

**SPRING GROVE CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**December 21, 2021, 6:00 PM**  
**Spring Grove Communications, Room 100**

Mayor Solberg called the December Spring Grove City Council meeting to order at 6:01 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council present: Mayor Scott Solberg, Council Members; Karen Folstad, Chad Rohland, Travis Torgerson and Trent Turner.

Staff present: Administrator Amundson, John Sylling and Officer Bruns.

Guest present: Charlene Selbee with Fillmore County Journal, Jordan Gerard with Caledonia Argus.

Residents: Dayna Burtness, Nick Nguyen, Jeff Engen, Angie Solie, Deb and George Lesnar, Jana and Brock Elton, Christian Myrah, Patrick and Jayme Longmire, Pat Longmire, Kay Capps Cross, JC Nerstad, and Sean Young.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

Council Rohland moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Council Member Torgerson, all voted in favor, motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Member Turner moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Council Member Rohland, all voted in favor, motion carried.

**OPEN FORUM**

None

**PUBLIC HEARING**

*Truth in Taxation*

Council Member Torgerson moved to open the Public Hearing at 6:04 pm, second by Council Member Turner, all approved, motion carried.

Administrator Amundson discussed the purposed 2022 tax levy to be set at \$650,000.00. This is a little more than a 3% increase from 2021 tax levy.

Mayor Solberg called for public questions, no questions asked or input from audience. Council Member Rohland moved to close the public hearing at 6:08 pm, seconded by Council Member Torgerson.

Mayor Solberg moved to return to open session at 6:08 pm, seconded by Council Member Rohland, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Council Member Turner moved to approve Resolution 21-41 the 2022 Levy. Seconded by Council Member Rohland, all voted in favor, motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Council Member Rohland started the discussion on the Municipal Liquor Store, whether the city should consider shutting down the business and some other business to acquire the license. Mayor Solberg stated the City Council can determine the number of liquor licenses issued. The municipal liquor store has been operating in the black, but the proceeds are trending downward. Profits from the liquor store have purchased equipment for the Fire Department, playground equipment, and items needed for the ballfields to mention a few. If the City was to move forward in considering discontinuing the municipal liquor, a public hearing and ballot vote would need to take place.

After lengthy discussion, Mayor Solberg thanked the audience for being respectful, honest, and remaining calm during the duration of discussing the municipal liquor store. Pat Longmire thanked the Council for listening to them.

Mayor Solberg referenced an email received from Attorney Roverud concerning the violations issued for Junk Vehicles, stating that in his opinion the tickets be dismissed. Permits have been issued to both parties and they have come into compliance with the City Ordinance. Mayor Solberg moved for the two violations for having junk vehicles, that were issued in the City of Spring Grove, be dismissed because they have come into compliance. This applies to specifically John Sylling and JC Nerstad. Seconded by Council Member Turner. All voted in favor, motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Administrator Amundson requested the Fest Building be opened starting in January to allow walking in the winter months. Last year the building was used 200 times for walking. Council Member Turner moved to allow walkers use of the Fest Building. Walkers are required to follow current COVID guidelines. Seconded by Council Member Rohland, all voted in favor, motion carried. The Fest Building will be opened Monday thru Thursday from 8:00 to 10:00 am and 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Pickle Ball was allowed to be played in the Fest Building in November for a trial period to see how it would work. Painter's tape was placed on the floor and the walls and lights were covered for protection. This was approved by Administrator Amundson and Utility Director Sylling. No damage occurred and the building was used almost daily. Mayor Solberg moved to allow Pickle Ball to be played in the Fest Building during the winter months without charge, with the understanding if someone who is paying to rent the facility, and request the tape be removed, those in charge of Pickle Ball will remove it. A schedule will need to be coordinated with renters and Pickle Ball players. Seconded by Council Member Turner, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Administrator Amundson gave an update on the Hotel Project that EDA/CEDA and the City are working on. The process is to the point where some cost could accrue for financial advisors (Mike Bubany with David Drown Associates), county fees and publications. These expenses were not budgeted for 2022. Council Member Rohland moved to require a \$10,000.00 deposit from Rebound as recommended by Mike Bubany, and any unused funds will be returned to the investment group. Seconded by Council Member Folstad, all voted in favor, motion carried. Amundson will notify the CEDA representatives.

Employees steps/pay scale was reviewed. No action was taken.

Discussion on hiring Swim Center Manager for 2022. Council Member Turner moved to hire Harlee Gavin as manger for 2022, following past practice for hiring of seasonal employees. Seconded by Council Member Folstad, all voted in favor, motion carried.

### **MAYOR/COUNCIL**

Next Council Meeting will be January 18, 2022, at 6:00 pm. Mayor Solberg stated he is still working on the RRFB (Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon) sign. Mayor Solberg expressed concern that we may lose out on the grant due to no response from engineers in a timely manner.

### **MEETING REPORTS**

EDA – Discussion on the restaurant challenge coming out in January. Interest in purchasing the front two lots in the Industrial Park.

PARKS & REC – No meeting

PLANNING & ZONING – Discussed two permit applications, and approved one on South Division Ave,

LIBRARY – Foreign Films is on hold. Looking at changing some hours the library is open. Will hold off on trying to fill the vacant position for a while.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Chief Turner stated the crew will be fixing the handrail on the training house as well as the front steps.

Council Member Folstad moved to adjourn meeting at 7:39 pm, seconded by Council Member Torgerson, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted.

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_

Julie Amundson  
Clerk/Administrator

