

**THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BLUE GRASS CITY COUNCIL  
BLUE GRASS, IOWA                      MAY 6, 2024**

The Blue Grass City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024, 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: Brandenburg, Hermann, Rhoades, Blok and Bowman.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Bowman moved to approve the Agenda as presented, seconded by Brandenburg. Roll call: Bowman-aye, Brandenburg-aye, Rhoades-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:** Brandenburg moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Blok.

1. Minutes of the April 15, 2024 meeting
2. Minutes of the April 22, 2024 meeting
3. Resolution 2024-11 ref: authorizing payment from the LMI Tax Reserve
4. Resolution 2024-17 ref: issuance of a warrant
5. Payment of claims

**Roll call:** Brandenburg-aye, Blok-aye, Bowman-aye, Hermann-aye and Rhoades-aye. Motion carried.

**ENGINEER REPORT:**

6. **Report:** Mayor Schutte presented the April 2024 Engineer's report prepared by the City Engineer Mike Janecek.
7. **Lamphere Drive Reconstruction Project:** Mayor Schutte referred to the Engineer's report reporting that the construction administration had begun such as daily on-site visits and coordinating paperwork reporting that the Contractor has completed the construction of the water improvements and is now working on the storm sewer improvements. He also reported that Aero Concrete, LTD had submitted construction warrant payment #1 that was reviewed and recommended to pay.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

8. **Blue Grass Community Center (BGCC):** Donna Porter and race coordinator Brinson Kinzer, both representing the BGCC asked for permission to hold their upcoming Blue Grass Days event June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> reviewing the timeline of events. Brandenburg moved to allow the BGCC to close off the proposed various streets; hold their annual fireworks display; use of City Streets for their parade and 5K/1 mile fun-run races during their Blue Grass Days events scheduled for June 7 and June 8, 2024, seconded by Rhoades. Roll call: Brandenburg-aye, Rhoades-aye, Blok-aye, Bowman-aye and Hermann-aye. Motion carried.

**BUILDING COMMISSIONER:**

9. **Report:** Building Commissioner Jim Meyrer presented the April 2024 Building Commissioner report.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

10. **Report:** Public Works Director Jim Meyrer presented the April 2024 Public Works Department report.
11. **2024/2025 Street Project Bids:** Meyrer reported that he had drafted a list of street projects for 2024/2025 that was approved by the previous Council. Mayor Schutte read aloud the following bids for the 2024/2025 street projects: L & L Pelling \$35,625.60 and Taylor Ridge \$45,700.00. Meyrer reviewed his Street improvement goals set for 2025/2026. Council compared bids. Bowman moved to

approve L & L Pelling's bid in the amount of \$35,625.60, seconded by Brandenburg. Roll call: Bowman-aye, Brandenburg-aye, Hermann-aye, Blok-aye and Rhoades-aye. Motion carried.

**12. Resignation:** Meyrer reported that he had received a verbal resignation from Public Works employee Brian Stock reporting that his last day of employment was May 31, 2024. A rather lengthy discussion was held among the Mayor and City Council members and employee Brian Stock. At the conclusion of the discussion, Brian Stock stated that he was not going to cancel his vacation and that his resignation stands as is. Bowman moved to accept Brian Stock's resignation effective May 31, 2024, seconded by Blok. Roll call: Bowman-aye, Blok-aye, Brandenburg-aye, Rhoades-aye and Hermann-aye. Motion carried.

**13. Public Works position:** Meyrer recommended that the City temporarily suspend the hiring of a full-time employee and hire seasonal part-time employees due to the fact that the City no longer has the water and sewer and that the mowing has been cut back. Discussion was held. It was the consensus of the Council to temporarily suspend the full-time position and advertise for part-time employees at this time.

#### **FINANCIAL ASS'T GRANT:**

**14. LMI Application:** Meyrer reported that he had completed a whole-home inspection on Mr. Cal Henning as he had submitted an application. The Clerk reported that according to the income limits, Mr. Henning qualifies. Council reviewed the Commissioner's findings requesting that bids be obtained on his findings with an amount not to exceed the \$18,000.00 maximum amount with the City paying 90 percent and the applicant being responsible for the remaining 10 percent.

#### **NUISANCE ABATEMENT(S):**

**15. Nuisance Abatement(s):** Rhoades complained of residents not maintaining their grass and the parking of vehicles in their front yards. Meyrer reported that he had compiled a list of residents that are in violation of the City's Maintaining Boulevard Ordinance. Mayor Schutte reported that the Chief was working on the parking in the front yard violators.

#### **POLICY & ADMINISTRATION:**

**16. Trail Ribbon Cutting Ceremony:** Discussion was held. It was the consensus of the Council to have the ribbon cutting on both trails June 1, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

**COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Rhoades expressed his concerns on the Mayor's demeanor towards him as he continuously acts like he is not capable of making intelligent decisions.

Hermann informed the Council that the owner of a vacant lot in the Sawgrass Addition was proposing to either donate or sell the lot to the City for a future park. It was the consensus to add to a future Agenda. Hermann also asked that a "children at play" sign be placed in the Black Bear Crossing Addition as he has been approached and asked that a handicap parking sign be placed at the new restroom facilities at Gless Field. Discussion was held on the handicap parking requirements. Mayor Schutte commended Chris Jepsen, Aero Concrete as he donated the materials and labor to pour a concrete approach in front of the new restroom facilities at Gless Field. Hermann asked that Meyrer approach the American Legion the next time the City has micro-surfacing done as they, too have a sealcoat parking lot as they may have interest in applying the sealant to their parking lot, at their cost.

Mayor Schutte announced that the Fire Department made the finalist for a grant for the Public Safety Building digital sign; however, the City will not know the amount of the award until May 9<sup>th</sup> as that is when the Regional Development Authority announces the grant awards.

Chief Seamer reported that the Department's new brush truck was operational and in the parking lot for everyone to view. Mayor Schutte requested that the old brush truck be placed on the next Agenda to advertise for bids. Meyrer reported an August delivery date for the new mower.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Brandenburg made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bowman. Roll call: Brandenburg-aye, Bowman-aye, Blok-aye, Rhoades-aye and Hermann-aye. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

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Mayor Brad Schutte

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

**CLAIMS REPORT**

AERO CONCRETE	CONSTR PYMT #1	222,137.13
ALEXIS FIRE	NEW BRUSH TRUCK	9,990.21
ALL SEASONS CARWASH	VEH OPER	51.00
B.G. AUTOMOTIVE	VEH OPER	595.66
BP	VEH OPER	746.88
CASEYS	VEH OPER	1,399.22
CENTRAL STATES H & W FUND	HEALTH INSURANCE	11,289.60
CENTURYLINK	FAX	144.35
IA ASSO OF MUNI UTILITIES	TRAINING/TRAVEL/SAFETY	657.00
IOWA ONE CALL	LOCATES	36.00
JOHNSON DISTRIB.	BLDG & GRNDS MAINT	7.00
MARTIN & WHITACRE SURVEYORS	ENGINEERING SVS	2,340.80
MCCULLOUGH, WM	LEGAL SVS	165.00
MED-TECH RESOURCE	EQUIP OPER	1,820.73
MEDIACOM	INTERNET SVS	34.97
MENARDS	BLDG & GRNDS MAINT	17.66
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY	UTILITIES	2,311.96
OLDE TOWN ROOFING	LMI GRANT ASS'T	4,100.00
PREMIER RV	EQUIP OPER	99.94
PS3 ENTERPRISES	BLDG & GRNDS MAINT	340.00
QC TRUCK & TRAILER	EQUIP OPER	113.34
R.P. LUMBER CO.	BLDG & GRNDS MAINT	25.99
SCOTT CO. SHERIFF	JAIL	50.00
SINCLAIR TRACTOR	EQUIP OPER	152.01
TRI STATE FIRE CONTROL	EQUIP OPER	125.00
VERIZON	TELEPHONE/FAX/INTERNET	919.47
WITMER PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP	EQUIP OPER	457.35
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>260,128.27</b>

**TOTAL FUNDS:**

GENERAL	248,788.00
ROAD USE	50.67
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	11,289.60
<b>TOTAL FUNDS:</b>	<b>260,128.27</b>