

City of Grand Blanc City Council
Special Meeting
Minutes of April 24, 2019

Present: Mayor Soderstrom John Creasey Julie Nielsen Chris Carr
Chris Douglas Paula Nas Lisa Blondell

Staff: Wendy Jean-Buhrer, Mary Hopkins, Brian Lipe, Matt Wurtz, Walt Griffin, Christina Irwin, Ted Sczepanski, Chris Rhind, Dianne Waterworth, Kelly Ford, Michelle Richardson, Steve Hill, several Police Officers, and DPW staff.

Guests: Larry Smith, Connie Lesley, Charlotte Kipp, Angie Kipp Winiger, Wendy Sabo, Mike Blondell, and others.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Soderstrom at 7:00 P.M.

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Minutes. Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to approve the minutes contained in the agenda packet of April 24, 2019. Motion carried.
3. Mayor Soderstrom Message.
Mayor Soderstrom read a prepared bullet point statement regarding the dissolution of the joint Fire Department, and reasons leading to the decision to form the City of Grand Blanc Fire Department.
4. Public Comment.
 - a) Connie Lesley
 - b) Stacey Merrill
 - c) Yvonne Wagner
 - d) Jessica Wilson
 - e) Norm Goodall
 - f) Larry Anderson
 - g) Shirley Shinabarger
 - h) Ed Erdt
 - i) Christine Seyfried
 - j) Sara Palmer
 - k) Mike Blondell
 - l) Larry Smith
 - m) Charlotte Kipp
 - n) Angie Kipp Winiger
5. New Business.
 - a) Budget Amendments 2018-2019, 2019-2020.
 - b) Budget 2020-2021.
 - c) Fire Department Discussion.
 - i) **Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Agreement.**
Motion by Blondell supported by Creasey to approve the Michigan Mutual Aid Alarm Box System agreement. Motion carried.
 - ii) **Oath of Office of Fire Chief Dennis Smith.**

- iii) **Amended Fire Services Contract.**
Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to approve the amended Fire Services Contract with the Grand Blanc Township Fire Department. Motion carried.
- iv) **Firefighter Wage Scale.**
Motion by Blondell supported by Carr to approve the Fire Department Wage Schedule. Motion carried.
- v) **Equipment Purchase.**
Motion by Blondell supported by Creasey to approve purchase of Fire Chief's vehicle from Lasco Ford in the amount not to exceed \$32,000, graphics to be purchased separately under City Manager approval level. Motion carried.

Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to approve purchase of Fire Rescue 2018 Dodge Ram from R & R Truck in the amount not to exceed \$162,000, to be financed over time and to be paid back with the dissolution settlement, graphics to be purchased separately under City Manager approval level. Motion carried.
- vi) **Grant Requests.**
City Manager Wendy Jean Buhrer stated that she has applied for two grants, and will be applying for more in the fall.
- vii) **Fire Chief Employment Amended Agreement.**
Motion by Blondell supported by Creasey to approve First Amended Employment Agreement for Fire Chief. Motion carried.
- viii) **Metropolitan Appraisal Services.**
Motion by Blondell supported by Douglas to approve selection of Metropolitan Appraisals for the appraisal of the fire Commission equipment, building fixtures and apparatus, to pay 20% of the Metropolitan Appraisal fee and to receive a cash payout according to the percentage determined in the dissolution. Motion carried.
- ix) **City Council Response to Public Comment.**
Councilwoman Nielsen thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She stated that the Council lives in the City, and this will be their Fire Department also. She would not make a decision that would endanger her own family, friends, and neighbors.

Councilman Douglas responded to comments from the public. He stated that he was not aware of the Township requesting an additional meeting after the third joint meeting. He went on to explain the difference in the funding of the Fire Commission between the City and the Township. He encouraged the residents to reach out to him for any further questions.

Councilwoman Blondell stated that her family lives in the City, and it was a hard decision to make, but it was the right decision.

Councilman Carr congratulated Dennis Smith on his new job as Fire Chief. He encouraged the residents to have faith in the new department, and stated that this was a well thought out decision.

Councilman Creasey stated that we attempted to work with the Township, and believes that we did the right thing. We did not take the decision lightly. Congratulations to Chief Smith

Councilwoman Nas thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, and stated that this is Democracy at its finest.

Mayor Soderstrom thanked Dennis Smith and stated that we are very pleased to have him on board. Mayor Soderstrom requested that the audience send in their emails so that we would be able to keep them up to date on upcoming developments.

Police Chief Brian Lipe and the department as a whole was saddened to see the dissolution of the Fire Department but understood the decision of the City Council. The department is very comfortable with the decision to hire Dennis Smith.

DPW Director Matt Wurtz welcomed Dennis Smith, and assured him that he has the DPW department full support. The DPW will do everything possible to help make the transition as smooth as possible.

d) Parks & Recreation Discussion.

Attorney Walt Griffin gave an update regarding meeting between the Township, School, and City.

e) Chalet Agreement.

Motion by Blondell supported by Nielsen to approve Fleis and Vandenbrink Construction Management agreement. Motion carried.

f) Miscellaneous.

None

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary B. Hopkins
City Clerk