

# COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION OF THE BLUE GRASS CITY COUNCIL

BLUE GRASS, IOWA

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

The Blue Grass City Council met in special session, as a Committee of the Whole at 7:00 p.m. on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024, at the Blue Grass Public Safety Building, 606 W. Mayne Street, Blue Grass, Iowa, pursuant to law, with Mayor Brad Schutte presiding. A pledge of allegiance and a moment of reflection were recognized.

The following Council members present: Tim Brandenburg, Schuyler Bowman, Tim Rhoades and Mike Hermann. Absent was Council member Robert Blok.

Also in attendance: Fire Department representatives: Fire Chief Brian Seamer, Captain Scott Powell; Captain Jason Verschoore; Firefighters Megan Jackson, Jeremy Imming and Zachary Burton; Fire Township Trustees and/or Representatives: Blue Grass Township: Matt Cruchelow; Erika Platt and Dave Martz; Fulton Township: Dennis Price and Keith Martz and Buffalo Township: Robb Ewoldt and Willy Riedesel.

Mayor Schutte commented to the audience that the topic to be discussed at this meeting was intended for discussion only and that no action would be taken as this meeting was a Committee of the Whole session only. The meeting was opened for discussion.

**ANNUAL FIRE TOWNSHIP MEETING:** Introductions were made. The City Clerk gave the 2023 Fire Township Financial report reporting an ending balance of \$173,005.06 noting that the financing of the new 2024 Freightliner M2 106 Tanker Truck has not been implemented; however, is set up at the Blue Grass Savings Bank at an interest rate of 5.25 percent with an amount not to exceed \$450,000.00.

Fire Chief Brian Seamer reviewed the Fire Department's "Fire & Rescue Stats" for 2023 that contained the type of call, loss of property, date and time of call, listing all mutual aid calls for 2023 reporting a total of 475 year-to-date calls for service with the majority of calls being "Rescue and Emergency Medical Service Incident" recording a total of 1,127.9 on scene man-hours recorded and 56 mutual aid calls.

Chief Seamer gave a brief update on the status of the new Ford F-450 brush truck and reported that the chassis of the new 2024 Freightliner M2 106 Tanker Truck was to be delivered in May of 2024.

Discussion was held on being proactive by either offering incentives and/or a per diem for every call attended or possibly setting shifts to get new members recruited as the Department was down to 24 members.

Mayor Schutte referred to the Blue Grass, Buffalo and Fulton Township Agreements reporting a March 1, 2024 expiration date asking if the Trustees had any questions and/or concerns. It was the consensus of the Trustees to renew the three year Contract with no changes.

Mayor Schutte asked for further discussion, since there was none, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Attest: Ann Schmidt, City Clerk/Financial Officer