

CITY OF GRANT
MINUTES

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DATE : March 6, 2012
TIME STARTED : 7:05 p.m.
TIME ENDED : 10:53 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; 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

Council Member Fogelson moved to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Huber seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

February 6, 2012 City Council Meeting Minutes	Approved
Bill List, \$34,694.58	Approved
Washington County Sheriff's Department, 2 nd Half Police Services, \$50,346.19	Approved

Council Member Huber moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Council Member Fogelson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Larry Lanoux, Keswick Avenue, came forwards and volunteered to get installation done relating to the dry hydrant this spring. He stated the City Planner is writing her own job description and he does have job descriptions for a Planner, Administrator and Clerk from the League of Minnesota Cities. He again suggested the City pass a resolution to ensure a simple phone call is made when complaints are submitted as opposed to getting letters from the City Attorney.

1 Mr. Loren Sederstrom, 107th, came forward and stated the annual clean up day is April 14 with a rain
2 date of April 21. The Tractor Parade is on September 8 and he suggested residents watch his All
3 About Grant show to see what it is all about.

4 5 **STAFF REPORTS**

6 7 **City Engineer, Phil Olson**

8
9 **Petition for Removal of Stop Sign at Justen and Joliet, Public Hearing** – City Engineer Olson
10 advised a sign petition was received last month. A public hearing was scheduled to take comments.
11 He stated he viewed the site to look at traffic counts, grade, contours and stopping site distances. It
12 appears there are a number of trees in the northwest corner that would prevent removal of the stop
13 sign unless the trees are cleared. He stated an engineering study can be done but trees would in fact
14 have to be removed. Site distances are based on national standards. To possibly lower the speed
15 limit, a speed study would have to be conducted per MnDOT. Eighty-five percent (85%) of the traffic
16 would dictate what speed limit is set. It is conceivable the speed limit would go up. Approximately
17 10-15 trees would have to be removed to provide for a 360 foot sit line. The traffic volume set for a
18 stop sign is an average of 300 vehicles per hour, allowing for a combination of vehicles, pedestrians
19 and bikers. Place a “stop sign ahead” may be an options but he a closer look at the intersection would
20 be necessary. If an engineering study is done, a recommendation could then be made regarding
21 removal of the stop sign.

22
23 The public hearing was opened at 7:29 p.m.

24
25 Mr. Lee Becker, 8990 107th Street, came forward and stated there is no way there are 2400 cars on
26 that street per day. He suggested that a yield sign is adequate.

27
28 Ms. Shannon Brogren, 9970 Joliet, came forward and stated safety is important and there is a lot of
29 brush there. She submitted a petition with 55 signatures of residents within ¾ of a mile of that
30 intersection who do not want the sign removed. It also seems that a critical concern is that Joliet may
31 become a thoroughfare. Stop signs take 8-10 seconds to stop at and the safety issue needs to come
32 first. She encouraged the Council to keep the stop sign in place.

33
34 Ms. Valerie Slaymaker, 9865 Justen Trail, came forward and stated she believes there is already a
35 warning sign in place. She indicated that if it were not for that stop sign, cars would drive right into
36 her car at the intersection. She implored the City to ensure public safety and keep the sign in place.

37
38 Mr. John Evans, 103rd Street North, advised he coordinated the petition to have the sign removed
39 knowing an engineering study would have to be done. He stated he cares about safety but there is
40 minimal traffic on that road and stop signs should not be used for speed control.

41
42 Mr. Gary Bauman, 10600 Joliet, came forward and stated he wants the stop sign to remain there but
43 his wife wants it removed. He noted there have been four accidents in the past year in that location.

1 Mr. Matt Schuler, 9819 Joliet, came forward and stated he lives at the junction of that intersection and
2 would like the stop sign to stay there for safety reasons.

3
4 Mr. Dan Semlack, 9997 Justen, came forward and stated he has lived at the corner of Justen for a long
5 time. It is a safety issue and he does not understand why people are so upset about it.

6
7 Mr. Todd Benjamin, 9940 Justen Trail, came forward and stated that he hopes if a study is done it is
8 done in the summer. There should be criteria for a nuisance and not based on a convenience for
9 people to get home earlier and that should be considered.

10
11 Ms. Lisa Roesler, 9760 Justen Trail, came forward and stated there is heavy traffic there coming
12 home from work. She added she would have been hit there before but most people do stop at the
13 sign. From a safety perspective it is important to retain the sign.

14
15 Ms. Brogren, 9970 Joliet, came forward and stated you cannot see her driveway from the intersection.
16 She stated they are a neighborhood and all of you should visit in the summer. She asked if the City
17 needs these commercialized studies and we should be keeping Grant rural.

18
19 Ms. Sharon Schuler, 9819 Joliet, came forward and stated her driveway is right at the stop sign. The
20 cost for the study and removal of brush and trees is an issue. She stated this is kind of ridiculous and
21 she agrees with the safety issue.

22
23 Deputy Fry came forward and advised the Department does not get a lot of complaints from residents
24 relating to that intersection.

25
26 Mr. Dennis Schwietz, 9750 Joliet, came forwards and stated that during the summer on Saturdays
27 Joliet is a main thoroughfare to Withrow. It would be good to keep the sign there and trailers backing
28 out of driveways are an issue also.

29
30 Mr. Bob Englehart, 9280 Joliet, came forward and suggested another stop sign be placed halfway
31 between on Hwy 96 and Justen to slow the speed down.

32
33 A resident that has lived in Woodland Acres for 37 years came forward and stated the signs went up
34 when the paving of Joliet was done. If signs are going to go up they should be put up on side roads
35 also and the City would have a lot to put up. An engineering study on this matter is in order.

36
37 Ms. Lisa Brandt, 9800 Janero, came forward and stated she walks that area all the time. The site line
38 is interesting because the road also goes downhill, in poor condition and has no shoulder. This is
39 clearly a safety issue.

40
41 Mr. John Evans came forward and stated it does take longer than 8-9 seconds to stop at that
42 intersection and the fact is so often no one else is at the intersection. Motorists do get tickets for a
43 rolling stop. It is an unnecessary stop sign.

44

1 Mr. Lee Becker came forward and stated speed bumps are very effective and the City should take that
2 into consideration.

3
4 Mr. Todd Benjamin came forward and stated that on behalf of the neighbors who live there, he has no
5 issues with stopping at the intersection to get home.

6
7 Ms. Karen Hilton, 9606 Joliet, came forward and stated there may not be many calls to the Sheriff's
8 Department because there is a stop sign there. There are no sidewalks or shoulder and safety and for
9 the greater good the sign should stay there. It is minor inconvenience to stop there.

10
11 Another resident came forward and stated there are two driveways down from the intersection and she
12 is partially responsible for getting the sign there in the first place. She stated she put herself out there
13 to get people to stop. She stated she lives in the country and doesn't want people to go by fast. This
14 is a neighborhood and property values will go down if the speed goes up.

15
16 Council Member Bohnen stated Mr. Dan Mielke contacted him and is not in support of removing the
17 stop sign.

18
19 Ms. Joyce Welander, 83rd Street, came forward and stated she still has a lot of history books. The
20 previous Road supervisor, Art Welander, will be happy to know that most people care about the
21 safety. The stop sign was a big issue previously and it is a safety issue.

22
23 The public hearing was closed at 8:05 p.m.

24
25 Council Member Bohnen advised there are no road counts for that road yet and suggested the
26 possibility of "stop ahead" sign when going south. He encouraged everyone to respect the sign while
27 it is there. He indicated he would hate to see the trees there removed and putting a sign on the other
28 side of the road also is not a bad idea to improve visibility. He stated he would not like speed bumps
29 or rumble strips put in as they make too much noise.

30
31 Council Member Huber stated that from comments made, an engineering study won't change the fact
32 that there is a blind intersection. He stated he does not see stopping as a great inconvenience and
33 would like to see increased enforcement there.

34
35 Council Member Potter inquired about a yield sign. City Engineer Olson stated if an engineering
36 study is done, he will either recommend removing the stop sign or keeping it in place. A
37 recommendation relating to a yield sign will not be included.

38
39 Mayor Carr stated he understands traffic and trailer issues with the removal of the sign. He added he
40 would like to the City do more brushing there and noted a stop sign study and speed study are not the
41 same thing. He believes the city put there sign up for safety and if the speed limit could be lowered,
42 the sign may not be necessary.

43

1 Council Member Fogelson stated he can see both sides of the issue and does believe that the sign
2 creates a safety issue because people go through it. The City does need more enforcement and the site
3 line should be improved.

4
5 Council Member Huber clarified he is not looking for enforcement as a revenue make. He is looking
6 for warnings so people pay more attention to the stop sign.

7
8 Council Member Potter stated he is not willing to compromise safety. The City could go through the
9 study but may still end of with a stop sign and funding of the study is an issue.

10
11 It was the consensus of the Council to increase brushing in that area, the City Engineer would
12 determine if a study is needed to put up another stop sign, and enforcement would be increased at that
13 intersection.

14
15 City Engineer Olson recommended the stop sign and warning sign be replaced with the reflectivity
16 signs.

17
18 Mayor Carr called for a short recess at 8:33 p.m.

19
20 Mayor Carr reconvened the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

21
22
23 **MS, Public Hearing** – City Engineer Olson advised that as part of the Municipal Separate Storm
24 Sewer System (MS4) permit, the City is required to hold an annual public hearing and receive
25 comments from the public.

26
27 City Engineer Olson presented the annual MS4 information noting the 2011 MS4 achievements, 2011
28 goals and the current status of the City's MS4 permit.

29
30 Mayor Carr opened the public hearing at 8:50 p.m.

31
32 There being no public comment, Mayor Carr closed the public hearing at 8:51 p.m.

33
34 **Staff Report** – A report was provided for February 2012 City Engineering activities, to be placed on
35 file for review.

36
37 Council Member Bohnen referred to the grading permit section of the staff report and stated the
38 Engineer used to have the discretion with the required escrow. He stated he would like the City to
39 continue with that as it is cost prohibitive to get a permit with a \$3,000 escrow. He would like it to be
40 easier for people to do the right thing.

41
42 City Attorney Vivian stated his strong preference would be that the City has a set escrow amount.

43
44

1 It was determined further discussion would be held regarding this issue and the option of having a
2 minor and major grading permit/escrow would be considered at the April Council meeting.

3
4 **City Planner, Jennifer Haskamp**

5
6 **Staff Report** – A report was provided for February 2012 City Planning activities, to be placed on file
7 for review.

8
9 **City Attorney, Nick Vivian**

10
11 **Mr. Larry Lanoux Data Practices Request** – City Attorney Vivian advised he has not yet received
12 documents from the Council relating to the data practices request from Mr. Larry Lanoux. The
13 council needs to provide the documents no later than March 12 to allow for review time before being
14 turned over to Mr. Lanoux's Attorney. He noted anything that references Mr. Larry Lanoux must be
15 turned over and personal information may or may not be public.

16
17 **Staff Report** – A report was provided for February 2012 City Legal activities, to be placed on file for
18 review.

19
20 **Building Inspector, Jack Kramer** – A report was from Building Inspector Kramer was provided for
21 February 2012 to be placed on file for review.

22 23 **OLD BUSINESS**

24
25 **Website Items, Mayor Carr** – Mayor Carr advised this item will be on every agenda for comments
26 and suggestions on the City's website. He stated a meeting regarding the Brown's Creek Trail will be
27 held at the Stillwater Library from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., on March 14. You can RSVP on their
28 website. The City's clean up day is April 14 with a rain date of April 21.

29
30 Council Member Potter stated the work session with Brown's Creek is posted on the website along
31 with the agenda.

32
33 Council Member Bohnen stated the ballfield schedule for 2010 was posted on the website but was not
34 for 2011. He indicated the Clerk is working on the 2012 schedule and it should be posted.

35 36 **NEW BUSINESS**

37
38 **Public Comment Inquiries, Mayor Carr** – Council Member Bohnen stated he supports the City's
39 cleanup day and the City should pay for the dumpster.

40
41 **Planning Commission Appointments** – Mayor Carr stated four interviews were held earlier for the
42 two seats on the Planning Commission. He advised the two members whose seats are up would like
43 to be reappointed and continue on the Planning Commission.

1 **Mayor Carr moved to reappoint Glenn Larson and Tom Stangl to the Planning Commission.**
2 **Council Member Huber seconded the motion.**

3
4 Council Member Bohnen stated he did not have the previous applications from Mr. Larson and Mr.
5 Stangl in his packet.

6
7 Council Member Huber stated that whether a staff member or someone the Council appoints to a
8 commission or board with no performance issues or problems should be reappointed. Eight months
9 ago the Planning Commission elected Mr. Larson as Chair of the PC. He stated he has not heard of
10 any performance issues and he doesn't see how they cannot be reappointed.

11
12 **Motion failed with Council Member Potter, Bohnen and Fogelson voting nay.**

13
14 **Council Member Fogelson moved to appoint Mr. Tom Mathieson and Mr. Bill David. Council**
15 **Member Huber seconded the motion.**

16
17 Council Member Huber made a friendly amendment to separate the votes on Mr. Mathieson and Mr.
18 David. Council Member Fogelson agreed.

19
20 **Motion for Mr. David passed with Council Member Huber voting nay and Mayor Carr**
21 **abstaining.**

22
23 **Motion for Mr. Mathieson failed with Council Member Bohnen, Huber, Potter and Mayor Carr**
24 **voting nay.**

25
26 **Mayor Carr moved to appoint Mr. Legred to the Planning Commission. Council Member**
27 **Huber seconded the motion. Motion failed with Council Member Bohnen and Council Member**
28 **Potter voting nay and Council Member Fogelson abstaining.**

29
30 **Council Member Potter moved to appoint Mr. Lanoux to the Planning Commission. Council**
31 **Member Bohnen seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council Member Huber and**
32 **Mayor Carr voting nay.**

33
34 Mr. Bill David and Mr. Larry Lanoux were appointed to the Planning Commission.

35
36 **Discussion/Recap of Goodview Avenue Meeting, Steve Bohnen** – Council Member Bohnen
37 provided the background on this issue nothing there was a meeting with the City of Hugo, White Bear
38 Township and the County. Discussion during that meeting included potential costs of the project as
39 well as current maintenance costs. He indicated he does need to get the traffic counts on the roadway
40 but would like to continue discussions with the other entities. He requested Council direction
41 regarding the continuation of the Goodview Avenue discussions.

42
43 Council Member Huber stated he would like to keep discussions going but residents need to be kept
44 in the loop and be allowed input.

45

1 Mayor Carr stated the City has to follow the current road policy and residents have not come forward
2 with a petition for improvements.

3
4 City Attorney Vivian advised the Council does have the authority to undertake a road project on its
5 own.

6
7 Council Member Fogelson stated he does support having discussions with the neighbors and all
8 involved parties but would like an idea of the costs. He added he believes the road ultimately should
9 be paved.

10
11 Council Member Potter advised he does endorse moving forward with discussions.

12
13 **City Engineering Services, Step One, Review of Council Expectations, Steve Bohnen** – Council
14 Member Bohnen read the staff report included and discussed the top ten engineering expenses for
15 2011.

16
17 Council Member Potter referred to the costs associated with staff meeting and stated staff meetings
18 should be eliminated or documentation of those meetings should be provided.

19
20 No other issues were noted with the engineering fees.

21
22 **Alerus Financial GOI Bond 2003 Payoff, Sharon Schwarze** – City Treasurer Schwarze provided
23 the payoff amount for paying the bond off one year early noting the City does have the available funds
24 in the fund balance.

25
26 **Council Member Huber moved to approve the payoff of GOI Bond 2003, as presented. Council**
27 **Member Fogelson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

28
29 **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

30
31 **City Council Reports:**

32
33 Council Member Fogelson provided an update on the emergency siren recommending it be
34 programmed to go off the at the same time as Lake Elmo, Hugo and Forest Lake. The best location
35 for the siren is Hwy 96 and Joliet Avenue.

36
37 Council Member Bohnen stated a discussion should be held regarding how strong the signal will be.

38
39 Council Member Bohnen stated he would like to purchase some mailbox equipment that would be
40 available to residents. He provided information regarding type and price. The equipment could be
41 offered in lieu of the mailbox replacement reimbursement of \$50.

42
43 Council Member Bohnen advised the annual road tour will be soon. He suggested the City rent a bus
44 to allow for the Council and residents to participate in the tour and view the roads.

45

1 Council Member Potter noted next month the City has a work session with Brown’s Creek. He
2 reviewed the draft agenda for that meeting.

3
4 Council Member Potter added that he is working on the sign inventory project and will get the signs
5 prioritized and then develop a replacement plan.

6
7 **Staff Discussion Items:** Mayor Carr inquired reviewed the staff report and asked if the Council
8 would like to increase the number of playback times there are for City meetings.

9
10 The Council determined the number of playback times is sufficient. It was suggested the bulletin
11 board on cable be utilized for City announcements.

12
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14

15 **COMMUNITY CALENDAR MARCH 7 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2012:**

16
17 **Planning Commission Meeting, Tuesday, March 6, 2012, Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.**

18
19 **ADJOURN**

20
21 **There being no further business, Council Member Huber moved to adjourn at 10:53 p.m.**
22 **Council Member Potter seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

23
24 These minutes were considered and approved at the regular Council Meeting April 3, 2012.

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29 _____
30 Kim Points, City Clerk

31 _____
Tom Carr, Mayor