

Council meeting April 14, 2025

The Graettinger City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 14, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. at City Hall with Mayor Armstrong presiding. Present were council members Masters, T. Anderson, Alderson, Hoffmann, and Dyhrkopp, and employees Currans, Petersen, C. Hoffman, and Anderson. Visitors present: Zach Harris, Marsha Patten, Michelle Scott, Amanda Mart, Kendra Hough, Heidi Heinrichs, Alex & Megan Helmich, and Irving Ahumada.

Motion by Dyhrkopp, seconded by T. Anderson, to approve the consent agenda. 1. Motion to approve the agenda. 2. Motion to pay bills. 3. Motion to approve minutes of previous meetings. 4. Motion to approve financial statements. 5. Motion to approve Graettinger Market Class E Liquor License, Class B wine permit. All Ayes. Carried.

Marsha Patten addresses the Council concerning water issues she has been encountering. Patten has experienced dirty water problems over the past three to four years. Her water line is connected to a dead-end connection, established when she built her home. Peterson will investigate the costs associated with connecting her to a main line or installing a hydrant. Hydrants are cleaned annually, and the next cleaning is scheduled for the week of May 12, 2025.

Michelle Scott, Irving Ahumada, and Zach Harris requested an exception to keep up to ten chickens within city limits. They acknowledged Ordinance restrictions and assured no roosters would be present. The council required consent from neighbors and a plan for managing chicken manure. A motion by Alderson, seconded by Masters, approving poultry within city limits, pending neighbors' approval. Vote: 4 ayes- Masters, Anderson, Alderson, and Dyhrkopp, 1 nay- Hoffman. Motion carried.

Amanda Mart and Kendra Hough from the Little League Association requested city funding for scoreboards, asking the City of Graettinger to act as a financial intermediary with repayment of their grant proposal from PACGDC. Currans will review requests with the auditor. Hough also informed the council of flooding issues from snow disposal in the park, and the council discussed and reviewed possible tile installation to solve the excess water issue. Hough expresses concerns about last summer's street improvement on N. Walnut, noting its poor appearance and rocks deposited in yards from excess chip and seal. The Street Dept will consider other companies for future street work if necessary.

Anderson informed the council about the street improvements he wants done this summer. The council reviewed and discussed the improvements, including six manhole risers, and tabled them until the next meeting, pending review of contractors. He also notes that new grates were installed on the storm sewer intakes on S. Cedar Ave. Speed bumps and signage will be placed back on S. Cedar Ave. The council plans to move solar speed signs to the East side of the city to bring awareness and slow traffic.

Megan Helmich of the Visioning Committee requests that the Visioning Committee also use the City of Graettinger as an intermediary for their PACDGC grant. The Robins Street playground project is set for completion this summer. T. Hoffman informs the council that a private resident will remove the current playground equipment by June 1, 2025, weather permitting. Graettinger Utility will oversee the removal of old equipment. Currans will review requests with the auditor.

City Clerk Currans attended an IMFOA conference from April 9-11 and an IMU meeting on April 21-22. Peterson will attend the Clayton conference on May 21-22, 2025. C. Hoffman completed his Gas Boot Camp last week.

Motion by Dyhrkopp, seconded by Alderson, to approve the Water Quality report for 2025 as presented. All Ayes. Motion carried.

The Graettinger Pool requests power washing of both the interior and exterior of the pool structure before June 1, 2025. Anderson will complete this before the opening date. Motion by T. Hoffman, seconded by T. Anderson, to hire lifeguards Emily Thompson, Danica Ringlaben, Kaleb Borchers, Erin Kulow, Lillian Vanderhoff, Myla Murphy, Adileigh Heinrichs, Corinne Cook, Colleen Cook, Olivia Anderson, Isabella Anderson, Allyson Thompson, Natalie Swedin, and Trista Guinn, all pending certifications. All Ayes. Carried.

Alex Helmich has requested that the city clean the gutters on the Public Library building, citing that they are full of asphalt and debris. He also asks for a review of the slope of the gutters. Due to recent rain in March, he experienced water in his establishments' basements. Peterson will add this task to his maintenance list, and the gutters will be cleaned.

The Council inquired about the Graettinger Visioning Committee's maintenance plan for grant items. The Graettinger Visioning Committee requested funding for the installation of four pet waste station along the walking trail. A detailed plan was subsequently discussed and reviewed.

Nuisance abatement letters have been sent to Kinsman, Wittmer, Walmer, A. Hampson, J. Hampson, and Titus due to city complaints. Residents must clean up nuisances or face a penalty. A reminder to clean up properties was sent with utility billing.

The Council reviewed and discussed keeping the part-time helper for mowing and other tasks around town.

Peterson reviewed with the council regarding a request from Iowa Lakes Electric for an easement. Iowa Lakes Electric would like to bury electric lines by the tree dump on city property. They have advised Peterson that they will follow rules and regulations and set depth for lines. Motion by Dyhrkopp, seconded by Masters, to allow Iowa Lakes Electric an easement to bury overhead electric wiring. All Ayes. Carried

A public hearing for budget adoption for fiscal 2025-26 will be held May 23, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.

Apr-25					
Amazon	Library	\$1,051.10	PEFA	Gas	\$14,487.20
American					
Public Gas	Supplies	\$445.00	RVTC	Loan	\$8,101.85
Arnold Supply	Supplies	\$33.49	City Laundering	Supplies	\$13.79
IRS		\$5,508.82	Scholastic	Library	\$128.61
Barco	Supplies	\$2,098.13	Merida Concrete	Catalyst	\$4,800.00
Clayton	Transportation	\$27,274.42	Bruce Gerdes	Refund	\$288.92
Gr. Business					
Club	Dues	\$50.00	Leslie Faust	Mileage	\$101.84
Gr. Market	Supplies	\$46.16	Nikki Brown	Rebate	\$100.00
			Cassidy		
GMU	Light	\$3,025.21	Hagerman	Refund	\$193.49
Harris					
Sanitation	Contract	\$5,482.08	Carolyn Murphy	Refund	\$40.18
Hawkins	Chemical	\$20.00	Payroll		\$20,005.59
Health					
Consultants	Supplies	\$599.39		Total	\$120,153.56
Sandy					
Henderson	Contract	\$412.50		General	\$26,124.43
IAMU	Boot camp	\$1,436.00		RUT	\$9,842.16
IPERS		\$4,233.82		Emp Ben	\$3,223.00
Menards	Supplies	\$33.66		Debt	\$8,101.85
PA Treasurer	Contract	\$693.33		Catalyst	\$4,800.00
Pro-Coop	Gas	\$785.12		Water	\$8,303.65
RVTC	Phone	\$639.83		Sewer	\$5,558.53
Sensit Tech	Supplies	\$1,088.00		Gas	\$53,909.76
Treasurer					
State	Tax	\$1,070.94		Cust Deposit	\$290.18
US Cellular	Cell	\$216.03	General	\$28,886.63	
Wellmark	Insurance	\$7,014.58	RUT	\$7,557.18	
PA Sheriff	Contract	\$5,231.33	Emp Ben	\$633.22	
GMLP	Hagerman	\$56.51	Lost	\$10,869.48	
Continental					
Research Co.	Supplies	\$306.44	Lib Memorial	\$140.84	
Michaelson	Rock	\$409.46	Water	\$13,432.00	
APGA SIF	Dues	\$19.00	Sewer	\$12,892.74	
St Hygienic					
Labs	Testing	\$50.00	Gas	\$92,676.34	
Dearborn	Life Insurance	\$661.20	Storm	\$1,189.30	
Bryon					
Peterson	Training	\$18.85	Total	\$168,831.82	
Visa	Supplies	\$1,109.08			
Gr. Times	Legals	\$349.51			
Gr. Hardware	Supplies	\$233.63			
Cengage					
Learning	Library	\$29.69			
NIA Lumbar	Supplies	\$159.78			

Motion by Dyhrkopp, seconded by Masters, to adjourn at 7:30 P.M.

Brandon Armstrong, Mayor

Kara Currans, City Clerk