

**THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BLUE GRASS CITY COUNCIL
BLUE GRASS, IOWA MAY 5, 2025**

The Blue Grass City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on the 5th day of May 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, Brandenburg, Hermann and Blok. Absent was member Bowman.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Smith moved to approve the Agenda with the addition of Quality Construction Advantage Group ref: Business License request, seconded by Blok. Roll call: Smith-aye, Blok-aye, Brandenburg-aye and Hermann-aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Schutte read aloud the Mayoral Comments.

PUBLIC FORUM: Jill Halligan representing the St. Andrew Church presented a donation of the proceeds from their bike rodeo held on May 4th to the Fire Department thanking them for their service.

New residents John and Joellen Wuerzburger introduced themselves as they recently moved to Blue Grass.

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

1. April 21, 2025 minutes

2. Resolution 2025-09 ref: authorizing payment from the TIF Reserve

3. Payment of claims

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

BUSINESS LICENSING:

****Business License:** Dustin Everhart, Development Director representing Quality Construction Advantage Group requested to obtain a Business License to go door-to-door offering free estimates on various home improvements. Brandenburg moved to approve Quality Construction Advantage Group Business License for the remainder of 2025, setting a license fee of \$1,000.00 with the stipulation that all applicable documents be filed, seconded by Hermann. Roll call: Brandenburg-aye, Hermann-aye, Smith-aye and Blok-aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

4. Jake Brakes: Resident Jon Gries complained of the jake brake noise coming from the Hwy 61 corridor all hours of the morning and night. He said that he and Chief Meier had previously discussed several solutions such adding more signage and talking with SSAB to see if notification could be given to all the delivery trucks; however, Gries felt that the City should be the enforcer as they would have more leverage and contact Muscatine County and the Department of Transportation to further discuss. Discussion was held. Mayor Schutte said that the City would try their best to make the appropriate contacts but felt that there was nothing that could be done since it was on a State Highway.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

5. 1991 International Fire Truck: Chief Seamer reported that the 2025 Freightliner Tanker Truck was now in service; therefore, the 1991 International Fire Truck was ready to sell reporting that there was interest from other Fire Departments. Mayor Schutte reported that according to the Iowa Code, a government entity may sell to another government entity without going through the bidding process. It was the consensus of the Council to get a value on the truck and wait to see what interest there is with other Fire Departments.

ENGINEER REPORT:

- 6. Report:** Mayor Schutte presented the April 2025 Engineer's report prepared by the City Engineer Mike Janecek.
- 7. Lamphere Drive Reconstruction Project:** Mayor Schutte referred to the Engineer's report reporting the status of the Lamphere Drive Reconstruction Project.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER:

- 8. Report:** Building Commissioner Jim Meyrer presented the April 2025 Building Commissioner report.

FINANCIAL ASS'T GRANT:

- 9. LMI:** Mayor Schutte reported that Ms. Bev Marlowe had submitted an application to replace her water heater and after the Building Commissioner did an inspection, he found that the water heater was in "fault" mode and that two gas valves were in need of replacing; therefore, according to the Policy if the repairs are safety related, the Mayor could authorize the project to be completed so he had the Commissioner hire Ewert Plumbing to replace both gas valves and the water heater. Discussion was held. Hermann moved to approve Ms. Marlow's LMI Grant with the City paying 90 percent and the applicant being responsible for the remaining 10 percent, seconded by Smith. Roll call: Hermann-aye, Smith-aye Brandenburg-aye and Blok-aye,. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- 10. Report:** Public Works Director Jim Meyrer presented the April 2025 Public Works Department report.
- 11. Street Improvements:** Previously, the Council awarded a contract to Aero Concrete to do various street improvements in the Towne & Country Manor Subdivision; therefore, Meyrer reported that he and Aero Concrete had walked and marked the entire project and that he was waiting on the start date for the microsurfacing sealant.
- 12. MidAmerican Energy:** Mayor Schutte reported that MidAmerican Energy had submitted an Agreement for Seasonal Dècor in reference to granting the City permission to install the electrical receptacles in order for the City to hang their seasonal decorations. Discussion was held. Hermann moved to approve MidAmerican Energy's Seasonal Dècor Agreement with the stipulation that the City Attorney review and approve, seconded by Blok. Roll call: Hermann-aye, Blok-aye, Smith-aye and Brandenburg-aye. Motion carried.

NUISANCE ABATEMENT(S):

- 13. Nuisance Abatement(s):** Mayor Schutte reported that there were no new nuisance abatements reported; however, nuisance letters will be going out soon now that the spring cleanup is over. Discussion was held on increasing the City's nuisance abatement fees.

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTIONS:

- 14. Third reading/Adoption of Amendment 2025-05:** Smith moved to accept the third reading of Amendment 2025-05 in reference to Chapter 17.12, Section 17.12.030 Zoning Map, seconded by Brandenburg. Roll call: Smith-aye, Brandenburg-aye, Blok-aye and Hermann-aye. Motion carried.
Smith moved to adopt Amendment 2025-05, seconded by Brandenburg. Roll call: Smith-aye, Brandenburg-aye, Blok-aye and Hermann-aye. Motion carried.
- 15. DRAFT Ordinance Amendment 2025-06:** Mayor Schutte introduced draft Ordinance Amendment in reference to Section 17.48.080 Off-Street Parking of Vehicles, Recreational Vehicles and Trailers. Discussion was held. It was the consensus of the Council to see what other cities have as far as occupancy time limits.

16. DRAFT Ordinance Amendment 2025-07: Mayor Schutte introduced draft Ordinance Amendment in reference to Section 5.08, Peddlers, Solicitors, and Transient Merchants. It was the consensus of the Council to set the following fee: licenses for longer than one month to six months \$750.00 and for licenses longer than six months up to one year \$1,000.00 requesting that the Clerk prepare for its first reading after making those changes.

POLICY & ADMINISTRATION:

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

Mayor Schutte reported that, unfortunately according to the Iowa Department of Transportation, this particular lot does not meet the 250 feet spacing requirement with an interchange so they would deny issuing the City a permit. Discussion was held. Council requested that staff contact the Iowa Department of Transportation for better clarification.

18. Pickleball Court: The Clerk reported that, unfortunately, the City was denied their Spring 2025 Grant for the pickleball court reporting that they are limiting grants to one time a year asking the Council how they wish to proceed. Discussion was held on raising funds to help offset the total construction costs as it was the consensus of the Council to wait until they receive grant funding to help fund the project.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

19. Report: Chief Mike Meier presented the April 2025 Police Department report.

COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: There were none.

RECESS: Brandenburg moved to recess for 10 minutes, seconded by Smith. Roll call: Brandenburg-aye, Smith-aye, Blok-aye and Hermann-aye. Motion carried. Brandenburg moved to reconvene, seconded by Smith. Roll call: Brandenburg-aye, Smith-aye, Blok-aye and Hermann-aye. Motion carried.

20. Review & Select Candidate: Mayor Schutte referred to the Code of Iowa, Section 21.5(i) stating that the Council would be going into executive closed session to select a candidate for the Full-time Police Officer position. Brandenburg moved to close the regular meeting and go into closed session, seconded by Smith. Roll call: Brandenburg-aye, Smith-aye, Hermann-aye and Blok-aye. Motion carried.

Hermann moved to reopen the regular meeting, seconded by Brandenburg. Roll call: Hermann-aye, Brandenburg-aye, Blok-aye and Smith-aye. Motion carried.

21. Select Candidate: Brandenburg moved to offer Applicant “A” the Full-Time Police Officer’s position at \$30.00 per hour with two-week’s vacation with the stipulation that the applicant pass all the applicable pre-employment test, seconded by Blok. Roll call: Brandenburg-aye, Blok-aye, Smith-aye and Hermann-aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Brandenburg made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Blok. Roll call: Brandenburg-aye, Blok-aye, Smith-aye and Hermann-aye. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Mayor Brad Schutte

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

CLAIMS REPORT

BP	VEH OPER	370.18
CASEY'S	VEH OPER	1,320.65
CCP DIRECT	BLDG & GRNDS MAINT	178.17
CENTRAL STATES H & W FUND	HEALTH INSURANCE	11,942.00
CENTURYLINK	FAX	150.57
COLUMN SOFTWARE	ADVERTISING & PUBLICATIONS	421.62
DES MOINES STAMP	OFFICE SUPPLIES	34.00
ED M. FELD EQUIPMENT CO.	EQUIP OPER	283.95
HALE PRINTING	BLDG & GRNDS MAINT	58.90
MCCULLOUGH, WM.	LEGAL SVS	593.75
MED-TECH RESOURCE	EQUIP OPER	80.79
MEDIACOM	INTERNET SVS	736.04
MENARDS	EQUIP OPER	211.30
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY	UTILITIES	2,429.90
OFFICE MACHINE CONSULT	COMPUTER MAINT	934.15
PORTER INSURANCE AGENCY	ADD'L WORK COMP INS	1,730.00
R.P. LUMBER CO.	BLDG & GRNDS MAINT	2.99
RIVERSTONE GROUP	COLD MIX	243.00
SCOTT CO. SHERIFF	JAIL EXPENSE	75.00
TC AUTO	VEH OPER	42.40
VERIZON	TELEPHONE/FAX/INTERNET SVS	923.21
VETERINARY AND POULTRY SUPPLY	BLDG & GRNDS MAINT	52.55
WITMER PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP	EQUIP OPER	1,165.63
TOTAL:		23,980.75

TOTAL FUNDS:

GENERAL	10,308.75
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT FUND	13,672.00
TOTAL FUNDS:	23,980.75