

Council Meeting

The Graettinger City Council met in regular session Monday, March 11, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall with Mayor Armstrong presiding. Present were council members Harris, Masters, Dyhrkoff, and Hoffman. City employees Currans, and Anderson present. Absent: Alderson and Peterson. Visitors include Marty Currans, Paulina Chavez, Lloyd Peterson, and JR Brown.

Motion by Dyhrkopp, seconded by Masters to approve consent agenda. 1. Motion to approve agenda. 2. Motion to approve minutes. 3. Motion to approve bills. 4. Motion to approve financial statement. All ayes. Carried.

Paulina Chavez approached the council regarding the Downtown Catalyst grant she recently applied for. Pending approval of grant, the City of Graettinger has promised to allocate \$10,000 to help Irving Ahumada and Paulina Chavez revitalize their downtown building. The City of Graettinger has also allowed them the use of the City dump truck for removal of debris. Chavez made the city aware of sidewalk buckling on Washington Street, adjacent to her building. Chavez advised it is the responsibility of the shop owner to maintain sidewalks, barricades may be used to protect public from hazards. The Business District sidewalks shall extend from the property line to the curb.

The Graettinger Economic Development Council (GEDC) was present to address the council regarding new residential housing development they plan to develop on northeast side of Graettinger. JR Brown, Lloyd Peterson, and Marty Currans were present to ask the City of Graettinger to consider covering the cost of their loan for sewer, water, and street work in residential development. Site Plan given to Council for review. The GEDC will be placing homes on lots, starting in July, they hope to start completion of six lots starting with two houses from Iowa Prisons Industries (IPI). GEDC stated Jacobson-Westergard will be completing work on sewers, water, and street. JR Brown presented a verbal bid from two years ago totaling approximately \$147,000 ; JR was asked to submit a current bid for work for council consideration. The city will look at the budget and consider a proposal for \$25,000 per year to be paid to GEDC for new housing development. Tabled till new bid received.

Anderson made the Council aware that Pat Peters will be donating grass seed to city property located by Roberts Self Storage. The city recently made improvements to the land and backfill dirt was used to level the ground. The grass seed will help reduce erosion. The Council gave permission to city workers to remove crabapple trees from the parks as needed. Anderson also made the Council aware he will be starting maintenance on city alleyways this spring.

Anderson reviewed with the council regarding recently audited by State for City of Graettinger gas utility. The inspection went well, and they were advised they did have two issues to improve on. Peterson and Anderson will implement changes recommended by the state. Clayton Gas Conference will be held in May this year, Peterson will be attending. Peterson and Anderson will also be attending continuing education for their CPO licensure in the next few months to keep certifications current.

The City of Graettinger has an account with Cooperative Energy for propane. The account comes with an option to become a stockholder and receive dividends yearly. The council has decided not to invest in stock options with Cooperative Energy at this time.

Masters introduced resolution no. 17-2024, “ A resolution amending the employee Handbook for employees.” and moved that it be adopted. Seconded by Harris. Ayes-4. Adopted.

Dyhrkopp introduced resolution no. 19-2024, “ A resolution setting salaries for employees of the City of Graettinger.” and move that it be adopted. Seconded by Hoffman. Ayes-4. Adopted.

Masters introduced resolution no. 15-2024, “A resolution authorizing the mayor to sign a contract Chapter 28-E agreement with the Palo Alto County Solid waste transfer station. “ and move that it be adopted. Seconded by Dyhrkopp. Ayes-4. Adopted.

Hoffman introduced resolution no. 20-2024, “A resolution approving city grant agreement with Palo Alto County Gaming Development Corporation, PACGDA.” and move that it be adopted. Seconded by Dyhrkopp. Ayes-4. Adopted.

Discussion was held regarding grants applied for and received this year. The City of Graettinger has applied for several grants. Palo Alto County Gaming Development Corp has awarded several grants to the City of Graettinger: City Equipment shelving \$3123.00, City per capita grant \$37,244.17. City award of \$41,548.00. Paint Iowa Beautiful will be making an announcement this spring regarding new acrylic paint for pool flooring. Small City Zone sign package grant was not received this year. The Dcat grant for Pool passes was granted for a total of \$2500.

Motion by Armstrong, seconded by Dyhrkoff, to hire Staci Girres, Pool Manager for 2024. All ayes, motion carried. Motion by Armstrong, seconded by Dyhrkopp to hire Allyson Thompson (Head lifeguard), Liberty Ellis, Trista Guinn as returning pool staff. Girres will be accepting applications till March 27, 2024. Help wanted posted on city website.

Discussion was held regarding DCAT grant received, total for 2024 grant received was \$2500. This is less than the previous year. Discussion was held as with this total amount the City of Graettinger can help 26 families with pool passes for the 2024 year. If the City of Graettinger increases the family total due, we will be able to help more families with passes. Motion to increase DCAT family cost to \$45 and single membership \$25 for families that qualify. Letter sent to GTRA school to mail to eligible families.

The City Of Graettinger has seasonal pool passes for 2024 available. Seasonal family passes will be \$117.70 this year. And a single Pass will be \$58.85. Girres will be meeting with Graettinger Pool Committee and start date will be determined.

Nuisance abatement letters have been sent to Linda Dunbar, Velda Cole, Colleen Johnson, Brian Titus, and Robert Rehm for city nuisance complaints. Residents will have to remove or clean up Nuisances or be assessed a penalty. Graettinger city attorney, Jennifer Finn, has made recommendation to update Ordinances regarding penalties and definition of nuisance to include construction materials. The City Council will review said Ordinances and update accordingly, tabled till next meeting. A reminder to residents to clean up properties will be sent out with utility billing.

Reminder: Public hearing date for proposed Tax Levy for FY2024-25, March 25, 2024, at 6pm.

March Bills					
Amazon	Books/Snacks	621.02		Sioux Valley Enviro	Supplies 170.00
Automatic Systems	Supplies	160.56		Pelzer Law Firm	Contract 340.00
Bomgaars	Supplies	304.90		Melody Goodman	Deposit refund 375.00
Clayton	Transportation	25302.05		Travis Kollasch	Rebate 200.00
Graettinger Market	Supplies	31.35		Steve Olerich	Carpet Cleaning 300.00
Harris Sanitation	Contract	5324.24		Payroll	
Hawkins	Chlorine	40.00			Total 98860.08
IMFOA	Dues	50.00		General	18971.31
Larry Lair Excavating	Tile	280.00		RUT	1347.95
Petty Cash	Cash	50.00		Employee Benefit	3032.80
Pro Cooperative	Refund	5653.65		Debt	8101.85
RVTC	Phone/internet	802.45		Water	6387.84
US Cellular	Cells	208.35		Sewer	3698.00
Wellmark		7697.62		Gas	56945.33
PA CO Sheriff	Contract	5231.33		Customer Deposit	375.00
JKP Design	Tags	76.00		Revenue	
Picrays	Supplies	530.33		General	871.11
Visa	Supplies	1371.40		RUT	0.00
Graettinger Times	Publication	236.81		Employee Benefit	0.00
Graettinger Hardware	Supplies	1671.83		Water	1070.23
Treasurer	Tax	2631.25		Sewer	1140.09
PEFA	Gas	17280.28		Gas	5544.11
Van Wert	Meter	196.72		Customer Deposit	325.00
RVTC Loan		8101.85			
Cooperative Energy	Propane	95.99			

Motion by Dyhrkopp, seconded by Hoffman to adjourn at 7:45 P.M.

Brandon Armstrong , Mayor

Kara Currans, City clerk