

CITY OF GRAYLING
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 13, 2025

I. Meeting called to order by Mayor Forbes at 6:30 pm

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Pettyjohn, Nelson, Forbes, Sloan, Moshier

Members Absent: None

Vacant Seats: None

Also in Attendance: Lori McGeorge (City Clerk), Jenny French (City Treasurer), Ben Yoder (City Zoning Administrator) and several members of the public

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

25-001

Moved by Sloan, seconded by Nelson to approve the agenda with the addition of line item #C - Spark Grant) under New Business.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0, Vacant: 0

Motion Carried

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. Meeting Minutes for December 9, 2024

B. Meeting Minutes for December 23, 2024

C. Revenue/Expenditure Report

25-002

Moved by Nelson, seconded by Pettyjohn to approve the meeting minutes for December 9th and December 23rd, 2024 as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0, Vacant: 0

Motion Carried

VII. PUBLIC HEARING

Hearing opened at 6:39 pm

Pettyjohn gave a presentation regarding the proposed water/sewer rate increase which included information regarding the last increase of 10 years ago, examples of bills that are typical for the City of Grayling along with the proposed increase. Information was also handed out to the public with examples of several nearby community's water/sewer rates and fees. Several residents voiced their concerns, questions and complaints regarding the proposed increase. Discussion was had with a proposal of possibly increasing rates incrementally with 8% in the first year, an additional 8% in the second year along with a cost of living increase every year thereafter instead of a one-time increase of 16%.

Hearing closed at 7:00 pm

VIII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Podjaske elaborated on his report including questions from Moshier regarding the last SAAB meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Water/Sewer Rates discussion

The board discussed the proposed water/sewer rate increase and options in which to do so. The general consensus was instead of doing a one-time rate increase of 16% to consider an incremental increase of 8% per year over the next two years. Every year thereafter the rates will be reviewed for any possible cost of living increases. A resolution will be drafted and brought back to City Council for additional discussion and possible approval.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. AuSable Artisan Village Club License Approval

25-003

Rosin explained that the AuSable Artisan Village was seeking approval from City Council to apply for a Club License in order to host more events and to use the space more as an event center that would include serving alcoholic beverages. This will be a temporary fix until they can afford to apply for a liquor license. Customers would need to either be a member or with a current member in order to consume alcoholic beverages there.

Moved by Sloan, seconded by Nelson to the Club License for the AuSable Artisan Village as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0, Vacant: 0

Motion Carried

B. Zoning Amendments

25-004

Yoder explained the zoning amendments for permitted land use for Family Child Care Home (6 children or less) and Group Child Care Home (7-12 children) as a special land use in C1 and C2 Districts. Pettyjohn and Moshier had some additional questions that included fencing, etc.

Moved by Sloan, seconded by Nelson to approve the Zoning Amendments for permitted land use for Family Child Care Home and Group Child Care home as a special land use in C1 and C2 Districts.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0, Vacant: 0

Motion Carried

C. Spark Grant

25-005

Podjaske explained that a prime professional needs to be hired for the grant. Rowe was the only one that submitted a bid. All will be paid for by the grant.

Moved by Nelson, seconded by Pettyjohn to approve the hiring of Rowe as a prime professional for the Spark Grant.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0, Vacant: 0

Motion Carried

XI. REPORTS

A. DDA

No comments or questions.

B. Planning Commission

No comments or questions.

C. Fire

No comments or questions.

D. Police

No comments or questions.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Additional comments and questions were made regarding the proposed utility billing increases. It was suggested to post examples of proposed water/sewer rate increases on the City website and/or contact the newspaper to give additional information.

XIII. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- Sloan indicated that the stop sign on City Boulevard needs to be brought up to state standards.
- Nelson spoke about looking into some street sign replacements.
- Forbes thanked everyone for coming and participating in the meeting/public hearing.
- No other council members had comments.

XIV. CORRESPONDENCE

None

XV. ADJOURNMENT

25-006

Moved by Nelson, seconded by Sloan, that meeting is adjourned.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0, Abstain 0, Absent: 0, Vacant: 0

Motion Carried

Adjourned at 7:26 PM