

City of Grand Blanc City Council
Minutes of August 14, 2019

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

Staff: Wendy Jean-Buhrer, Mary Hopkins, Brian Lipe, Matt Wurtz, Walt Griffin, Ted Sczepanski, Chief Smith, Dianne Waterworth

Guests: Rick Frisch, G. Rizik, Michele Gatti, Yvonne Wagner and others.

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Minutes
Motion by Blondell supported by Creasey to approve the minutes contained in the agenda packet of August 14, 2019. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Bills
Motion by Creasey supported by Blondell to approve bills in amount of \$682,158.75. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment

Rick Frisch – 419 Hattie
5. Communication
 - a) Rehman Audit Engagement Letter – Received and Filed.
6. New Business
 - a) Firestone Complete Auto Care Special Land Use
Firestone made a presentation with changes to their original Special Land Use request.

Motion by Blondell supported by Creasey to deny the request for special land use due to lack of compliance with the general special land use standards of Section 2102 of the City Zoning Ordinance, including the inconsistency of the proposed use with the City’s Master Plan and intent of the Central Business District, as well as failure to comply with the specific use requirements of Section 2110 (b)(8). Roll call vote: Blondell, yes; Carr, yes; Creasey, yes; Douglas, yes; Nas, yes; Nielsen, yes. Motion carried 6-0.
 - b) Request from “Tie Michigan Teal” Campaign
Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to approve Tie Michigan Teal for ribbons on streetlight in the Central Business District to be placed during the month of September removed the first week of October. Motion carried.
 - c) 419 Hattie Variance Reconsideration
Motion by Blondell supported by Nas to approve the variance based on the new information received within 20 days of approval from the neighbor. Roll call vote: Carr, yes; Creasey, no; Douglas, no; Nas, yes; Nielsen, no; Blondell, yes. Tie Vote. Mayor Soderstrom, no. Motion failed 4-3.

Motion by Creasey supported by Douglas to approve the variance based on the last approval of the variance. Roll call vote: Creasey, yes; Douglas, yes; Nas, no; Nielsen, yes; Blondell, no; Carr, yes. Motion carried 4-2.

- d) Zoning Ordinance Article X, and Article XX Revision – Second Reading
Motion by Blondell supported by Creasey to waive the second reading and place in the record Zoning Ordinance Article X Revision. Friendly amendment made by Nielsen to include Article XX. Motion carried.
- e) Committee Reports
None

7. Other Business

- a.) Police Chief Lipe – received and filed
- b.) DPW Director – not in attendance
- c.) Building Inspector's Report – received and filed
- d.) Fire Chief Smith – advised the Council that the Engine that was approved last month and purchased has been picked up, and will be in service shortly. Chief Smith also announced the Fire Hall open house to be held on Saturday, August 14, 2019.

Councilman Douglas asked Chief Smith a few questions regarding response times and mutual aid.

- e.) City Attorney Griffin

Stated that there are still ongoing negotiations regarding with the Township regarding the dissolution of the Fire Commission.

Motion by Blondell supported by Douglas to waive the second reading and place in the record Fireworks Ordinance #1907-01. Motion carried.

- f.) City Clerk – nothing to report.
- g.) Finance Director/Treasurer – nothing to report.
- h.) City Manager's Report – received and filed.

City Manager Jean-Buhrer gave updates that were included in her City Manager Report.

Motion by Blondell supported by Creasey to approve the creation of fund 663, Fire Vehicle and Equipment Fund. Motion carried.

Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to approve the renewal of the Clear Rate contract for all phone lines at City Hall and Police Administration. Motion carried.

- i.) Members of Council
Councilwoman Nielsen– wanted to congratulate Wendy on the grants that she has received for the Fire Department.
Councilman Douglas – congratulations to Wendy on the grants, and to also the Fire Chief on a very successful first month.
Councilman Carr – commended the Fire Department on their response time. He also stated his concern about the Grand Mall project. Building Inspector Ted Sczepanski gave an update on the project, and said that there is progress being made although it is slow.

Councilman Creasey – stated that he has heard throughout the community that it is an exciting time to be in Grand Blanc. Also, asked if the electrical box that was damaged by graffiti would be fixed. City Manager Jean-Buhrer stated that the artist that painted the electrical box will be fixing it soon.

j.) Mayor Soderstrom –

Motion by Creasey supported by Nielsen to move into Closed Session to consider the yearly evaluation of the City Manager as requested by Wendy Jean – Buhrer. Roll call vote: Douglas, yes; Nas, yes; Nielsen, yes; Blondell, yes; Carr, yes; Creasey, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Soderstrom closed the regular meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Reopened the regular meeting at 9:34 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary B. Hopkins
City Clerk