

A regular session of the Grundy Center City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2015, in the Council Chambers by Mayor Buhrow. Present: Hamann, Stefl, Ammerman, Kiewiet and Miller. Absent: None.

Stefl moved and Hamann seconded the approval of the meeting agenda. Motion carried five ayes.

Miller moved and Stefl seconded the consent agenda consisting of: approval of the minutes of the regular session held November 2, 2015; approval of the Treasurers Report for October 2015; and approval of the submittal of the Annual Urban Renewal Report to the State of Iowa. Motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Buhrow opened the public forum at 6:37 p.m. Terry and Patti Blockhus, of 94 D Avenue, presented a request to the Council for a variance to the sidewalk ordinance. They are building a new home and currently there are no other sidewalks on their block. Randy Goetz, son of current owner of Family Foods, made comment on the sale of the grocery store to Nick Graham, current owner of L&H Enterprises. Goetz said the closing date is November 30, 2015 and requested the City Council strongly consider allowing Graham to assume the BIG Grant for the new roof. Graham made comment on his excitement for the community of Grundy Center and explained his plans to put \$100,000 of improvements into the current building. The building will continue to house a grocery store in the future. No further comments made.

Miller moved and Hamann seconded action on Resolution 2015-46, a resolution to allow an assumption to the mortgage lien on Family Foods property, 1400 G Avenue, to cover the BIG Grant awarded in June, 2014. Discussion opened with Miller explaining that the BIG Grant Program was originally started to challenge business to stay and continuing operating. Miller commented that the Council would be setting a bad precedence by allowing the assumption to occur. Miller felt Goetz was fully aware of the consequences spelled out in the loan agreement documents. Buhrow made comment that he was against the assumption, however, he asked the Council to consider relieving the first full year and request the remaining two-thirds of the borrowed fund be repaid to the City. Hamann commented that we did this for Family Foods and encouraged Graham to apply for a BIG Grant himself. Miller moved to table this resolution until further details could be worked out. There was no second to the motion, therefore, motion failed. Kiewiet made comment that do we want to lose taxpayer dollars by having the store close and have roughly thirty employees unemployed versus setting a precedence amongst all other borrowers of the BIG Grant Program. Motion passed with three ayes (Kiewiet, Hamann and Stefl) and two nays (Miller and Ammerman).

Stefl moved and Miller seconded action on Resolution 2015-47, a resolution authorizing the publishing of the Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Financial Report. Motion carried five ayes.

Miller left the meeting early due to prior commitment.

Hamann moved and Stefl seconded the action to open the discussion on stop signs needed along M Avenue. The Grundy Center Community School District came to the October 5, 2015 meeting and requested the Council consider adding two stop signs at the intersection of M Avenue at 12th Street. Hamann commented that he fully supported a stop sign in the northeast corner of this intersection to slow traffic heading west, however did not support a sign to be placed in a residential yard in the northwest corner of that intersection. He felt a three-way stop there would be excessive. Buhrow made comment that he has received several complaints about the need for a stop sign on M Avenue at 1st Street intersection. Due to increased traffic to and from the hospital, M Avenue has become a highly used street. Kiewiet commented that there are lots of young families with young children on that street and traffic needs to be more controlled. Hamann proposed and Ammerman seconded, moving forward with the ordinance to add stop signs along M Avenue at 1st Street and at 12th Street. Proposal carried four ayes.

Finance Committee made comment that personnel committee, Mayor, Bangasser completed union negotiations last Friday.

Public Safety Committee commented that Wednesday, November 18, 2015 is Officer Oltman's last day with the force due to this retirement. A retirement open house will occur at City Hall from 11am-1pm.

Public Works Committee made comment about winterizing projects and leaf pick up will continue.

Steffl moved and Ammerman seconded adjournment of the meeting. Motion carried four ayes. Next regular meeting will be Monday, December 7, 2015 at 6:30pm.

Brian Buhrow, Mayor

Attest: Kristy Sawyer, City Clerk