

OFFICIAL CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR SESSION
MARCH 18, 2024

A regular session of the Granite Falls City Council was called to order by Mayor Steve Nordaune at 7:00 p.m., Monday, March 18, 2024 in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council Members present: DuWayne Galow, Sharon Pazi Zea, Brad Peterson, Joe Fagnano and Scott Peterson. Staff present: City Manager Crystal Johnson, and Finance Director Neal Carstensen. Also present: EDA Director Kyle Haugen, Dan Barber, SammyJo Miller, Bernice Robinson from UMVRDC, Rafael Nunez, Tom Cherveney, Ashlee Edman, Joseph Edman, Community Foundation members: Jeremy Corner, Lisa Streich and Jen Sneller.

CONSENT AGENDA: B. PETERSON/GALOW TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, WITH THE ADDITION OF 6B4 COMMUNITY ENERGY GRANT AGREEMENT, AS FOLLOWS: Minutes, Bills, Finance Report, Correspondence and Meetings & Events. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

FLOOD WALL MURAL: SammyJo Miller would like approval to design and paint a mural on the flood wall. Council will review her request upon presentation of design options.

GRANITE FALLS AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (GFACF): Jeremy Corner, Lisa Streich and Jen Sneller presented Phase II of Rice Park Improvements to be funded by GFACF. M/S PAZI ZEA/B. PETERSON TO APPROVE THE SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROJECT AS PRESENTED BY GFACF. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

PUBLIC HEARING: A duly advertised public hearing for the purpose of providing information and receiving public comment regarding a proposed Small Cities Development Program (SCDP) Streetscape Grant Application was called to order by Steve Nordaune at 7:15 p.m. Following discussion, the hearing was closed at 7:20p.m.

Following the public hearing B. Peterson introduced a resolution and moved its adoption approving the SCDP Streetscape grant application.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-36

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SCDP STREETScape
GRANT APPLICATION

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by Galow, the resolution was adopted unanimously by those present.

Also following the public hearing Galow introduced a resolution and moved its adoption approving the Declaration of Slum and Blighted Area.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-37

RESOLUTION DECLARING SLUM AND BLIGHTED AREA

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by Fagnano, the resolution was adopted unanimously by those present.

M/S B. PETERSON/S. PETERSON TO APPROVE THE SCDP CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

LA PLAZITA: Rafael Nunez was in attendance to request approval to block of a section of the restaurant parking lot for events on May 4th. M/S B. PETERSON/PAZI ZEA TO APPROVE THE CLOSURE AND USE OF SECTIONS OF THE LA PLAZITA PARKING LOT ON MAY 4TH TO CELEBRATE CINCO DE MAYO. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

TREE PLANTING: Tom Cherveney was in attendance to request approval for a tree planting in memory of Richard Tjosaas, Upper Sioux Agency State Park manager and longtime advocate of Granite Falls and the outdoors. The group camp area is recommended. A plaque in his honor will be installed next to the tree. M/S FAGNANO/PAZI ZEA TO APPROVE THE TREE PLANTING AS REQUESTED IN MEMORY OF RICHARD TJOSAAS. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

REPORTS: The following reports were acknowledged at this time: EDA, Airport Commission and Park Board.

EDA: Project Turnabout is looking for matching funds for a daycare initiative. The EDA levy will be considered for this funding.

MEMORIAL PARK CAMPING FEES: The Park Board recommends to continue a gradual annual increase to Memorial Park camping fees. The board is recommending to increase the RV camping fee to \$22.00 and the tent fee to \$15.00. B. Peterson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption to increase the daily fee from \$20 to \$22 for RV sites and tent sites from \$14 to \$15 per site.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-38

RESOLUTION INCREASING MEMORIAL PARK CAMPING FEES

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by Fagnano, the resolution was adopted unanimously by those present.

TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC): Consensus to appoint City Manager, Crystal Johnson to join the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC).

WESTERN FEST DONATION: B. Peterson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption donating \$400 to the Western Fest Celebration.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-39

RESOLUTION APPROVING DONATION
TO WESTERN FEST

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by Galow, the resolution was adopted unanimously by those present.

PERSONNEL: Following discussion regarding proposals received to provide services for recruitment and selection of a new finance director, Fagnano introduced a resolution and moved its adoption accepting the proposal received from DDA Human Resources, Inc. in the amount of \$24,000 to assist the city in filling the finance director's position.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-40

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING PROPOSAL TO ASSIST
CITY IN RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION OF NEW FINANCE DIRECTOR

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

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

EARNED SICK AND SAFE TIME POLICY: Wage and Salary Committee recommends updating the proposed Earned Sick and Safe Leave Time (ESST) Policy with MAPE. Following discussion B. Peterson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption to approve the ESST Policy as presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-41

RESOLUTION APPROVING UPDATED EARNED SICK AND SAFE TIME (ESST)
POLICY WITH MAPE

With second by Galow, the resolution was adopted unanimously by those present.

ENERGY TRANSITION GRANT: Following discussion S. Peterson introduced a resolution and moved its adoption authorizing the execution of the Community Energy Transition grant application for the proposed watermain project.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-42

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION
OF COMMUNITY ENERGY TRANSITION GRANT

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by B. Peterson, the resolution was adopted unanimously by those present.

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE UPDATE: A variance request has been submitted to the state, seeking approval for the office to remain closed for two months to facilitate the hiring process and provide training for new staff.

COUNCIL VACANCY: Following a vote by council M/S B. PETERSON/GALOW TO APPOINT DAN BARBER TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO FILL THE VACANT ALDERPERSON- AT-LARGE POSITION LEFT BY STEVE NORDAUNE'S REASSIGNMENT TO THE MAYOR SEAT. His term will expire December 31, 2026.

FIRE DEPARTMENT TRUCK REPLACEMENT: After considering the subcommittee's recommendation, the council reached a consensus to proceed with soliciting quotes for the replacement of the pumper truck.

BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION: will meet April 11, 2024 - 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. at the Granite Falls City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURN: M/S S. PETERSON/PAZI ZEA TO ADJOURN AT 8:20 P.M.

Steve Nordaune
Mayor

ATTEST:

Christine Kleven
City Clerk