

Elsie Council Minutes September 14, 2021

President Tom Frink called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Members Present: President Tom Frink; Councilmembers: Todd Carroll, Joe Ondrusek, Kory Witt, Dorothy Ornelas, Sam Frink, and Jason Freeman.

Members Absent: Clerk, S Lightner

Ex-Officious Present: and Village Manager/Code Enforcement officer, S. Grinnell. Treasurer C. Brzak

AGENDA: Freeman moved, Witt seconded to accept the agenda with the addition to adding Adoption of ordinance 175, know as the updated code book, and adding Blight issue at 460 N Ovid St under Managers report MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES: Ornelas moved; S. Frink seconded to approve the August 10, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes as written. MOTION CARRIED.

INVOICES: Carroll moved, Ondrusek seconded to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$110,927.71. it was noted the bills are higher this month due to payment of the lift station pumps etc that is an insurance claim. MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION STEPS:

SPECIAL REPORTS: Manager Grinnell advised he has had a couple meetings with the AMKO rep, about doing the refinancing on the lagoon system. They are still working on the details and hope to have something ready to present to council next month.

PRESIDENT: Freeman moved, Witt seconded to Adopt of ordinance 175, known as the 2021 updated code and ordinances book.. Roll call vote Tom Frink, Todd Carroll, Joe Ondrusek, Kory Witt, Sam Frink, and Jason Freeman. Dorothy Ornelas AYE MOTION CARRIED.

CLERK:

TREASURER: Treasurer Brzak and Manager Grinnell met with the accountants. They said we are moving forward well, and the plan is to phase the accountants out, and Brzak would be doing more. It was noted that Brzak has a degree in accounting and a lot of experience. This will over all save the Village money. Ondrusek moved, Freeman seconded to approve the Treasurers report for September 2021, MOTION CARRIED.

POLICE: Officer Tahvonen accepted a position with the Gratiot County Sheriff's office. His last day with Elsie PD was August 28th. Manager Grinnell noted that he and the police chief conducted an interview for to fill the vacant patrol officer position. Freeman moved, Witt seconded to approve the Police Report for September 2021, MOTION CARRIED.

MANAGER/DPW REPORT: . Witt moved; Freeman seconded to approve the Manager/DPW Report as written. MOTION CARRIED.

1. Manager Grinnell gave a proposal on what to do with the American Rescue Covid Funds. The village is looking at receiving approx. \$109,000 this money is very restrictive. The funds cannot be used to pave roads or build sidewalks. The proposal including in updating the sewer and water alarm system, then the remaining go toward a DPW building addition. These funds can be used for this type of work due to its segregating the DPWS staff away from the other staff to provide better social distancing, along with if doing this plan, it would include making the old DPW office and storage room into a council/ community room. Manager Grinnell was asked to get pricing on engineered prints so we can investigate this proposal further.
2. Grinnell presented pricing for a Mini excavator and a front-end loader to replace the backhoe. The Village would be looking at apx \$150,000 in cost to purchase both items. Grinnell advised that we could seek USDA grant funds. This would mean the USDA would pay for 75% and the village would only have to pay 25% of the 150,000. It was also advised for him to seek pricing on a trailer, and add that into the grant. This was the same grant process that was used to purchase the police SUV last year.
3. Grinnell advised the council of several code enforcement issues he has been dealing with. The building at 460 N Ovid St has been sited for blight, and notices have been sent. There has been no response from the property owner. Grinnell had a meeting with the Village attorney and they went over the process that has been done, and the attorney advised the village could go on to the property and take care of the blight. The cost occurred will be added to the property tax of that building. Grinnell advised they will be ordering dumpster and will start this process within the next week or so.

COUNCILMEMBERS:

The Dorman House council committee is recommending selling the house to Joe and Barb Montes. The committee asked the Montes family if they could come to the council meeting and show the council their proposed plans. Dan and Megan Montes son and daughter in law of Joe and Barb Montes to give a presentation and a proposal to the Council that included a timeline, plans to move the home, and a new location within the village for the home, and plans to take care of the current location. The family plans on keeping the home as historically accurate possible. The Village Council agrees with the committees recommended selling the Dorman house that's located at 120 S Ovid St to Joe & Barb Montes for \$1.00. It was noted that Manager Grinnell will work with the village attorney and the Montes family to get a contract/agreement made and signed. Carroll moved; Witt seconded to approve selling the home to the Montes family as presented for the price of \$1.00 Councilperson Dorothy Ornelas abstained from the vote MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A representative from the Fall Festival gave an update, everything is going as planned for the October 2nd, 2021, Fall Festival. Manager Grinnell did advise that he has the road closed signs ordered, and they will be placed along the road on Friday, but the fall fest committee advised they won't need the roads closed until Saturday morning.

Don Berndt a village resident asked about the hydrant flushing program, and the status of the storm drains in town. The water floods his driveway and can run into his garage. The DPW will start doing hydrant flushes at night, vs during the daytime. The plan is to flush until the weather gets colder. The DPW crews have been using the sewer camera and finding plugged drains and have been working to repair them. Grinnell will pass this info on to the DPW crew.

Larry Melvin a village resident wanted to let the council know how happy with the water bill change where we can add a monthly newsletter to the back of the bill. Mr. Melvin also impressed with the programs the village offers such as junk clean up day, fair rates for water trash and sewer, along with the free leaf and brush pick up programs. He is also happy with the Code Enforcement getting things cleaned up around town. He did mention if the village can look into any rules about pulling trash cans from the road each well, and if basketball hoops are allowed to be kept at the edge of the roads. Manager Grinnell will take a look at these concerns and we address the issues as needed.

Manager Grinnell and Former council member Jim Hyland advised they would like to see the old location of the Dorman house turned into a memorial park, that would include monuments of all branches of services including Police fire and EMS. There also could be a pavilion picnic area added.

ADJOURNMENT: Witt moved; S Frink seconded to adjourn the September 14, 2021 Council Meeting at 8:45 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Tom Frink
Village President

Shane Grinnell
Deputy Village Clerk