

Council Meeting

The Graettinger City Council met in a regular session on Monday, March 11, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall with Mayor Armstrong presiding. Present were council members T. Anderson, Masters, Dyhrkopp, Alderson, and Hoffman. City employees Currans, Peterson, C. Hoffman, and Anderson were present. Visitors: Juan DeLeon

Motion by Alderson, seconded by Dyhrkopp to approve consent agenda. 1. Motion to approve the agenda. 2. Motion to approve minutes. 3. Motion to approve bills. 4. Motion to approve financial statement. All Ayes. Carried.

City Clerk Currans advised the council that she will attend a GWorks meeting on March 24-25 and that the IMFOA conference will take place in April 2025. Peterson reported that C. Hoffman has completed his water certifications in Cherokee this month and will attend the Gas Boot Camp in April to finalize his gas certification.

Dyhrkopp informed the council that black dirt for the tennis courts is available. B. Anderson will manage pickup and re-seeding. He also reported ongoing improvements to stop signs, which will be replaced and straightened around town.

The Council reviewed the Mosquito Control letter. The contract fee will be the same for 2025, additional services include tick control for the City of Graettinger. The five-year contract will be auto-renewed for a total of \$3965 yearly. Dyhrkopp introduced Resolution 11-2025, "A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a contract between Mosquito Control of Iowa and the City of Graettinger for spraying mosquitoes." Seconded by T. Anderson. Ayes-5. Resolution adopted.

The Council reviewed a change to reimbursable expenses for seasonal employees, Seasonal employees must work a minimum of 50 hours or earn a minimum of \$500 during their employment year to qualify for reimbursement from the City. Hoffman introduced resolution no. 12-2025, "A resolution amending the employee Handbook for employees." and moved that it be adopted. Second, by Dyhrkopp . Ayes-5. Adopted.

City Clerk Currans reviewed the Apptegy-Thrillshare contract. Currently, the city's website is powered by Apptegy and does not have cheaper package alternatives. The Council advised City Clerk Currans to seek other cost-effective options for the city.

A discussion was conducted regarding a letter of support for the Graettinger Light Plant's forthcoming grant application for a community-serving solar and battery storage system, to be funded by the Department of Energy's Energy Improvement in Rural and Remote Areas Grant program. This grant aims to provide affordable electric generation capabilities. The Light Plant has requested a letter of support to assess this new program's potential. The Graettinger Light Plant and the City Council will convene in a joint meeting on March 20, 2025, at the Hillcrest.

City Clerk Currans reviewed the city's insurance policy and a recent audit by PMC Advantage Insurance Services, covering Work Comp, Auto Liability, Cyber Liability, Property, and Inland Marine. Motion to consult with the current insurance company to explore possible improvements to the current policy.

Dyhrkopp introduced resolution no. 13-2025, "A resolution approving city grant agreement with Palo Alto County Gaming Development Corporation" and move that it be adopted. Seconded by T. Anderson. Ayes-5. Adopted.

Discussion was held regarding grants applied for and received this year. Palo Alto County Gaming Development Corporation (PACGDC) has awarded three grants to the City of Graettinger: City Cameras \$4478.00, City per capita grant \$39529.04, and a City award of \$34068.00. The Small City Zone sign package grant was not received this year. The Dcat grant for Pool passes was granted for a total of \$2000.

Motion by T. Hoffman, seconded by Alderson, to hire Pool Staff: Staci Girres, Pool Manager, Allyson Thompson (Head lifeguard), Erin Kulow, Colleen Cook, Olivia Anderson, Bella Anderson, Myla Murphy, Adi Heinrichs, Corinne Cook, Caleb Borchers, Lillian Vanderhoff, Natalie Sweden, Part-time as needed: Trista Quinn, Landon Dietrich, Danica Ringlaben. All Ayes. Motion carried. Girres will be accepting applications till March 28, 2025. Help Wanted was posted on the city website.

Discussion on DCAT funds revealed a decrease compared to previous years. The City of Graettinger plans to assist 30 families with pool passes for 2025. To help more families, the family pass cost will be increased. A motion was made to raise DCAT family costs to \$50 and single membership to \$30 for eligible families. A letter has been sent to GTRA school to notify qualifying families.

Graettinger offers 2025 seasonal pool passes. Family passes are \$117.70, and single passes are \$58.85. The opening date is to be announced at a later date.

Courtesy Nuisance abatement letters have been sent to numerous residents for city nuisance complaints. Residents will have to remove or clean up Nuisances or be assessed a penalty.

Reminder: The public hearing date for the proposed Property Tax Levy for FY2025-26 is March 26, 2025, at 6 pm.

| 25-Mar | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|----------|--------------|
| IRS | | \$3,741.96 | RVTC Loan | Loan | \$8,101.85 |
| Bomgaars | Supplies | \$289.43 | City Laundering | Supplies | \$13.79 |
| Clayton | Reservation | \$8,188.74 | Drain Pro | Supplies | \$362.50 |
| GMU | Lights | \$2,838.08 | Northern Plains | Landfill | \$64.00 |
| Harris Sanitation | Contract | \$5,281.18 | Mike Faust | Rebate | \$100.00 |
| Hawkins | Chemical | \$50.00 | Payroll | | \$13,284.55 |
| IAMU | Dues 2025-26 | \$2,153.00 | Claims total | | \$85,532.90 |
| IPERS | | \$2,497.14 | General | | \$20,276.69 |
| Kandi's Flower | Supplies | \$107.00 | RUT | | \$4,922.22 |
| Menards | Supplies | \$333.90 | Emp Ben | | \$3,125.06 |
| PA County Treasurer | Contract | \$693.33 | Debt | | \$8,101.85 |
| Pro-Coop | Gas | \$843.94 | Water | | \$8,365.77 |
| RVTC | Phone | \$634.81 | Sewer | | \$5,580.45 |
| Treasurer St of IA | Sales Tax | \$2,392.05 | Gas | | \$35,160.86 |
| US Cellular | Cell | \$216.03 | General | | \$20,943.94 |
| Wellmark | Insurance | \$7,014.58 | RUT | | \$8,394.63 |
| PA Co Sheriff | Contract | \$5,231.33 | Emp Ben | | \$218.48 |
| State Hygienic Lab | Testing | \$14.50 | LOST | | \$7,703.96 |
| Kirkwood | | | | | |
| Community College | Certification | \$1,120.00 | Library Mem | | \$10.76 |
| Culligan | Water | \$7.50 | Water | | \$9,219.97 |
| GR Times | Legals | \$186.17 | Sewer | | \$8,140.18 |
| GR Hardware | Supplies | \$709.79 | Gas | | \$74,524.97 |
| N IA Lumbar | Lumbar | \$117.22 | Storm | | \$732.98 |
| Treasurer/St of IA | Wet Tax | \$1,176.09 | Total | | \$130,218.57 |
| PEFA | Natural Gas | \$17,768.44 | | | |

Motion by Dyhrkopp, seconded by Hoffman to adjourn at 7:45 P.M.

Brandon Armstrong, Mayor

Kara Currans, City Clerk