR Times	Legals	\$563.81	LOST	\$12,469.91	
GR hardware	Street	\$575.40	Water	\$11,489.52	
Avera	Deductible	\$144.21	Sewer	\$8,706.53	
			Gas	\$7,120.76	

NWIA Bone& Joint	Deductible	\$104.32	Cust Deposit	\$754.09
			Storm	\$758.78
			Total	\$195,062.20

Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Dyhrkopp to adjourn at 7:17 P.M. All ayes. Carried.

Brandon Armstrong, Mayor

Kara Currans, City Clerk