CITY OF GRANITE FALLS
OFFICIAL CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 21, 2025

A regular session of the Granite Falls City Council was called to order by Mayor Steve Nordaune at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 21, 2025, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present: DuWayne Galow, Beth Pullan, Brad Peterson, Craig Opdahl and Scott Peterson. Staff present: City Manager Crystal Johnson and Finance Director Krista Listul. Also present: WTP WWTP HEPP Superintendent Chris Anderson; and CVB Chair Jennifer Garcia Gray. Via Telecom: Manager, Event Production at National MS Society, Upper Midwest Chapter Collin Geraghty.

CONSENT AGENDA: M/S/P B. PETERSON/GALOW TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, TABLING ITEM 6C1, PARK ORDINANCE AMENDMENT, FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AT THE NEXT MEETING: Minutes, Bills, Police Chief's Report, Finance Report, Correspondence, and Meetings & Events.

REPORT: EDA Board report was acknowledged at this time.

DEER DEPREDATION: Council reviewed a report from Police Chief Struffert relative to the special permit archery hunt held within the city limits in 2024. Ten permits were issued and one deer was harvested. Following discussion, M/S/P B. Peterson/S. PETERSON TO APPROVE OFFERING THE ARCHERY DEER HUNT IN 2025.

MS BIKE RIDE: Garcia and Collin provided details about the upcoming MS Bike Ride and requested the use of Memorial Park for overnight camping for the riders. Following discussion, M/S/P OPDAHL/B. PETERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF MEMORIAL PARK FOR MS BIKE RIDE CAMPING ON JULY 21 AND JULY 24, ALLOWING FREE USE OF TENT SITES AND ALL PARK AREAS FOR CAMPING, WITH RV SITES REMAINING AVAILABLE AT THE STANDARD RATE OF $22 PER NIGHT.

WASTEWATER FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Anderson was present to answer questions. The Council reviewed two quotes for repairs to the wastewater facility aeration system, a budgeted 2025 Capital Item with $70,000 allocated. Additionally, an engineering inspection determined that the existing walkway at the walker system are not code-compliant and require replacement. The Utility Commission reviewed quotes from Rubin ($195,217.55) and Fagen ($166,612) and recommended selecting Fagen's proposal. Staff proposed funding the project using $70,000 from the Capital Items budget and the remaining $96,612 from wastewater facility reserves. Council was also reminded that wastewater rates increased in January 2025 to support ongoing facility upgrades. S. Peterson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption accepting the quote from Fagen in the amount of $166, 612.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-5

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FAGEN QUOTE FOR WASTEWATER FACILITY AERATION SYSTEM REPAIRS AND WALKWAY REPLACEMENT

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by Pullan, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

MNVCLP: M/S/P B. PETERSON/OPDAHL TO APPOINT CITY MANAGER JOHNSON AS THE VOTING DELEGATE AND MAYOR NORDAUNE AS AN ALTERNATE VOTING DELEGATE TO THE MINNESOTA VALLEY COOPERATIVE LIGHT & POWER ASSOCIATION.

APPOINTMENT: M/S/P B. PETERSON/BARBER APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF BETH PULLAN TO THE PARK BOARD.

APPOINTMENT: M/S/P S. GALOW/B. PETERSON APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF SCOTT PETERSON TO THE UMVRDC BOARD.

THE GRANITE AREA ARTS COUNCIL REQUEST: The Granite Area Arts Council requests permission to use the existing garden/planter space along the stairway on Lende Plaza for a permanent "fairy village." Existing fairy houses currently on display will be relocated to the space in warmer weather, with additional houses, small plants, and lighting added. The Arts Council also committed to maintaining the area for as long as the display remains in place. M/S/P S. PULLAN/OPDAHL APPROVE THE ART COUNCIL REQUEST AS PRESENTED.

EMS CONTRACT: Following discussion, Barber introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, approving a five-year agreement to support EMS services at an annual cost of $9,000, with yearly adjustments based on the most recent Consumer Price Index for Medical Care. Any increase will require city approval before funding. The 2025 cost will be financed from the ECPN (Equitable Cost-Sharing for Publicly Owned Nursing Home Facilities) reserve revenue.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-6

RESOLUTION APPROVING A FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT
TO SUPPORT EMS SERVICES

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by S. Peterson, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

PAY EQUITY REPORT: After review of the Pay Equity Implementation Report, S. Peterson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption to approve the Pay Equity Implementation Report as completed.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-7

RESOLUTION APPROVING PAY EQUITY
IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by Barber, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

YME SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION: Galow introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption approving a donation from the Light Fund to the Scholarship YME program at the Yellow Medicine East School District in the amount of Two Thousand Dollars ($2,000) which shall be divided into four $500 scholarships eligible to seniors whose parents/legal guardians are current customers of the Granite Falls Municipal Utility.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-8

RESOLUTION APPROVING $2,000 DONATION
TO SCHOLARSHIP YME

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by Pullan, the resolution was adopted. B. Peterson and S. Peterson abstained.

MOWING CONTRACTS: Following discussion B. Peterson introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption to approve the mowing contracts as presented for the 2025 season:

City Properties: D & A Lawn Service for a grand total of $16,000.
Charges per section for the year:
Section 2 at $4,000
Section 3 at $6,000
Section 4 at $6,000

City Cemetery: MAJSDAC Hill Greenhouse. Cost is $850.00 per time with an estimated cutting after every 10 days.

Dog Park: Justin Aurelius in the amount of $225 per time.

RESOLUTON NO. 25-9

RESOLUTION AWARDING MAINTENANCE
OF CITY PARKS AND OTHER PROPERTIES

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by Pullan, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

STREET VACATION: Due to a publishing error, the date of the public hearing before the Granite Falls City Council has been changed. B. Peterson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, calling for a public hearing to vacate a portion of 8th Avenue between Block 4 and Block 5 of Lathrop's Second Addition, as presented. The hearing is scheduled for 7:15 p.m. on February 18, 2025.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-10

RESOLUTION CALLING PUBLIC HEARING
VACATION OF PORTION OF 8TH AVENUE

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by Galow, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

ORDINANCE: M/S/P S. PETERSON/OPDAHL TO APPROVE THE 1ST READING AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS, MINNESOTA, AMENDING CITY CODE 135 CANNABIS USE IN PUBLIC PLACES BY REPEALING CHAPTER 135 IN ITS ENTIRETY, AND REPEALING CHAPTER 118 CANNABIS BUSINESSES.

CITY LEGAL SERVICES: City Attorney Jeremy Blackwelder has accepted a new position and will no longer serve as the City Attorney. Council discussed options for legal services. Spencer Kvam, an attorney from the same firm who has not previously handled municipal work, has agreed to take on the role and assess the fit. The possibility of a hybrid approach, utilizing both Kvam and another firm to meet the City's legal needs, was also discussed.

ADJOURN: M/S/P S. PETERSON/B. PETERSON TO ADJOURN AT 7:21 PM.

Steve Nordaune
Mayor

ATTEST:
Christine Kleven
City Clerk