

**THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BLUE GRASS CITY COUNCIL
BLUE GRASS, IOWA APRIL 21, 2025**

The Blue Grass City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on the 21st day of April 2025, in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Mississippi Street, Blue Grass, Iowa, pursuant to law, with Mayor Brad Schutte presiding, with a Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of reflection.

Council present: Smith, Bowman, Hermann and Blok. Absent was member Brandenburg.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Smith moved to approve the Agenda as presented, seconded by Bowman. Roll call: Smith-aye, Bowman-aye, Blok-aye and Hermann-aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Schutte read aloud the Mayoral Comments.

PUBLIC FORUM: From those in attendance, there were none.

CONSENT AGENDA: Blok moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Smith.

1. April 7, 2025 minutes
2. April 8, 2025 minutes (tax levy)
3. April 8, 2025 minutes (set budget hearing)
4. Resolution 2025-08 ref: authorizing payment for the new tanker truck
5. Revised November 2024 Clerk's Report
6. December 2024 Clerk's Report
7. January 2025 Clerk's Report
8. February 2025 Clerk's Report
9. Payment of claims

Roll call: Blok-aye, Smith-aye, Hermann-aye and Bowman-aye. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

10. Report: Fire Chief Brian Seamer presented the March 2025 Fire Department report.

11. Annual Car Show: Hermann moved to close off West Mayne Street from Oak Lane on June 21, 2025 for the Department's annual car show, seconded by Smith. Roll call: Hermann-aye, Smith-aye, Bowman-aye and Blok-aye. Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL:

12. Girl Scout Troop #1717: Ms. Joni DeMoss representing Girl Scout Troop #1717 asked for permission to plant a pollinator garden to attract bees and monarchs by planting native trees and plants as the Girl Scouts were trying to acquire their silver badge which requires 50 hours. Discussion was held. Bowman agreed to assist the Girl Scout Troop with planting the pollinator garden at his homestead.

PARK BOARD:

13. Report: Chair Ryan Powers presented the April 2025 Park Board report reporting a date of October 18, 2025 for the Board's annual Pumpkin Dash Fundraiser. He briefed the Council on the YMCA Summer Camp Program.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

14. Report: Mayor Schutte presented the March 2025 Police Department report prepared by Chief Mike Meier.

PUBLIC HEARING:

15. Adoption of the FY 2025-2026 Budget: Smith moved to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing, seconded by Bowman. Roll call: Smith-aye, Bowman-aye, Hermann-aye and Blok-aye. Motion carried. Mayor Schutte opened the public hearing for discussion. The Clerk reviewed the City's financials for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 City budget referring to the Notice of Public Hearing Budget

Estimate reporting a total of \$2,604,227.00 in “revenue and other sources” and a total of \$2,447,917.00 in “expenditures and transfers out” with a tax levy rate of 11.68661 percent, reporting that there were no written or oral objections. She briefed the Council on the State’s major overhaul to the property tax system and how it impacts Blue Grass. Further discussion was held. Mayor Schutte asked for further discussion, and since there were none, Hermann made a motion to close the public hearing and reopen the regular meeting, seconded by Blok. Roll call: Hermann-aye, Blok-aye, Smith-aye and Bowman-aye. Motion carried.

- 16. Resolution 2025-06:** Hermann made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-06 approving the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 City Budget setting a tax levy rate of 11.68661 percent, seconded by Bowman. Roll call: Hermann-aye, Bowman-aye, Smith-aye and Blok-aye. Motion carried.

BID OPENING:

- 17. Street Improvements:** Mayor Schutte publicly opened the following bids: Reitz Construction \$79,571.00; Aero Concrete LTD \$67,845.55 and Muddy Rivers Concrete \$83,281.57. Discussion was held. Bowman moved to accept Aero Concrete LTD’s bid in the amount of \$67,845.55 with the stipulation that the totals be compared to the City’s bid sheet, seconded by Smith. Roll call: Bowman-aye, Smith-aye, Blok-aye and Hermann-aye. Motion carried.

NUISANCE ABATEMENT(S):

- 18. Nuisance Abatement(s):** Mayor Schutte reported that there were no new nuisance abatements reported. Bowman asked that Public Works apply cold mix to Moore Street as he had received a complaint.

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTIONS:

- 19. Second reading of Amendment 2025-05:** Smith moved to accept the second reading of Amendment 2025-05 in reference to Chapter 17.12, Section 17.12.030 Zoning Map, seconded by Blok. Roll call: Smith-aye, Blok-aye, Hermann-aye and Bowman-aye. Motion carried.

POLICY & ADMINISTRATION:

- 20. Clerk’s Report:** City Clerk Ann Schmidt presented the March 2025 Clerk’s Report. Discussion was held on the number of monthly delinquencies and penalties requesting that the Clerk do a penalty assessment and meet with the Ordinance Committee to further discuss.

- 21. Billboard Advertising:** Previously discussion was held on the City erecting a billboard on the West Lauretta Street parcel; therefore, Council asked that staff do the research and report back.

Mayor Schutte reported that both the City Clerk and the Public Works Director made a few contacts; however, the Iowa Department of Transportation’s Advertising Management declined to issue a permit due to the fact that the City’s lot did not meet the spacing requirements with an interchange. Discussion was held. Council requested that staff continue their conversations with the Iowa Department of Transportation for more clarification.

COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Resident Mark Wakefield inquired about the microsurfacing. Mayor Schutte reported that the City was scheduled for the first week in May.

Blok stated that he would like to see the City create more of a pollinator environment. Bowman agreed and said that he would do further research on what the City can do and how to promote pollinator gardens.

ADJOURNMENT: Bowman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Smith. Roll call: Bowman-aye, Smith-aye, Hermann-aye and Blok-aye. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Mayor Brad Schutte

Attest: Ann M. Schmidt, CMC, City Clerk/Financial Officer

CLAIMS REPORT

ALEXIS FIRE EQUIPMENT	NEW TANKER PURCHASE	343,760.00
B.G. BUGLE	ADVERTISING & PUBLICATIONS	200.00
BRUS CONSTRUCTION	BLDG & GRNDS MAINT	440.00
CENTRAL STATES H & W FUND	HEALTH INSURANCE	186.40
COMPASS MINERALS AMERICA	SALT	6,624.91
EASTERN IA LIGHT & POWER	UTILITIES	1,350.41
MEDIACOM	INTERNET SVS	451.80
NAPA	EQUIP OPER	359.20
QC POWER EQUIPMENT	EQUIP OPER	108.99
QUAD CITY TIMES	ADVERTISING & PUBLICATIONS	152.79
REPUBLIC SVS	GARBAGE/RECYCLING	10,566.25
SIMMERING-CORY CODIFICATION	RECODIFICATION	1,500.00
PARROTT, MATT	OPER SUPPLIES	401.80
VISA	EQUIP OPER	1,778.58
TOTAL:		367,881.13

TOTAL FUNDS:

GENERAL	199,992.78
FIRE TOWNSHIP	150,000.00
ROAD USE	6,733.90
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	186.40
SANITATION	10,968.05
TOTAL FUNDS:	367,881.13

REVENUES – NOVEMBER 2024 - REVISED

GENERAL	37,252.54
RESERVES: PARK IMPROV	1,250.00
FIRE TOWNSHIP	82.95
ROAD USE	19,863.44
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	8,092.37
LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX	23,226.80
TAX INCREMENT FINANCING	1,499.55
MONEY MARKET	821.06
SEWER – CD INTEREST	62,550.91
SANITATION	10,471.06
TOTAL:	165,110.68

ADD'L BILLS PAID – DECEMBER 2024

PAYROLL	32,294.91
BG SAVINGS (FED'L/FICA/MEDICARE W/H)	10,373.29
TREASURER, STATE OF IA (STATE W/H)	1,526.08
IPERS (PENSION W/H)	6,930.69
AMERICO (457 PLAN W/H)	300.00
AFLAC (INS W/H)	90.18
CENTRAL STATES INS (EMPLOYEE CONTR)	640.00
POSTMASTER-POSTAGE	263.61
HOSTWAY-OPER SUPPLIES	59.40

IA WORKFORCE DEV-UNEMPLOYMENT	49.83
TOTAL:	52,527.99
FUND TOTALS	
GENERAL	49,721.65
ROAD USE	2,492.90
SANITATION	263.61
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	49.83
TOTALS:	52,527.99
REVENUES – DECEMBER 2024	
GENERAL	23,086.66
RESERVES: POLICE DEPT.	500.00
RESERVES: PARK IMPROV	200.00
FIRE TOWNSHIP	42,417.37
ROAD USE	19,116.46
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	6,676.99
LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX	24,117.82
TAX INCREMENT FINANCING	3,954.21
MONEY MARKET	849.71
SANITATION	12,131.35
TOTAL:	133,050.57
ADD'L BILLS PAID – JANUARY 2025	
PAYROLL	45,347.94
BG SAVINGS (FED'L/FICA/MEDICARE W/H)	14,319.65
TREASURER, STATE OF IA (STATE W/H)	1,427.86
IPERS (PENSION W/H)	9,544.15
AMERICO (457 PLAN W/H)	450.00
AFLAC (INS W/H)	87.72
CENTRAL STATES INS (EMPLOYEE CONTR)	920.00
POSTMASTER-POSTAGE	261.44
VOID CK#42027 TRI-STATE FIRE	(275.00)
TOTAL:	72,083.76
FUND TOTALS	
GENERAL	68,035.43
ROAD USE	3,786.89
SANITATION	261.44
TOTALS:	72,083.76
REVENUES – JANUARY 2025	
GENERAL	13,862.64
RESERVE: POLICE DEPT.	2,500.00
FIRE TOWNSHIP	4,278.70
ROAD USE	19,795.41
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	3,827.88
LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX	36,506.55
MONEY MARKET	851.02
SEWER	200.00
SANITATION	13,943.68

TOTAL:	95,765.88
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ADD'L BILLS PAID – FEBRUARY 2025

PAYROLL	29,032.81
BG SAVINGS (FED'L/FICA/MEDICARE W/H)	9,088.22
TREASURER, STATE OF IA (STATE W/H)	910.86
IPERS (PENSION W/H)	6,105.78
AMERICO (457 PLAN W/H)	300.00
AFLAC (INS W/H)	71.16
CENTRAL STATES INS (EMPLOYEE CONTR)	560.00
POSTMASTER-POSTAGE	320.39
VOID CK#42075 TRI-STATE FIRE	(128.50)
KIMBERLY CAR CITY-NEW TRUCK PURCHASE	29,864.81
ABC SUPPLY-BLDG & GRNDS MAINT	9,995.00
TOTAL:	86,120.53

FUND TOTALS

GENERAL	44,299.82
ROAD USE	11,698.59
SANITATION	262.31
MAINT VEHICLE RESERVE	19,864.81
CITY HALL BLDG RESERVE	9,995.00
TOTALS:	86,120.53

REVENUES – FEBRUARY 2025

GENERAL	88,057.30
FIRE TOWNSHIP	107.93
ROAD USE	16,809.44
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	1,693.76
LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX	23,964.84
MONEY MARKET	769.86
SEWER	600.00
SANITATION	11,728.55
TOTAL:	143,731.68