

CITY OF GRANT  
MINUTES

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**DATE** : October 4, 2011  
**TIME STARTED** : 7:05 p.m.  
**TIME ENDED** : 10:45 p.m.  
**MEMBERS PRESENT** : Councilmember Bohnen, Fogelson, Huber, Potter and Mayor Carr  
**MEMBERS ABSENT** : None

Staff members present: City Attorney, Nick Vivian; City Engineer, Phil Olson; City Planner, Jennifer Haskamp; and City Clerk, Kim Points

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Carr called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**SETTING THE AGENDA**

Item 8B, Update from Todd Smith, City Assessor, was moved to item 6E.

**Council Member Potter moved to approve the agenda as amended. Council Member Fogelson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Amendment to Resolution No. 2011-12	Removed
September 6, 2011 City Council Meeting Minutes	Approved
September 14, 2011, Special City Council Meeting Minutes	Approved
Bill List, \$70,873.56	Approved
Hardrives, Inc., 101 <sup>st</sup> Street Paving Project, \$46,822.91	Approved
City of Mahtomedi, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Fire Contract, \$27,902.50	Approved
Resolution No. 2011-13, Re-establishing Unchanged Precincts and Polling Places in Grant	Approved

1  
2 **Council Member Huber moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended. Council Member**  
3 **Potter seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

4  
5 Item 4A, Amendment to Resolution No. 2011-12 –

6  
7 Council Member Huber asked for clarification regarding the percentage increase in the 2012  
8 preliminary budget as opposed to the 2011 budget.

9  
10 City Treasurer Schwarze advised the percentage increase within the 2012v budget is 8.1% which  
11 includes the \$70,000 for road reconstruction. Without the road reconstruction, the percentage is  
12 2.1%. The total levy increase is 14.4%.

13  
14 **Council Member Huber moved to approve Resolution No. 2011-12, as presented. Council**  
15 **Member Potter seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

16  
17 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

18 Mr. Bob Tufty, Jasmine Avenue, came forward and advised he would like to make comments later in  
19 the meeting regarding the Road Policy.

20 Mr. Loren Sederstrom came forward and stated the parade held in September was a great even with  
21 400-500 people attending. He stated his cable show All Around Grant will have a segment featuring  
22 the parade. He provided copies of the parade DVD for Council Members that could not attend noting  
23 the event is not political but a means to bring the community together.

24 Mr. Larry Lanoux, Keswick Avenue, came forward and stated last August he asked the Council to  
25 help with a referendum. A petition was brought forward and it was indicated there was no plan to  
26 support it. He asked that the City hold the School District to the same standard. He read a School  
27 Board Member's comments regarding the referendum noting there is no plan for the additional  
28 dollars. He thanked the Council Members and Planning Commissioners that did attend the parade  
29 noting he hopes everyone can attend next year.

30 Mr. Glenn Larson, Jody Avenue Court, came forward and addressed the Council's action from the  
31 September meeting. He stated he strongly opposes a 14.4% increase in the levy, or any tax increases  
32 period. He stated his taxes have continually gone up and they continue to rise for every level of  
33 government. He asked the Council to stop doing that as the economy is very bad and people are  
34 struggling. Everyone has to cut back and much better to stop increasing spending.

35 Ms. Sharon Schwarze, Joliet Avenue, came forward and stated the tax rate last year for the City of  
36 Grant was 11%. She gave examples of other city tax rates noting the City of Mahtomedi is 31%,  
37 which is triple the tax rate of Grant.

38 Ms. Ruth Sohl-Krерger, 9415 84<sup>th</sup> Street, came forward and stated her household does not have a  
39 problem paying more taxes to support the community and its infrastructure.

**STAFF REPORTS****City Engineer, Phil Olson**

**Staff Report** – A report was provided for September 2011 City engineering activities, to be placed on file for review.

**City Planner, Jennifer Haskamp**

**Resolution No. 2011-14, Axdahl Amended CUP Request** – City Planner Haskamp provided the background on this issue advised the existing conditional use permit for the property allows for the agricultural use and business that is currently established on the property. A condition of the existing CUP is that the business may operate between the hours of 9am and 8pm Monday through Sunday. The request is to amend the current CUP to accommodate additional hours.

City Planner Haskamp stated the Planning Commission held a public hearing for the consideration of the requested CUP amendment. The main concern regarding the application was allowing the use to continue until 11:00 pm; however, ultimately the PC recommended approval of the amendment including the extension of hours until 11:00 pm seasonally, Wednesday nights through Sunday.

Ms. Leslie Axdahl, applicant, came forward and explained the purpose of the extended hours is to accommodate a haunted trail during the Halloween season. She noted anyone participating under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult and there will be no alcohol or smoking. A Police Officer will be on site at all times and everyone will be off site by 11:00 pm.

City Planner Haskamp advised notices were sent to all neighbors regarding the request and public hearing. She reviewed the public comments that were made at the PC meeting and read the two emails sent to the City office. She noted all nuisance complaints would be investigated to determine if there is a violation of the ordinance. The noise ordinance itself is referenced in the CUP and can be enforced by the police.

City Attorney Vivian added that any violations could result in revocation of the CUP.

City Planner Haskamp reviewed the hours of operation and clarified that the amendment includes Wednesdays through Sundays. This year, the hours of operation will only include Fridays and Saturdays until the Halloween weekend.

The Council indicated condition #2, regarding hours of operation, be revised to include the full week of Halloween, up to and including Halloween.

**Council Member Fogelson moved to adopt Resolution No. 2011-14, as amended. Council Member Huber seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Resolution No. 2011-15, Lot Line Adjustment, 8195 and 8205 114<sup>th</sup> Street** – City Planner Haskamp advised a request for a lot line adjustment was submitted. When that request was reviewed,

1 it was discovered that the adjustment would result in a non-conforming lot. The applicants are  
2 redoing the survey to address the frontage issue. That should be complete by the November Council  
3 meeting and it will be on the consent agenda for approval.  
4

5 **Staff Report** - A report was provided for September 2011 City planning activities, to be placed on  
6 file for review.  
7

8 **City Attorney, Nick Vivian**  
9

10 **Staff Report** – A report for September 2011 was provided to be placed on file for review.  
11

12 **Building Inspector, Jack Kramer** – A report was from Building Inspector Kramer was provided for  
13 September 2011 to be placed on file for review.  
14

15 **Update from Todd Smith, City Assessor** – Mr. Todd Smith, City Assessor, came forward and stated  
16 he has been out doing field work in the center of the City. He has talked to a lot of residents and it  
17 has been very pleasant. He stated he did pick up a lot of building permits from last year and is unsure  
18 as to why those were not taken care of by the previous assessor.  
19

20 Mr. Smith referred to the changes in the Homestead Credit stated lower valued homes will now have  
21 more exclusion. Therefore, higher priced homes will be taxed more. It is an even more complicated  
22 process and the State has stated it is a way to close the budget deficit. More tax burden will now be  
23 placed on cities.  
24

### 25 **OLD BUSINESS**

26  
27 **Website Items, Mayor Carr** – Mayor Carr advised this item will be on every agenda for comments  
28 and suggestions on the City's website.  
29

30 Council Member Huber stated he is disappointed there is no plan for road reconstruction, 2012 budget  
31 and tax increase.  
32

### 33 **NEW BUSINESS**

34  
35 **Public Comment Inquiries, Mayor Carr** – Mayor Carr asked the Council for any response to public  
36 comments this evening.  
37

38 Council Member Huber stated the school district's referendum was questioned. He stated the City  
39 has no ability whatsoever to put something on or take something off of the school ballot.  
40

41 **Audit Services RFP** – Mayor Carr referred to the results of the RFP for audit services.  
42

43 Council Member Potter indicated the 2012 budget was reduced from \$16,500 to a figure of \$12,000  
44 for those services.  
45

1 City Treasurer Schwarze reviewed the three lowest bids and stated she did check their references.  
2 She inquired about interviewing them.

3 The Council determined the three low bidders would be interviewed prior to the regular November  
4 Council meeting.

5  
6 **Hillcrest Animal Hospital Contract** – Council Member Bohnen provided the background on this  
7 issue noting that if the City establishes its own account, residents within the City could take found  
8 animals to Hillcrest. That would eliminate the need for the animal control person and lower costs to  
9 the City.

10  
11 City Attorney Vivian confirmed that the \$42 impound fee within the contract is the best method to  
12 proceed with for the City.

13  
14 **Council Member Bohnen moved to approve the Hillcrest Animal Hospital Contract, as**  
15 **presented. Council Member Fogelson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

16  
17 **Property Tax Change, Homestead Credit Overview, Jeff Huber** – Council Member Huber  
18 provided a detailed overview of the impact of the tax load due to the elimination of the Homestead  
19 Credit. He provided examples of the tax impact under the old system as opposed to the new system.  
20 The new system will raise approximately \$250 million dollars for the state. He encouraged everyone  
21 to be aware of this change and let their Legislatures and Council Members know how they feel about  
22 this change in the tax structure.

23  
24 Council Member Fogelson stated the average change for a Grant resident is under \$99 per household.

25  
26 City Attorney Vivian requested the Council include any documents being presented or discussed are  
27 included in Council packets and stick to agenda items for discussion.

28  
29 **Motion to Reconsider 2012 Preliminary Budget, Mayor Carr** – Mayor Carr advised he would like  
30 to reconsider the 2012 Preliminary Budget that was approved at the September Council meeting.

31  
32 **Mayor Carr moved to reconsider the 2012 Preliminary Budget. Council Member Huber**  
33 **seconded the motion.**

34  
35 Mayor Carr stated when the Council went through the budget, the question was asked regarding a big  
36 budget increase. The answer was no but the preliminary budget that was approved did have a large  
37 increase. He stated he has received calls and emails about this. Stillwater School District wants the  
38 City's support on their referendum. There are tax increases coming from all angles and also inflation  
39 and slow economy. He stated he would like to reconsider the motion for several reasons that include  
40 no public comment, no plan to spend the dollars, a budget for something that is in conflict with the  
41 current road policy, there are no road counts, and increased taxes lead to smaller lot sizes and sewer  
42 and water.

43  
44 Council Member Potter stated he would like to remind everyone that \$70,000 was put into the  
45 preliminary budget for use on paved roads that are deteriorated to a point that they will have to be

1 turned back to gravel. He stated potential changes to the road policy were also discussed and it was  
2 determined that after public input, over the next two months, a decision would be made on the final  
3 budget in December.

4  
5 Council Member Bohnen stated he would like the Council and residents have a good thorough road  
6 policy discussion. If it is determined a change will not be made to the current policy, the \$70,000 line  
7 item will be removed from the 2012 budget. He stated he is looking forward to the largest public  
8 input process to best represent the public on this issue.

9  
10 Council Member Fogelson stated t here is a process in place now so the City should follow through  
11 and see what happens.

12  
13 Council Member Huber stated budgeting first for this and then obtaining public input is a short cut to  
14 the process. It should be put to a vote first and then budget based on the results of the vote.

15  
16 Mr. Neil Munkquist, 7200 Manning, came forward and stated all builders have a plan. A plan should  
17 always come first and then the money.

18  
19 Council Member Fogelson stated he believes in a representative democracy. He was elected into  
20 office based on that. The roads are deteriorating and the City has until December to talk about the  
21 plan for \$70,000.

22  
23 Ms. Sohl-Kreiger came forward and stated she expects the Council to work together and the fact that  
24 they are not is distressing.

25  
26 Mr. Bob Tufty came forward and stated he had to work under the current road policy to get his road  
27 paved. Thirty years from now when it has to redone it will be at his expense. The policy is for  
28 residents to take care of their roads. An increase in his taxes to pay for other peoples roads is just  
29 wrong and he is not in favor of that.

30  
31 **Motion failed with Council Member Bohnen, Fogelson and Potter voting nay.**

32  
33 **Process for Road Reconstruction Fund, Steve Bohnen** – Council Member Bohnen read the letter  
34 he wrote for the City newsletter regarding the road reconstruction process and asked for input.

35  
36 Council Member Huber suggested the information be put on the first page of the newsletter.

37  
38 After much discussion, it was suggested that a bullet point list be prepared that outlines what the City  
39 is considering regarding the proposed change to the road policy. A draft of the new policy should be  
40 distributed to the Council and then the public for comment.

41  
42 Mr. Jerry Helander, Jasmine Avenue, came forward and stated the process is too short to give it  
43 justice.

1 The majority of the Council indicated the informational meetings would be held and the results and  
2 draft revised policy would be discussed at the November meeting.

3  
4 City Attorney Vivian advised again that a draft of ordinance revisions and resolutions are prepared  
5 and available for distribution, review and public comment at the November Council meeting.

6  
7 **Road Referendum, Jeff Huber** – Council Member Huber stated the idea of a road referendum is a  
8 good idea but it was presented too late for 2011. He stated he would like to pursue the matter for the  
9 2012 ballot. He read the 2005 fall newsletter relating to road reconstruction and assessments, noting  
10 the policy states residents pay up to 100% to allow for flexibility.

11  
12 Council Member Huber advised he is willing to do all the work on this matter, including writing the  
13 question and bringing it forward to the Council for review along with all other documents. He  
14 requested Council Member Potter work with him to accomplish this.

15  
16 Council Member Potter stated that he thinks whatever happens, whether that be the 2012 budget that  
17 includes road reconstruction, or a referendum in 2012, public input is needed. He indicated he  
18 supports researching whether a referendum is an option and would help work on it.

19  
20 Council Member Bohnen suggested the City combine the process of both the referendum and road  
21 reconstruction fund to include the draft policy process and public input.

22  
23 **Estimate for Town Hall Window Repair, Mayor Carr** – Mayor Carr reviewed the staff report  
24 indicated Mr. Terry Derosier has volunteered to fix the broken Town Hall window for the cost of  
25 supplies.

26  
27 Council Member Potter stated he called Mr. Derosier and did get an estimate of costs.

28  
29 It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with the repair of the broken Town Hall  
30 window.

31  
32 **Consideration of Request from Gateway Trail Association, Mayor Carr** – Mayor Carr referred to  
33 the letter included in the packets from the Gateway Trail Association. He indicated more information  
34 is needed and a representative from the Gateway Trail Association could be present at the next  
35 Council meeting.

36  
37 **Purchase of New City Computer, Mayor Carr** – Mayor Carr advised City Computer is not capable  
38 of running the software required for the Clerk to post items on the City's website. He asked the  
39 Council if they would like to move forward with purchasing a new computer for the City office.

40  
41 It was the consensus of the Council to purchase a new computer for the City office and obtain price  
42 quotes for transferring data from the old computer to the new computer.

43  
44 **Banking, City Treasurer Schwarze** – City Treasurer Schwarze advised the City Council that the  
45 Broker Certificate required 2011 for the audit has not yet been received from Wells Fargo Bank. This

1 was an audit comment for 2010 also. Every January 1<sup>st</sup> the broker must send this certificate. Bob  
2 Mikkelson continues to work with Wells Fargo on this issue.

3

4 **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

5

6 **City Council Reports:**

7

8 Mayor Carr provided a Brown's Creek State Trail update trail update noting a public open house is  
9 being held on Wednesday, October 19, 2011 from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

10

11 Council Member Fogelson advised the City newsletter will be out shortly.

12

13

14 **COMMUNITY CALENDAR OCTOBER 5 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2011:**

15

16 **Planning Commission Meeting, Monday, October 17, 2011, Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.**

17

18 **ADJOURN**

19

20 **There being no further business, Council Member Potter moved to adjourn at 10:45 p.m.**  
21 **Council Member Huber seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

22

23 These minutes were considered and approved at the regular Council Meeting November 1, 2011.

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Kim Points, City Clerk

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Tom Carr, Mayor

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