

CITY OF GRANT
MINUTES

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DATE : November 1, 2011
TIME STARTED : 7:00 p.m.
TIME ENDED : 10:40 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 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SETTING THE AGENDA

Item 7Aii, Discussion of Ideal Avenue Millings was added to the regular agenda.

Item 8E, 2012 Final Budget workshop meeting was added to the regular agenda.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

October 4, 2011 City Council Meeting Minutes	Removed
Bill List, \$70,873.56	Approved
Resolution No. 2011-14, Axdahl Amended CUP	Approved
Resolution No. 2011-15, Lot Line Adjustment	Approved
Tort Liability, City DOES NOT WAIVE Monetary Limits	Approved

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

3
4 **October 4, 2011 City Council Meeting Minutes –**

5
6 Council Member Huber stated referred to the minutes and stated the City Assessor should not be
7 listed as staff and also expressed concern regarding the lack of publicity regarding the informational
8 meetings. He stated Council Member Fogelson indicated that information would be placed on the
9 first page of the City newsletter. The schedule of those meetings was important and should have been
10 on the first page.

11
12 Council Member Fogelson indicated Council Member Bohnen's letter was on the first page of the
13 City newsletter and he does not edit per previous discussions regarding this issue.

14
15 **Council Member Huber moved to approve the October 4, 2011 City Council Meeting Minutes,**
16 **as amended. Council Member Potter seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

17
18 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

19 Mr. Loren Sederstrom, 107th Street, came forward and stated the City of Hugo has a cable show put
20 on by staff. He stated he does the Grant cable show by himself and submitted a blurb about that show
21 to print in the City newsletter. He asked why he can't get it printed in the City newsletter.

22 Mr. Larry Lanoux, Keswick Avenue, came forward and stated he wanted to get a referendum done
23 this year as opposed to next year because it is an election year. He referred to the school districts
24 open enrollment numbers noting they were at one in 2006 and over 2,000 now. He asked where
25 residents vote for both school district elections. He referred to the budget meeting stating there are
26 places the City can save money. WSB has a planner, are staff meetings really necessary and a lot of
27 dollars are going to the City secretary.

28 Mr. Frank Hoesch, Jeffrey Blvd., came forward and stated he sent comments to the Council and did
29 hear back from three of you. He stated the Council needs to work as a team and not a political team.
30 He stated he would like to look at long term road plans. Planning needs to be taken care of now and
31 the costs for road maintenance will then be lower in the long run.

32 **CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM GATEWAY TRAIL ASSOCIATION, JOHN**
33 **OLDENDORE/BOB HAGSTROM**

34 Mr. Bob Hagstrom, referred to the letter sent our regarding the trail access at Manning Avenue Court.
35 He advised there is a roughed in trail access now and the Gateway Trail Association would like to
36 make sure it stays in place, although signage would be needed.

37 Mayor Carr advised the DNR has assured him that they are committed to keeping the trail access
38 there if possible.

39 Council Member Bohnen noted there could be a parking issue in that area.

40 Council Member Huber added enforcement could also be an issue.

1 City Attorney Vivian advised the easement could also be an issue. The easement needs to be mapped
2 out and maintenance needs to be addressed by the Council.

3
4 The Council directed staff to look into the easement issue and have the area mapped out so a
5 recommendation could be made to the Council at a future meeting.

6
7 **STAFF REPORTS**

8
9 **City Engineer, Phil Olson**

10
11 **Staff Report** – A report was provided for October 2011 City engineering activities, to be placed on
12 file for review.

13
14 **Discussion of Ideal Avenue Millings** – City Engineer Olson provided the background on this issue
15 advising the City was approached by Mahtomedi. This is a great opportunity for the City of Grant
16 and there is no cost. Applying the millings to Ideal Avenue will still allow for grading of that
17 roadway.

18
19 Road Commissioner Bohnen stated if the City would like to move forward with application of the
20 millings it will have to be done this week. He read a flyer that was put in affected resident’s
21 mailboxes. The millings will allow for improvement of the basin capacity and address some of the
22 draining issues there.

23
24 City Engineer Olson added that the some of the drainage issues there may have been due to grading
25 that was done without a permit by the previous owner. The area is a bit tricky because there is a
26 wetland there.

27
28 It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with the millings on Ideal Avenue.

29
30 **City Planner, Jennifer Haskamp**

31
32 **Hedberg Landscape CUP Update**– City Planner Haskamp provided the background on this issue
33 and reviewed the staff report. She advised that at this time it appears Park Nursery is in compliance
34 with the current CUP. She stated there is a boundary between uses and she did not observe any
35 multiple businesses, but perhaps storage of equipment that may not be Hedberg’ s.

36
37 City Attorney Vivian added that based on the site visit he doesn’t believe th4ere are any current issues
38 on the site. The review is complete and any escrow dollars should be returned. A new escrow may be
39 provided for additional planning services if Park Nursery so chooses.

40
41 **Staff Report** - A report was provided for October 2011 City planning activities, to be placed on file
42 for review.

43
44 **City Attorney, Nick Vivian**

1
2 **Staff Report** – A report for October 2011 was provided to be placed on file for review.

3
4 City Attorney Vivian provided an update on Axdahl's noting the mylars are complete and Raleigh is
5 providing a bond for the roadway. He added he is working with the clerk on the outstanding escrow
6 amount.

7
8 City Attorney Vivian advised the City received a data practices request that included 42 separate
9 categories of information relating to the Nielsen litigation. The City is required to respond and a
10 letter of response is being drafted. As there is only one staff person the request would take quite some
11 time to complete and determine if the data is private. There is a significant amount of work, time and
12 costs associated with compliance of this request. He provided an update on the Nielsen litigation
13 noting it has concluded and it is unclear as to whether Mr. Nielsen has any ties to the data practices
14 request.

15
16 Council Member Huber asked if there is any way to mitigate the costs associated with the request as it
17 is not a discover action.

18
19 City Attorney Vivian advised it is unknown yet about recouping some of the costs. He stated he
20 needs to determine an effective way to accomplish this but also keep the documents preserved.
21 Citizens are entitled to public documents.

22
23 **Building Inspector, Jack Kramer** – A report was from Building Inspector Kramer was provided for
24 October 2011 to be placed on file for review.

25 26 **OLD BUSINESS**

27
28 **Proposed Road Policy Revision, Public Hearing, Steve Bohnen** – Council Member Bohnen
29 provided the background of this issue and stated three informational meetings were held last month.
30 He stated he learned a lot but there is a concern regarding the data and certainly more current data is
31 needed. The roads need to be prioritized and scored and repair expenses tracked for the past five
32 years.

33
34 Council Member Bohnen added that the road policy itself should be reviewed and further discussions
35 held. Overlays need to be considered along with who pays, who benefits and who decides when it is
36 done. Dust control also needs to be addressed. He stated he is not 100% behind the current proposal
37 and supports removing the additional \$70,000 from the budget.

38
39 Mayor Carr opened the public hearing at 8:24 p.m.

40
41 Mr. Frank Hoesch, 84th Street, came forward and stated he has had concern for years that the roads
42 within the City are not being taken care of over time. There needs to be a plan in place and there is a
43 cost to the City whether a road is paved or gravelled. This should be studied and looked at in detail.
44 The plan should be objective, transparent and non-political. He asked the Council to continue
45 discussions and gather information.

1

2 Mr. Larry Lanoux, Keswick Ave., came forward and thanked the Council for the three informational
3 meetings and listening. He stated he he appreciates Council Member Bohnen bringing this tough
4 issue forward and addressing it.

5

6 Mr. Doug Schwartz, 8540 Jeffrey, came forward and stated that within the policy there is a preferred
7 method for assessing property owners. He suggested that language be modified, specifically in terms
8 of Jeffrey Avenue.

9

10 Mr. Dale Mckawitz, 7400 Manning, came forward and thanked Council Member Bohnen for the
11 meeting. He stated the City did not have a plan before and now they are going to develop one. A
12 mechanism is needed for residents who live on state and county roads.

13

14 Mr. Jerry Helander, Jasmine Avenue, came forward and stated this is a complex issue and he is
15 encouraged by what he heard this evening. He stated he believes people will pay for their own roads
16 to be reconstructed and paved roads won't go back to gravel roads. He stated he is not in a big rush to
17 change the road policy and believes it should be dealt with by referendum.

18

19 Mr. Tom Paulo, 63643 Keswick, came forward and stated he has only lived in Grant for a short time.
20 He encouraged the Council to keep the additional dollars in the budget and has an issue with voting
21 on paving or not paving. The dollars in the budget make for good governance and the ability to take
22 care of the City's roads.

23

24 Mayor Carr closed the public hearing at 8:40 p.m.

25

26 Council Member Fogelson stated the City needs a comprehensive road policy and communication to
27 residents on road maintenance and the policy needs to be improved. He advised he is not ready to
28 come forward with that plan.

29

30 Council Member Huber stated he always supported the conversation regarding the road policy but
31 firmly believes the City can do better for its residents. He advised he fully supports working on this
32 issue and he is very proud of the City right now.

33

34 Council Member Potter thanked Council Member Bohnen for the time he took on this as well as
35 Sharon Schwarze. He stated he learned a lot from the informational meetings and working together
36 on a plan is a good thing.

37

38 Mayor Carr stated he is glad the Council came to consensus on the process. He stated he has seen a
39 lot of bad processes this year. He does support a discussion on the roads. He distributed Council
40 Member Bohnen's campaign flyer noting it was stated he did not support raising taxes. He added he
41 hopes the City can tweak the policy within the City's budget to help people with their roads and
42 believes the City can do a lot of things better. He stated he looks forward to talking about this.

43

44 Council Member Bohnene stated that his original purpose was that he initially was hoping to bring to
45 the table a plan that was supported by the majority. The main reason to back off at this point is the

1 current proposal does not do that. He stated he hope to have a draft revised policy by June next year
2 then be able to look at the costs of that and determine how to fund it.

3
4 Mayor Carr asked staff if there is a way to set the plan up to be able to keep it in place long term.

5
6 City Attorney Vivian advised a three or five year plan that is reviewed every year and only tweaked if
7 necessary should be developed. That way there is a baseline to review every year. He pointed out
8 that the issue within a revised policy may be more when a road fails or residents are not asking a road
9 to be paved but do want the City to reconstruct a failed road or one that has become unpassable.

10
11 Council Member Huber stated it should be set up so it is very difficult politically to change due to
12 resident buy in. He noted that type of plan will require staff time and dollars to enable the collection
13 of good data.

14
15 Council Member Fogelson asked that everyone continue to participate in the process and noted it is
16 going to take a significant amount of Council, resident and staff time.

17
18 Council Member Potter stated he agrees that if the plan is done properly, it would be self-governing if
19 there is majority of resident buy in.

20
21 **2012 Roads Referendum, Jeff Huber** – Council Member Huber referred to a handout regarding
22 additional levies and advised he does not believe the City has enough information to take action on
23 this tonight. He stated he doesn't want to tie the City's hands in relation what the revised policy may
24 be. He suggested this item be tabled until the December meeting.

25
26 Mayor Carr noted additional information is needed including the cost, procedure, timeline, etc.
27 relating to a potential referendum.

28
29 Council Member Potter added the staff time and costs associated with a potential referendum needs to
30 be looked at.

31
32 Council Member Fogelson stated the City needs the data to develop a revised road policy. Dollars for
33 this project need to be set aside within the 2012 budget.

34
35 **Audit Services RFP, Mayor Carr** – Mayor Carr advised interviews were held prior to the regular
36 Council meeting.

37
38 **Council Member Huber moved to approve audit services proposal from LarsonAllen for**
39 **\$11,500 annually.**

40
41 Council Member Potter inquired about an opt out clause within the contract.

42
43 **Council Member Huber amended the motion to include an opt out clause to and be contingent**
44 **upon contract review and approval. Council Member Fogelson agreed to the amendment.**
45 **Motion carried unanimously.**

1 **Website Items, Mayor Carr** – Mayor Carr advised this item will be on every agenda for comments
2 and suggestions on the City’s website.

3
4 Council Member Bohnen mentioned some minor inaccuracies still posted on the City directory
5 portion of the website. He suggested a volunteer step forward and examine the entire website for
6 those type of errors and submit list to be corrected.

7
8 **2012 Final Budget Workshop Meeting** – Council Member Potter proposed the Council have an
9 additional budget meeting prior to the December Council meeting, based on the road informational
10 meetings.

11
12 Mayor Carr agreed and requested everyone look at the current numbers and determine if any cuts can
13 be made.

14
15 Council Member Huber stated that any cuts made to the preliminary budget need to go to funding of
16 obtaining the road data required for a potential revised road policy.

17
18 A budget meeting was scheduled on Monday, November 28, 2011, 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

19
20 **NEW BUSINESS**

21
22 **Public Comment Inquiries, Mayor Carr** – Mayor Carr advised residents in the Mahtomedi School
23 District vote at the District Center. Residents in the Stillwater School District vote at the Church
24 where City elections are held.

25
26 Council Member Fogelson advised Mr. Sederstrom’s article regarding his Grant show will be
27 published in the next newsletter.

28
29 **Washington County Mass Notification System, Mayor Carr** – Mayor Carr referred to the
30 information regarding the program in the packets.

31
32 Council Member Fogelson stated he researched the system and it basically is a notification of
33 residents of public safety issues. There is no notification of weather events. Residents have to sign in
34 if you have a cell phone but are already in the data base with land lines.

35
36 **Mayor Carr moved to approve the Joint Powers Agreement for the Washington County Mass**
37 **Notification System, as presented. Council Member Fogelson seconded the motion. Motion**
38 **carried with Council Member Huber voting nay.**

39
40 **Open Government Initiative, Jeff Huber** – Council Member Huber read a draft of the proposed
41 policy regarding open government and advertised City meetings that was included in the packets. He
42 stated the policy is being proposed in an effort to notify as many residents as possible in regard to City
43 business. The four recent informational meetings had a total of 149 residents present.

1 **Council Member Huber moved to adopt the policy, as presented. Mayor Carr seconded the**
2 **motion.**

3
4 Council Member Potter stated the policy somewhat refers to open meeting law requirements and he
5 does endorse that. However, if this is going to be adopted it should be done in resolution form. He
6 stated he does not agree with additional costs associated with this.

7
8 Council Member Huber stated the calendar posting in the paper has not cost and would only be
9 utilized when there are meetings that include public input.

10
11 Council Member Huber withdrew the motion for revisions to be reviewed at the December meeting.
12 Mayor Carr withdrew the second to the motion.

13
14 It was suggested a meeting box be developed on the City's website.

15
16 **Brown's Creek Trail at Manning Avenue, Mayor Carr** – City Treasurer Schwarze provided an
17 update on the trail meeting that was held.

18
19 Council Member Potter stated they are looking for resident input. There is a notification on the
20 website or contact the DNR. The next meeting may be in January.

21
22 Mayor Carr referred to the letter in the packet regarding the request of supporting an underpass for the
23 Brown's Creek Trail at Manning Avenue as opposed to an overpass.

24
25 The Council directed staff to draft a letter indicating support of a tunnel at that location.

26
27 **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

28
29 **City Council Reports:** There were no Council updates.

30
31 **Other Discussion Items:**

32
33 **Added Line Item in Budget** – Mayor Carr read the staff report outlining the reason for an additional
34 line item within the budget.

35
36 **Council Members 2011 Payment Form/Extra Meeting Submittal** – Mayor Carr referred to the
37 staff report requesting all payment forms be submitted to the Clerk by November 18, 2011.

38
39 **Jasmine Avenue Refund, Sharon Schwarze** – City Treasurer Schwarze stated she would like to
40 designate funds for the refund that will be provided when the bond term is up for the Jasmine Avenue
41 project. It is an accounting entry for accounts payable. She inquired about the 110th Street escrow
42 and holding onto escrow funds.

43
44 City Attorney Vivian advised there is a warranty with the road contractor and he does not believe
45 funds can be held as the escrow was for construction.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2011:

Planning Commission Meeting, Monday, November 21, 2011, Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

City Office Closed, Thanksgiving Holiday, Thursday, November 24, 2011

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Council Member Huber moved to adjourn at 10:40 p.m. Council Member Potter seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

These minutes were considered and approved at the regular Council Meeting December 6, 2011.

Kim Points, City Clerk

Tom Carr, Mayor

