

**CITY OF GRAFTON
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Ways and Means Committee of the City of Grafton was held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Grafton, North Dakota at 5:30 p.m. Monday, February 1, 2016.

Chairperson West presided. Members present: Dave Fellman, Mary Stark, and Greg Young. Member absent: Don Hutson. Others present: Brian Sieben, Chris Lipsh, Len Wysocki, Shane Mohn, Tony Dumas, Rock Desautel, Ken Miskavige, Russ Geddes, Kerry DeMars, Bill Dahl, Mike Steinfeldt, Ryan Johnston, and Todd Kjelland.

LABOR RELATIONS MATTERS

A resignation was submitted by Cory Mortenson of the Police Department; his last day was January 31, 2016. Chief Dumas reported there are three applicants for the vacant position at this time.

The Committee considered a proposal from Galen Cariveau to update the pay study for \$3,500. Mr. Cariveau conducted the original pay study approximately three years ago and this proposal would include him collecting salaries from other cities and adjusting salaries for Grafton City employees accordingly. Members expressed concern about timeliness of reporting, etc. by Mr. Cariveau for services he provided to Walsh County, however it would likely be more costly to have another firm complete the study because they would not have the information Mr. Cariveau has already gathered from his previous work with the City. Chairperson West suggested a timeline be set if Mr. Cariveau's proposal is approved so the City would have the information needed for the next budget planning process. It was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Fellman to approve the proposal from Galen Cariveau to update the City pay study in the amount of \$3,500 with a deadline of May 1st and on condition he provides information on salaries from other cities. Mr. Fellman seconded the motion. On roll call vote the following voted in favor thereof: Mr. Fellman and Mr. Young. Those opposed: Ms. Stark. Member absent: Mr. Hutson. Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Kerry DeMars, President of the Grafton Park Board, requested that the penalty for snowmobiles in city limits be increased as snowmobiles driving through Leistikow Park this year have caused damage to Park property and unsafe conditions for other Park users such as those sledding. There are groomed trails to be used for snow shoeing and snowmobiles are not allowed on those trails; signage will be put up to advise snowmobilers of that fact. The Park Board is also planning to install cameras. Chief Dumas was unsure how many citations have been written, but he said it is difficult because the snowmobile can drive 200 ft. off the road and the police cannot get to them. He said his recommendation would be to re-word the ordinance specifically with off-highway vehicles because of the helmets and extra clothing being worn and to include the owner of the vehicles then it doesn't matter who is driving the vehicle because the owner would be responsible. A snowmobile does not fall under the motor vehicle requirements for licensure.

Chief Dumas said City Attorney Nick Hall recommends amending the ordinance to use the general penalty provision, which would require a court appearance and would allow for the judge to set the fines. It was moved by Ms. Stark and seconded by Mr. Fellman to remove section 23-113 (j) penalty clause so any violation will be covered under the General Penalty Clause. Mr. Young agreed with the motion but stated further work needs to be done on the ordinance. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

Mike Steinfeldt requested the animal ordinance be amended to allow for honey bee keeping within the city limits of Grafton. He clarified that he is making the request on behalf of Mike Leighton who is out of town. Mr. Steinfeldt provided detailed written information regarding bees and beekeeping to the Committee members and reviewed that information for those in attendance. Mr. Steinfeldt explained this past summer there were 2 beehives placed in the back yard of Mr. Leighton's home and there were a couple of hives on the west edge of Leistikow Park, none of which caused any complaints from citizens. Mr. Sieben reported he talked with County Agent Brad Brummond, who said he would not recommend allowing bees within the city limits. He said the queen bees may get away from the hives and become aggressive. Mr. Steinfeldt said the queen bee is not dangerous and her main objective is all about making honey. Mr. Lipsh said this is a safety concern as there are people who are allergic to bees and the City would be putting them at risk if the City Council amends the ordinance to allow bees within city limits. Mr. Young proposed tabling discussion until next month to take the matter under consideration and to obtain feedback from constituents.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Stark, seconded by Mr. Young and carried to adjourn the meeting.

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Chris West, Chairperson

Connie A. Johnson, City Auditor-Treasurer