

SPRING GROVE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Via Zoom
Minutes
February 16, 2021, 6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Spring Grove City Council was called to order by Mayor Solberg at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 2021 VIA Zoom.

Present: Mayor, Scott Solberg,
Council Member, Travis Torgerson
Council Member, Karen Folstad
Council Member, Trent Turner
Council Member, Chad Rohland Council Member

Also, Present: City Clerk/Administrator, Julie Amundson,
Craig Moorhead - The Caledonia Argus
Charlene Corson Selbee – Fillmore County Journal

Council Member Turner move to adopt the agenda, second by Council Member Torgerson, all approved by roll call, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Rohland moved to approve the consent agenda, second by Council Member Torgerson, all approved by roll call, motion carried.

OPEN FORUM

None

NEW BUSINESS

As of Monday February 15, 2021, there have been 91 signatures on the sign in sheets. The building was even opened by request on Friday for someone to walk. There have been a lot of repeat walkers. Council Member Rohland moved to continue to keep the building open for another month, second by Council Member Folstad, all approved by roll call vote. Motion carried.

The Swim Center hours of operation was discussed. Being 2020 was not a typical year, it was difficult to determine the amount of free swim. Mayor Solberg moved to close the pool at 5:00 pm until July 4th to accommodate more lessons and evaluate the attendance. Allow \$2.00 Sunday night swim without a pass and Friday night swim with a pass. Second by Council Member Rohland, all approved by roll call vote, motion carried.

The fee structure will be:

Regular Admission, 2 yrs. and under / 65+ free	\$ 4.00
Family Pass, by May 31 st .	\$175.00
After June 1 st	\$200.00
Individual Pass	\$ 75.00
Punch Card (10 punches)	\$ 40.00
Private Lessons	\$ 60.00
Group Lessons	\$ 40.00
Private Party	\$300.00
Shelter	\$ 50.00

Discussion was held on the vacant position on the Planning and Zoning Committee. It was discovered that a few years ago, a committee member left and the position was filled with a Council Member. Per the City Ordinance, the Committee can have 5 voting members, and the Planning and Zoning Committee would like it to remain as is, three members from the public and 2 from the Council. Mayor Solberg moved to stay with the 5-member committee as is, second by Council Member Folstad, all approved by roll call vote, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Folz reviewed his Year End Police Report. The Officers were more visible than the previous year even with COVID. They learned to negotiate the impact and with the use of PPE, they are back too normal with face-to-face activities. Overtime wasn't cut back in 2020, the Officers have been using flex time and try to keep it at a minimal amount, the Chief has been picking up all the extra hours. Mayor Solberg thanked the Chief for the good report.

Courtney Bergey Swanson with Economic Development Authority (EDA) presented their Year End Report for the City of Spring Grove. There were no loans for 2020, but they were able to work with the City in administering \$30,000.00 in grants to local businesses from COVID CARES Act Funds. They also worked with Houston County to alert businesses of more grants funds that were available. A housing and lodging study were completed. The Herald Building was bought and resold. EDA was also instrumental in the start up of the Chamber of Commerce for the City. The Habitat for Humanity House was completed. A lot in the Industrial Park was sold to Viking Electric. Their goals for 2021 are the same as last year, and that is to revitalize the Downtown District. Courtney thanked the Council for all the support they have given to EDA.

POLICIES/ORDINANCES

Chapter 106 and Chapter 708 pertaining to sidewalks were discussed. The definition of what a clean sidewalk is defined more clearly. In Chapter 106, Section C, Subsection 1, the second paragraph was deleted, the location described is also defined in Chapter 708, Subsection B. In Chapter 708, Section I, Subsection J, clarifies what determines a clean sidewalk. Council Member Torgerson moved to make the changes in Chapter 106 and Chapter 798 as defined. Second by Council Member Rohland, all approved by roll call vote, motion carried.

MAYOR/COUNCIL

The next council meeting will be on March 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm in the Fest Building. It will still be available via Zoom.

MEETING REPORTS

EDA - will be holding a public hearing on the sale of another lot in the Industrial Park. Heart Rock Coffee are putting their coffee roasting business in the Gallery Building they purchased. The new owners Babinski's are working with the Fire Department to insure safety codes are met. The Gallery will still be in the same building.

PARKS - Annual report is in the packet. Accomplished a lot in the parks this year. Working on getting seeds and starting them for the project in Roverud Park. Grant funds are being used for this project.

PLANNING & ZONING- Reviewed permits for 2020. Talked about Accessory Buildings and temporary buildings. Discussed the number of members to be on the Committee.

LIBRARY – Dawn Johnson has submitted her letter of resignation effective July 30, 2021. She is retiring and would like 2 months to work with her replacement. Shields are being installed around the public computer and remain in place after the pandemic and act as a privacy barrier.

FIRE – Nothing happening concerning the expansion project. Would like to come up with a 1-to-5-year plan for expansion and what the financial impact would be for the City. Check out possibility of grants for the project.