

Council Meeting

The Graettinger City Council met in a regular session on Monday, May 12, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall with Mayor Armstrong presiding. Present were council members: Dyhrkopp, Masters, T. Hoffman, T. Anderson, and Alderson. Employees: Currans, Petersen, C. Hoffman, and B. Anderson. Visitors: Barry Bonner, Megan Helmich, Brooke Girres, Maribel Casarez.

Motion by Alderson, seconded by T. Anderson, to approve the consent agenda. 1. Motion to approve the agenda. 2. Motion to pay bills with approval of payment for Petersen insurance. 3. Motion to approve minutes. 4. Motion to approve the financial statement. All ayes. Carried.

Barry Bonner informed the council that he feels residents consider the speed bumps on S. Cedar Ave overly aggressive. He noted that golfers, patrons, and vendors have informed him they struggle to navigate the current speed bumps. He mentions that some residents have installed snow fences and fire pits in their yards as deterrents against motorists driving within the city's right-of-way along the road. Bonner proposed alternative traffic calming measures, such as a stop sign or speed humps. Megan Helmick, and Brooke Girres provided examples of less aggressive speed humps for consideration. In response, the council instructed the City Clerk to research options and present cost estimates for review. A motion was made by T. Hoffman and seconded by Alderson to approve the implementation of a less aggressive speed reduction measure. The motion passed with a vote of 4 ayes and 1 opposition (Masters).

Megan reports to the council that the Catalyst visit went well. Representatives from Iowa Grants were present to tour past and present projects. Megan requests that the city find an alternative to the removal of crab apple trees at Citizens Park. The trees are scheduled to be removed and replaced with non-fruit-bearing trees. Megan has let the council know that the visioning committee will be looking into grants, in the future, for tree replacement in parks. Anderson reports that he and C. Hoffman have been removing and trimming trees around town and removing stumps.

Maribel Casarez requests an exception to keep up to six chickens within city limits. She acknowledged Ordinance restrictions and assured no roosters would be present. The council requested written consent from neighbors, and Casarez has a plan for managing chicken manure. A motion by Masters, seconded by Dyhrkopp, approving poultry within city limits, pending neighbors' approval. Vote: 4 ayes- Masters, Anderson, Alderson, and Dyhrkopp, 1 nay- Hoffman. Motion carried.

Mayor Armstrong addressed the issue of lights at Citizens Park shining into residents' homes. The lights are on a timer but have a bypass switch on the pole. T. Hoffman will consult with Light Plant to explore options to reduce light pollution for residents neighboring the park. A water line for a resident was also discussed; Peterson and Alderson are currently exploring costs associated with looping the Patten home into the water main. Tabled till next meeting.

Peterson advised the council regarding well #7 updates, KW Electric has replaced conduits, and more upgrades are scheduled for this summer. The sewer lining project, by Visu-Sewer, from Brown Street to Hwy 4 has been completed. Anderson informed the council about the street improvements he wants done this summer. The council reviewed and discussed the improvements, including six manhole risers. A new bid from Blacktop Services was reviewed and accepted. Anderson will also look at getting the shoulder washed out by rainfall on Lost Island Street, redone with gutters. Masters introduced Resolution No. 20-2025, "A resolution approving and authorizing the Mayor to sign a contract with Blacktop Services Inc.". Seconded by T. Hoffman. All Ayes. Resolution passed.

Motion by Dyhrkopp, seconded by Alderson, to update the Employee Handbook with Technology and Social Media guidelines to ensure responsible, secure, and productive use of technology and internet resources by employees of the City of Graettinger.

Nuisance abatement letters have been sent to residents for city nuisance complaints. Residents will have to remove or clean up Nuisances or be assessed a penalty. Nuisance abatement letters have been sent to Wittmer, Hampson, Hobbs, Weig, Springer, and Titus for city nuisance complaints. The city of Graettinger would like to thank those residents who have taken the time to address nuisances.

City Clerk Currans reviewed Budget Amendments needed for FY 2024-25. Masters introduced resolution No. 19-2025, "A resolution Amending the current budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025," and moved that it be adopted. Seconded by Dyhrkopp. Ayes-5. Resolution adopted.

The council was reminded of the Election year. The first day to file paperwork is August 25, 2025, and the last day to file is Sept 18, 2025, at 5 pm. Copies of nomination papers are available at the city clerk's office, county auditor's office, or on the Secretary of State's website: <http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/electioninfo/CityElections>. The City of Graettinger will have four council seats and the mayor's position on the ballot.

Masters introduced resolution No. 20-2025, "A resolution approving and authorizing the Mayor to sign a contract with Municipal Impact, for website services," and moved that it be adopted. Seconded by T. Hoffman. Ayes-5. Resolution adopted.

Alderson introduced resolution No. 16-2025, "A resolution authorizing grant funding from PACGDC for the Graettinger Little League for a grant application for adding scoreboards in Citizens Park. Grant not to exceed \$30,000". and moved that it be adopted. Seconded by T. Hoffman. Ayes-5. Resolution adopted.

T. Anderson introduced resolution No. 17-2025, "A resolution authorizing grant funding from PACGDC for the Graettinger Visioning Committee for City Park on Robins Street. Grant not to exceed \$109,000". and moved that it be adopted. Seconded by Dyhrkopp. Ayes-5. Resolution adopted.

A motion was made by T. Hoffman, seconded by T. Anderson, to approve the application for a housing initiative for A. DelAngel at 614 N. Van Gordon Ave. Ayes-5. Motion carried.

A motion by Alderson, seconded by T. Anderson, to approve the Robins Street closure for June 27, 2025, for the Classic Car show for the Graettinger Business Club. Ayes-5. Motion carried.

The Council reviewed the Ordinance for Accessory buildings. The Council reviewed and discussed the 120 square feet exemption; a discussion was held to increase this to 200 square feet. Accessory buildings may be erected entirely within the rear yards, may be placed, erected, constructed, or located no closer than two feet from the side or rear lot lines. City Clerk Currans will update the Ordinance and present it at the next meeting. Tabled.

The council discussed the importance of maintaining and replacing sidewalks throughout town to ensure pedestrian safety and accessibility. Regular maintenance helps prevent hazards such as cracks and uneven pavement, providing a safer walking route for all residents, especially school children commuting to and from school. Well-kept sidewalks reduce the need for pedestrians to walk in the street, minimizing the risk of accidents and improving overall traffic safety. Investing in sidewalk upkeep supports a walkable, connected community while enhancing the town's infrastructure for future growth. Currans will look into possible grants available for residents to install, maintain, and repair sidewalks in town.

25-Apr					
Amazon	DCAT	\$890.89	JKP	Golf Plate	\$425.00
Arnold Motor	Supplies	\$123.27	Visa	Supplies	\$1,109.08
IRS	Tax	\$3,863.08	Kirkwood College	CEU	\$560.00
Bomgaars	Uniforms	\$114.97	GR. Hardware	Supplies	\$341.37
Central State Lab	Supplies	\$659.75	Cengage	Library	\$173.43
Clayton	Transportation	\$11,833.10	Rec Supply	Pool	\$16.78
Dakota Supply	Meters	\$2,207.82	Core & Main	Vests	\$88.38
EPS	Catalyst	\$1,414.18	Van Wert	Meter	\$2,174.99
GR. Business Club	Grant	\$2,249.00	RVTC	Loan	\$8,101.85
GR. Market	Supplies	\$39.33	City Laundering	Supplies	\$13.79
GR. Times	Legals	\$708.39	Kara Currans	Mileage	\$590.57
GMU	Lights	\$2,145.07	Merida Concrete	Catalyst	\$13770.00
Groebner & Assoc.	Supplies	\$237.29	Kahn Tire	Supplies	\$199.88
Harris Sanitation	Contract	\$5,901.18	Valley View Cemetery	Grant	\$1,863.00
Hawkins	Pool	\$1,815.23	Deb Harris	Pool	\$4,108.97
Johnston Auto	Vehicle	\$59.01	Herb Ruden	Rebate	\$200.00
Larry Lair Exc.	Tile	\$9,365.19	Payroll		\$14,478.36
Palo Co Treasurer	Contract	\$693.33	Claims total	\$177972.49	
Petersen Ins	Insurance	\$68,590.00	General	\$65,761.39	

Petty Cash	Petty Cash	\$100.00	Pool Board	\$4,108.97	
Pro-Coop	Gas	\$748.22	Wild Rose	\$4,112.00	
Reporter Democrat	Subscription	\$59.00	RUT	\$3,506.92	
RVTC	Wells	\$658.51	Emp Ben	\$6,477.45	
Stall's Farm Equip	Gate	\$67.52	Debt	\$8,101.85	
Treasurer State of IA	Withholding	\$1,070.94	Catalyst	\$15184.18	
United Industries	Pool	\$245.18	Water	\$29,970.47	
US Cellular	Cell	\$216.03	Sewer	\$7,779.19	
Wellmark	Insurance	\$7,014.58	Gas	\$27,833.27	
PA Co Sheriff	Contract	\$5,231.33	Storm	\$4,978.88	
GMLP	Library	\$29.95	Receipts:		
City of Spencer	Disposal	\$84.00	General	\$99,246.91	
State Hygienic Laboratory	Testing	\$75.50	Wild Rose	\$39,529.04	
Utility Safety	Awareness Plan	\$585.00	WR Grant	\$40,419.00	
Dearborn	Insurance	\$661.20	RUT	\$9,734.90	
			Emp Ben	\$26,737.63	
			LOST	\$10,040.58	
			Lib Memorial	\$10.82	
			Water	\$10,466.46	
			Sewer	\$11,935.25	
			Gas	\$57,657.82	
			Cust Deposit	\$1,503.96	
			Storm	\$941.65	
			total	\$308,492.54	

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

Brandon Armstrong, Mayor

Kara Currans, City Clerk