

Council Meeting

The Graettinger City Council met in regular session on Monday, August 12, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. With Mayor Armstrong presiding. Present were council members T. Anderson, Masters, Hoffman, Alderson, and employees Currans, Petersen, and B. Anderson. Absent: Dyhrkopp Visitors: Irving Ahumada, Paulina Chavez, Sigrid Chavez-Ahumada, and Vince Heller

Motion by Hoffman, seconded by T. Anderson 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. 5. Motion to approve a special outdoor permit for Graettinger Veterans Club for September 2024. All ayes. Carried.

Vince Heller addressed the City Council concerning a recent street repair related to a sewer repair project. Heller expressed concerns about the substantial costs associated with the replacement of 480 square feet of roadway. The council reviewed the pricing, which is \$6 per square foot for street resurfacing, and confirmed that the billed amount was accurate. Additionally, the City of Graettinger will conduct a review of the Excavation Permit forms.

Currans advised the council she will be out of town for an IA League of Cities meeting on Sept. 18-20th. Peterson informed the Council he will be attending the Northern Gas Conference on Aug 29, 2024.

B. Anderson advised the council he would like to purchase a Box scraper, this grading tool could be used for various purposes around the City of Graettinger including spreading material like soil or gravel, leveling, and maintaining gravel roadways and surfaces. The solar speed sign has arrived courtesy of the Emmetsburg Sheriff's Office. John King applied for, and received, a grant for the speed sign from Traffic Logic. This speed sign will help with traffic calming along city streets. B. Anderson informs the council that street work has been completed in town, they will sweep streets in the future to help with leveling chip and seal roadways and reducing wash boarding, per Beck excavation recommendations.

The hand sanitizers have been received and will be placed in Citizen Park restrooms. Help Wanted ad will be placed in local newspapers, rollout, and website. Applications will be taken till September 2, 2024. Brad Anderson and Bryon Peterson will update the job description for the open position.

City Clerk Currans advises the council Girres plans to close the pool on Aug 29, 2024.

The city received a \$100,000 grant for Irving Ahumada and Paulina Chavez to renovate 102 W. Robins Street. The commercial space will be refinished to become a new business. The project will include remediation of the first-floor commercial, and building exterior including roof, windows, and façade. Hoffman introduced resolution no. 36-2024, "A resolution approving a contract with Iowa Economic Development Authority for a 2024 Community Catalyst and building remediation grant program" and moved that it be adopted. Seconded by Alderson. Ayes: 4. Resolution adopted.

Alderson introduced resolution no. 18-2024 "A resolution authorizing a transfer of funds for Loan Robins Street Project." Seconded by T. Anderson. Ayes: 4. Resolution adopted.

City Clerk Currans informs the council regarding a recent claim against the city, the claim was reviewed and discussed. No action was taken.

City Clerk Currans advised the council of a recent audit performed by Cornwell & Co.; the city had an excellent report, the audit will be continued as FY2023-24 books have not been completed, auditor will complete in October. Cornwell & Co has been contracted to provide yearly audits for the next three years per contracted bid.

The council reviewed pictures of nuisances of property owners. Nuisance abatement letters have been sent to Dunbar, Mader, Lopez, Hobbs, Hampson, and Besaw, and a courtesy letter to Binder for city nuisance complaints. Residents will have to remove, clean up, or discontinue nuisances or be assessed a penalty. Two penalty invoices will be mailed out and three city cleanups will be scheduled. The city of Graettinger would like to thank those residents who have taken the time to address nuisances, we appreciate and will continue to keep the City of Graettinger beautiful.

The city council reviewed the current Excavation Permit Application, with the rising cost of labor and material, the council has agreed to increase the deposit amount for street cuts within the city of Graettinger. Forms will be updated, and deposits of \$1500 will be required for any surfaced street excavation and \$400 for gravel. All surfaced street excavations will require homeowner to locate and camera sewer utility before street cut work can begin. The cost for the replacement of asphalt is the actual cost incurred for the replacement. The homeowner will be billed/refunded the cost of street repair when work is completed.

The City of Graettinger recently learned of an incident at Citizens Park, city cameras recorded a person lighting fireworks in the park- regrettably, after they were done, they placed remnants of fireworks in the city dumpster. The city dumpster caught fire and damaged city property. Graettinger ordinance dictates that it is unlawful for any person to use or explode any display fireworks in town. The incident was reported to the Emmetsburg Police dept.

Peterson and B. Anderson will have bathrooms at Citizens Park open and available for Labor Day festivities. Motion by Alderson to close streets for Labor Day. Seconded by T. Anderson. All ayes. Motion carried.

City Clerk Currans informs the Council of jury duty for employees.

Aug-24

Amazon	Books	181.91	RVTC Loan		8,101.85
IRS	tax	5,708.74	Gordon Flesch Co.	Printer	3,375.00
Bomgaards	Supplies	293.81	ITRON	Utilities	769.56
Clayton	Reservation	4,629.74	Hawks	Repairs	1,741.86
Cornwell Co.	Audit	4,950.00	City Laundering	Supplies	10.45
Dakota Supply	Supplies	3,125.54	Parallel AG	Supplies	322.8
Energy Economics Inc	Meters	1,396.30	Pelzer Law	Legal	190
Fitgibbons Law	Legal	1,100.00	Traffic Logix	Speed Sign	435
			Anderson Drainage		
Graettinger Market	Supplies	1,156.18	Excav.	Pump	46,473.75
GMU	Gas	5,212.82	Northern Plains Landfill	Landfill	67.84
Harris Sanitation	Contract	6,270.27	Beck Excavating	Streets	108,517.60
Hawkins Inc	Chemical	1,445.24	Merida Concrete	Catalyst	4,413.00
IAMU	Leak Survey	2,118.93	Kay Girres	Rebate	50
IA one call	Locates	19.8	Payroll		25,134.98
IPERS		1,222.66	Total	266,530.26	
Northern Lights	Pool	446.63	General	59,661.25	
PA Co Emergency Mgmt	Legal	2,802.00	Wild Rose	55,294.61	
PA Co-Treasurer	Contract	693.33	RUT	46,056.17	
Petersen Insurance	Insurance	338.5	Emp Benefit	4,265.11	
Petty Cash		50	LOST	435	
Pro-Coop	Contract	1,718.81	Debt	8,101.85	
Rehab Systems	Manholes	4,015.00	Catalyst	4,413.00	
RVTC	telephone	905.43	Water	6,831.70	
US Cellular	Phone	216.07	Sewer	55,075.80	
Wellmark	Insurance	7,697.62	Gas	20,250.67	
ULINE	Supplies	73.6	total	526,915.42	
PA Co Sherri	Contract	5,231.33	Receipts:		
ST Hygienic Lab	Testing	29	General	19,490.00	
Estherville Red Power	Supplies	372.27	RUT	9,466.84	
Culligan	Water	15	Emp Benefit	1,582.57	
Graettinger Times	Legals	131.2	LOST	11,950.63	
Avera	Deductible	1,145.10	Water	8,988.63	
Hotsy	Supplies	286.42	Sewer	8,824.54	
Graettinger Hardware	Supplies	135.96	Gas	9,844.75	
PEFA	Gas	1,791.36	Total	75,805.00	

Motion by Masters, seconded by Alderson to adjourn at 7:25 P.M. All ayes. Carried.

Brandon Armstrong, Mayor

Kara Currans, City Clerk