

SPRING GROVE CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2021, 6:00 PM

Fest Building

The regular meeting of the Spring Grove City Council was called to order by Mayor Solberg at 6:03 P.M. on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at the Fest Building and VIA Zoom.

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

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

Council Member Rohland move to adopt the agenda with the addition to New Business, Swim Center Hires. second by Council Member Turner, all approved, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Folstad stated corrections that needed to be made in the minutes. Under New Business, second paragraph strike night on Sunday swim without a pass, and add if swimmer has a pass, there is no additional charge. Under New Business in the first paragraph strike the second zero on to. Under Polices/Ordinances, correct 798 to read 708. In the Meeting Reports, EDA, correct the spelling of ensure. Council Member Folstad moved to approve the consent agenda with the corrections made to the minutes from February 16, 2021 meeting, second by Council Member Torgerson, all approved, motion carried.

OPEN FORUM

None

OLD BUSINESS

The number of walkers using the Fest Building has slowed down due to the warmer weather and absence of snow. Only 43 signatures have been collected since the first of the March. Council Member Folstad moved to keep the Fest Building open through April 1st for walkers. Second by Council Member Turner, all approved, motion carried. An announcement will be posted on Facebook and at the Fest Building. Thank you to all walkers for signing in and helping to keep the building clean.

NEW BUSINESS

Simple Living Farmer's Market is requesting permission to hold their farmers market in the City of Spring Grove again this summer. They are looking to have the Farmers Market every Wednesday starting the 12th of May through the 13th of October. The hours will be from 4:00 to 7:00 pm and then in the fall when days are shorter run from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Discussion on Music in the Park interfering with Park Vendors and the need to work together. Council Member Rohland moved to allow the Simple Living Farmer's Market, and they must follow Governor Walz Executive Orders, and to work with Music in the Park Committee so that there isn't an overlap of vendors. Second by Council Member Turner, motion carried.

Courtney Bergey Swanson with CEDA requested a Council Liaison on the 2030/Community Foundation Committee. In the past, former Mayor Schroeder was on the committee as the liaison. Council Member Turner moved to have Mayor Solberg be on the committee to fill the vacant seat. Seconded by Council Member Torgerson, all approved, motion carried.

Discussion on how 2030 Committee, Chamber and Ye Olde Opera House (YOOH), could make the Alley Community Project between Keller Williams' Office and Ye Olde Opera House more attractive and useful. Options would be placing iron archway on the ends of the alley, painting a mural on the wall, add sitting benches, picnic tables and market lights on a timer. Bergey Swanson explained there are grants for beautician available for this type of project. Mayor Solberg moved to have Courtney Bergey Swanson apply for grant to improve the alley, second by Council Member Torgerson, all approved, motion carried.

Council Member Rohland explained upcoming activities for Syttendi Mai and Musikk Fest. A request for road closure on the one way on the west side of Viking Park, Maple Dr., for games that will be played in the street. There will be no inflatable games for the children this year because of COVID restrictions. There will be a parade, running of the Gnomes, application for a temporary liquor license has been submitted, Queen's Banquet and Norwegian Food. Mayor Solberg moved to grant the road closure, second by Council Member Folstad, all approved, motion carried. Mayor Solberg moved to approve the route for Running of the Gnomes and the temporary liquor license. Second by Council Member Folstad, all approved, motion carried.

Mayor Solberg talked about the need to remove four parking spots on Main St. because of visibility of oncoming traffic. There have been several reports of "near misses" from vehicles pulling into oncoming traffic. Council Member Turner moved to eliminate four parking spots on Main St. The spots to be removed are; one parking spot east of the Kwik Trip entrance, the parking spot between 1st Ave NW and the Kwik Trip entrance. This space is on the west side of the driveway. The first parking spot on the west side of the entrance to the Fire Station. Currently there is a row of mail boxes there and cars park there blocking access to the mail boxes. The final place would be the first parking spot in front of the Trinity Center at the intersection of 2nd Ave NW and Main St. The motion was second by Council Member Rohland, all approved, motion carried.

Administrator Amundson said she had received a request from someone to purchase 2 parcels of land out by the City brush pile. The parcel numbers are 15.0075.003 and 15.0075.004. Per City Attorney Schieber, the land needs to have a public notice of auction or invitation for sealed bids. Public employees cannot be involved in the sale process. Notice has to be published at least one week in the newspaper. A public hearing will need to be held on the sale of the land. Council Member Turner moved to proceed with advertising the land for sale. The City has the right to refuse any and all bids, and the buyer will be responsible for the closing cost of the sale. The advertisement will need the approval of City Attorney Schieber prior to publishing. Motion was second by Council Member Rohland, all approved, motion carried.

On May 18, 2020 the City Council approved Resolution 20-30, Waiving Platting of Subdivision for Josh Myhre on Maple Dr. Mr. Myhre had surveyed one lot and split it into 5 different lots (parcels), but hadn't gone through the proper process of creating a subdivision. Because of the hardship it would have cost Mr. Myhre, Resolution 20-30 was drafted and approved allowing him to keep the lots as they had been surveyed out. In the past month, the lot has been sold. There isn't a need to have the parcel divided into 5 lots. To correct the non-conforming subdivision Resolution 21-17 was drafted. This resolution corrects the non-conforming subdivision and returns the lot to one complete parcel or its original state. Council Member Torgerson moved to approve Resolution 21-17, second by Council Member Turner, all approved, motion carried.

Administrator Amundson requested permission to advertise for the Utility Directors position. Current Utility Director, Paul Morken is looking to retire next year and would like to have a few months to work with the person who is going to replace him. Mayor Solberg moved to post and advertise for a new Utility Director. Second by Council Member Turner, motion carried.

Estimates for a new pump, filters and sand for the Aquatic Center were reviewed. Funds were added to the budget during the budgeting process to cover the replacement of the equipment. John Sylling is still checking with suppliers for more information on the equipment and the availability. Staff is willing to do the demolition work, that would result in a savings of \$4,475.00. Two sand filters were quoted, the Neptune Benson at \$61,506.34, and Astral at \$48,106.34. Quotes for a pump to add to the current pump were, Pentair at \$8,296.00 and Neptune Benson at \$5,950.00. The second pump is needed to slow down the current pump. According to the representative from Thatcher, the current pump is too large and needs to be slowed down. There will be additional expense for an electrician to wire in the pump. No action was taken at this time. Update will be given at the April meeting.

List of Swim Center applicants was presented to the Council. Council Member Rohland moved to approve the listing of hires, second by Council Member Turner, all approved, motion carried.

MAYOR/COUNCIL

The next council meeting will be on April 20, 2021 at 6:00 pm in the Fest Building. It will still be available via Zoom.

MEETING REPORTS

EDA – Update on the Motel situation, working on selling a lot in the Industrial Park. Applying for a grant to beautify the alley.

PARKS – No meeting.

PLANNING & ZONING – Talked about the non-conforming subdivision on Maple St. Working on putting together a subdivision packet. Want to get the Comprehensive Plan updated.

LIBRARY – Advertising for Library Director position. Would like to have it filled before Dawn leaves so they can be trained in.

FIRE – No meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Council Member Turner moved to go into closed session to discuss security issues, emergency response time and possible deficiencies that could pose a danger to public safety in the City of Spring Grove. Second by Council Member Rohland, all approved, motion carried.

REOPEN SESSION

Mayor Solberg moved to reopen the session. Second by Council Member Torgerson, all approved, motion carried.

Mayor Solberg moved to authorize Chief Folz to begin the search for a standby officer. Second by Council Member Torgerson, all approved, motion carried

Council Member Rohland moved to keep the staffing level at 3 full time officers going forward. Second by Mayor Solberg, all approved, motion carried.

Council Member Rohland moved to adjourn at 7:35, second by Council Member Torgerson, all approved, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Attested: _____
Julie Amundson
Clerk/Administrator