

City of Grand Blanc City Council
Minutes of March 13, 2019

Present: Mayor Soderstrom John Creasey Julie Nielsen Chris Carr
Chris Douglas Paula Nas Lisa Blondell

Staff: Wendy Jean-Buhrer, Mary Hopkins, Dianne Waterworth, Brian Lipe, Matt Wurtz, Megan Mulder.

Guests: Paula Schmidt, Jamie Weasel, Kae Eidson, Jet Kilmer, Ed Erdt, Geric Rose, and others.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Soderstrom at 7:00 P.M.

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Kae Eidson Retirement Recognition. A Proclamation for Kae Eidson was read by Mayor Soderstrom.
3. Approval of Minutes. Motion by Nielsen supported by Creasey to approve the minutes contained in the agenda packet of March 13, 2019. Motion carried.
4. Approval of Bills. Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to approve bills in amount of \$362,982.02. Motion carried.
5. Public Comment. Jet Kilmer from Grand Blanc Chamber of Commerce presented the idea of having sponsor signs along the Festival Race route.
6. Communication.
 - a) Comcast Channel Updates – Received and Filed.
 - b) Grand Blanc Parks & Recreation Appointments from Grand Blanc Township – Received and Filed.
7. New Business.
 - a) Ordinance #1902-01 – Marihuana 2nd Read.
Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to adopt Ordinance #1902-01 for the Prohibition of Marihuana Business and Establishments for the 2nd reading. Motion carried.
 - b) Resolution #19-3001 – Michigan Department of Transportation Office of Economic Development Match.
Motion by Blondell supported by Creasey to adopt Resolution #19-3001 for the Michigan Department of Transportation of Office of Economic Development. Motion carried.
 - c) Resolution #19-3002 – Failure to File Property Transfer Affidavit Policy.
Motion by Blondell supported by Creasey to adopt Resolution #19-3002 for Failure to File Property Transfer Affidavit Policy. Motion carried.
 - d) Grand Blanc Chamber of Commerce Fireworks Permit Request.
Motion by Nielsen supported by Blondell to approve the 2019 Permit for Fireworks other than Consumer of Low Impact for Display of Fireworks for the Grand Blanc Chamber of Commerce as stated on permit. Motion carried.

- e) Economic Development Strategy Presentation – Justin Sprague.
Motion by Nielsen supported by Carr to adopt the Economic Development Strategy. Motion carried.

Motion by Blondell supported by Creasey to approve Redevelopment Sites Packages for 216, 210, 206 Reid Road, 11635 and 11643 S. Saginaw Street and 237 Reid Road, 315 Union Street and Vacant Land with parcel no. 56-16-529-004 to be funded with City matching funds not to exceed \$5,000. Motion carried.

- f) Committee Reports.
Councilman Chris Douglas extended an invitation to the Small Cities event on May 1, 2019 at 6:30 to be held at Nuevo Vallarta in Grand Blanc.

8. Other Business

- a.) Police Chief Lipe – received and filed.
b.) DPW Director – nothing to report.
c.) Building Inspector’s Report – received and filed.
d.) Fire Chief Burdette – received and filed.
e.) City Attorney Mulder. – nothing to report.
f.) City Clerk – nothing to report.
g.) Finance Director/Treasurer. – nothing to report
h.) City Manager’s Report. – received and filed.

Motion by Creasey supported by Nielsen to approve the Parks and Recreation disbursement of \$30,463.75. Motion carried.

Motion by Blondell supported by Creasey to approve of submission of Iron Belle Trail grant project not to exceed City funding of \$1,500. Motion carried.

Motion by Creasey supported by Blondell to approve of the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement between the City and Grand Blanc DPW effective March 15, 2019. Motion carried.

Motion by Nielsen supported by Blondell to approve the purchase of the 2019 Tri County International Trucks Chassis from the Vehicle Fund not to exceed \$80,000. Motion carried.

- i.) Members of Council

Councilman Creasey– stated that the Hard Times Party was a success.

Councilwoman Blondell – also stated that she enjoyed the Hard Times Party.

Councilman Douglas – stated that he was disappointed that Grand Blanc Township rejected our offer to negotiate over the Fire Department Ordinance from the motion that was passed at our February 13, 2019 City Council meeting.

Councilwoman Nielsen – agreed with Councilman Douglas statement.

- j.) Mayor Soderstrom
Mayor Soderstrom had a prepared statement that she read.

Discussion about Parks and Recreation

The Township and the City have had a collaborative agreement with the Grand Blanc schools for close to 50 years to provide Parks and Recreation activities for the Grand Blanc Community at large. However, the Township Board has insisted on revising the long-standing Agreement. The City was informed the Township Board was concerned about the liability of the employees of the Parks and Rec Commission who were not officially employed by the City, the Township or the Schools. For this reason, City Council voted for the City to become the employer of record in order to keep the Parks and Rec Commission viable. This decision was made by City Council in a thoughtful and conscientious manner. The goal has always been, on our part, to quote the Township Superintendent, "to ensure the Community continues to enjoy the high quality and quantity of recreational opportunities." Our goal is to keep the Parks and Rec Commission intact. Period. We hoped that proactively addressing the Township's concerns by offering a simple, workable solution would accomplish that end.

However, in addition, The City and the Township have split the administrative costs of running the parks department 40% city/60% township. That arrangement was established at the beginning of the agreement 50 years ago based on the population of the two municipalities at the time. Over the years, with the growth of the township, the city's population has become 20% of the total as compared to the original 40%. The City feels that any new agreement should incorporate that funding change.

The total budget for Parks and Rec is around 1.2 million dollars. \$900,000 is raised by the Parks and Rec Commission from the many successful programs they provide in addition to some fundraising and grants. This accounts for 73% of the Parks and Rec budget. The other 27%, \$300,000, is provided from the general funds of the Township and the City in the above mentioned ratio of 60%/40%. As a reflection of the actual population of the two municipalities today, the City has requested that in any new agreement its percentage of the Parks and Rec budget be decreased to accurately reflect the 20/80 split. The City has been paying more than its fair share for many years, but did so for the benefit of the Community. The Parks and Recreation Department is well run and has provided great programs for our constituents, but the funding mechanism needs to be fairly updated.

The City has always funded its own parks. It has always allowed Parks and Rec to use City Parks for programs that they offer. If the city became the employer of record for Parks and Rec, the employees would be doing the same job they have been doing for the last 48 years - we hoped that would satisfy the concerns of the Township Board.

Fire Discussion

As Mayor of the City of Grand Blanc, I want to repeat that we tried to work with the Township to keep the Fire Commission together. In addition to contributing time and energy to a joint task force which met numerable times with representatives from the Township, the City Council also met with the Township Board three times over the past two years to discuss the fire millage. We even asked to have a meeting run by a moderator to try to work through our differences, but the Township Board refused to pursue that option.

We helped fund a study requested by the Township after the millage passed in the Township and before it passed in the City. The City government did not even have the opportunity to hear the results of that study from the consultant before the joint Fire Commission was dissolved by the Township Board. However, the consultant who finally presented the study to the City Council told us he was shocked by the Township Board's vote to dissolve the Fire Commission on a suggested shortage of 1.3% of a 1.5 million dollar budget, a sum of \$19,500.

At our recent February 13th meeting, City Council voted to initiate another attempt to negotiate a fire department agreement with the Township. That earnest effort on the part of the City was summarily rejected by the Township.

The City of Grand Blanc has been evaluating all available options and is waiting for a professional and detailed fire study which has been commissioned to be presented to City Council in the near future.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary B. Hopkins
City Clerk