**GROVE CITY COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2014**

**6:00 PM**

The Grove City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 21, 2014 at 6:00 PM with Mayor Marty Follis presiding. Members present were Ed Trumbull, Don Nielsen, Marty Dyer and Ivan Devitt. Also present was City Manager, Bill Keefer; Attorney, Brandon Watkins; Assistant City Manager, Debbie Bottoroff; City Treasurer, Lisa Allred; Public Works Director, Jack Bower and City Clerk, Bonnie Buzzard.

Dyer made the motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Seconded by Devitt. AYE: Trumbull, Nielsen, Dyer, Devitt and Follis. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Devitt made the motion to approve the purchase order register. Seconded by Dyer. AYE: Trumbull, Nielsen, Dyer, Devitt and Follis. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Follis presented and read in its entirety a Proclamation designating August 27, 2014, to be Greg L. Martin Day in the City of Grove. Trumbull made the motion to approve the Proclamation as presented. Seconded by Dyer. AYE: Trumbull, Nielsen, Dyer, Devitt and Follis. NAY: None. Motion carried.

At 6:16 PM Devitt made the motion to open a Public Hearing to receive comments to determine if the property located at 112 N. Mill Street is dilapidated and is detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the general public and the community. Seconded by Nielsen. AYE: Trumbull, Nielsen, Dyer, Devitt and Follis. NAY: None. Motion carried. Bottoroff reported that a Notice of Violation was mailed to the property owner regarding the dilapidated structure. The property owner has retained Attorney, Kathy Baker to represent him with this matter. Baker advised that the property owner has contacted a HazMat Clean-Up company out of Tulsa, to assess the property and begin the clean-up process. Once the HazMat clean-up is complete the property owner will begin the repairing process to the property. Baker is requesting on behalf of her client for an extension of time to allow for the HazMat clean-up and repairs to the property. The property owner was not present. Bottoroff reported that it is Staff recommendation that the Council issue an Administrative Order requiring the property owner to obtain a remodel permit and contract with an approved company to complete the HazMat clean-up within thirty (30) days of the Administrative Order. Within ninety (90) days of the Administrative Order, the property owner is required to have the property repaired and brought into compliance with the city codes. At 6:18 PM Trumbull made the motion to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Nielsen. AYE: Trumbull, Nielsen, Dyer, Devitt and Follis. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Trumbull made the motion to approve the time extension as requested by Attorney Baker, and Staff recommendation in regards to the Administrative Order pertaining to the property located at 112 N. Mill Street as presented and discussed. Seconded by Dyer. AYE: Trumbull, Nielsen, Dyer, Devitt and Follis. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to approval of the following items related to a Hotel Tax. Keefer reported that during the retreat/goal setting session last fall, one of the goals that were identified was the implementation of a hotel/motel tax to promote tourism for the City of Grove. In pursuing this goal, Staff identified the need to seek input and advice from the hotel industry on this topic to ensure they have a voice in the discussion. Over the past 6-8 months, Staff has been working with several representatives of the local motel industry including John Wells with the Outrigger Motel and LuAnn Ford with the Best Western to review and discuss issues, concerns and desires related to a hotel tax. They both indicated support for the proposition. Those discussions included but not limited to the following:

* reasons and rationale for their opposition to previous efforts to implement a hotel tax
* answering questions and concerns regarding the hotel tax and how the funds would be collected and used
* discussion on who and what should be included in the definition of a “hotel”
* identifying the need for and benefits from the implementation of a hotel tax
* discuss and review several drafts of an ordinance implementing the provisions of a hotel tax

The Council and Staff entertained questions, comments and concerns from the following individuals:

* Judith Read
* Robert Carter
* Lisa Friden
* Peggy Keifer – Steed
* Bill Miller

Keefer reported that if the Council approved the Ordinance and Resolution authorizing an election on November 4th, the City will need to prepare a plan to provide information to the community so they can make an informed decision on the important issue. Dyer made the motion to approve an Ordinance levying and assessing a Sales Tax (Hotel Tax) of five percent (5 %) from gross proceeds or gross receipts derived from rents received from occupancy of hotel rooms; providing for the use of tax funds; providing for tax rate; providing exemptions; requesting approval of Ordinance by majority of registered voters voting at an election held for such purpose as provided by law; fixing effective dates; and containing other provisions related thereto. Seconded by Nielsen. AYE: Trumbull, Nielsen, Dyer, Devitt and Follis. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Devitt made the motion to approve a Resolution authorizing the calling and holding of an election in the City of Grove, Delaware County, State of Oklahoma, for the purpose of submitting to the registered qualified voters of said city the question of levying and collection of a city sales tax (hotel tax) of five percent (5 %) in addition to all other city and state sales tax levied or assessed upon the gross receipts derived from rents received from occupancy of hotel or motel rooms to provide revenues exclusively for the purpose of encouraging, promoting and fostering conventions and tourism; marketing the Grove community; assisting with the promotion and support of community events and activities; and special projects as deemed appropriate by the City of Grove convention and tourism bureau. Seconded by Trumbull. AYE: Trumbull, Nielsen, Dyer, Devitt and Follis. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Follis opened the floor for discussion with respect to approval of the following items related to the Grove Municipal Airport. Airport Manager, Lisa Jewett addressed the Council to report that bids were opened for the apron and taxiway project at the Airport. The project is to be funded through the Federal Aviation Administration & the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission grants with a 5% local match which was provided for in the 2014-2015 City Capital Fund Budget. Jewett indicated that this project was bid with two options for the materials for the apron with one option to include a concrete apron, and the second option to include an asphalt apron. The project engineer reviewed the bids and declared that the low bidder for each option met the specifications. The concrete option was the preferred option if there was adequate funding. The OAC indicated that they concurred that the concrete apron was the best long-term option for the airport and indicated that they would provide the additional funding needed for the concrete option, which Jewett noted would be approximately $300,000. Therefore; based upon their determination, the Grove Municipal Airport Managing Authority Board is recommending approval of the low bid from Bru-Con Construction for the concrete option in the amount of $2,290,570.84. The bid is within the engineer’s estimates of $2,707,815.00, and fits within the grant funding levels. Trumbull made the motion to approve the bid from Bru-Con Construction for the Apron/Taxiway Improvement Project in the amount of $2,290,570.84. Seconded by Nielsen. AYE: Trumbull, Nielsen, Dyer, Devitt and Follis. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Nielsen made the motion to approve the grant application/agreement with the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission for funding for the Apron/Taxiway Improvement Project. Seconded by Trumbull. AYE: Trumbull, Nielsen, Dyer, Devitt and Follis. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Nielsen made the motion to approve the grant application/agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration for funding for the Apron/Taxiway Improvement Project. Seconded by Trumbull. AYE: Trumbull, Nielsen, Dyer, Devitt and Follis. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Dyer made the motion to approve a Resolution amending the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget. Seconded by Trumbull. AYE: Trumbull, Nielsen, Dyer, Devitt and Follis. NAY: None. Motion carried.

**CITY MANAGERS REPORT**:

Keefer reported that he has placed information in the packets regarding the upcoming OML conference. If anyone is interested in attending please let Staff know so that they can arrange registration & accommodations accordingly.

**WARD REPORTS**:

Trumbull questioned the time frame for the removal of those manufactured homes along the site of Highway 59 North. Keefer reported that he had visited with Fire Chief, Mike Reed and he indicated that he would go out and visit with the property owner to see what his intentions are about that site. Keefer indicated that he needs to revisit with Reed in regards to that visit.

Trumbull asked for an update on the transformer for the lights along Highway 59 South. Bower reported that is a PSO/AEP project, and that they have informed the City that the equipment has been delivered but he doesn’t have the crew to get it installed at this time.

Follis asked for an update to the ongoing high weeds complaints. Keefer reported that if the property owner refuses to corporate with the Staff then the Fire Department has no choice but to start issuing citations.

Dyer noted that that Wednesday, August 20th is the first day of school. Dyer asked Chief Mark Morris if his Staff is ready. Morris indicated that his Staff is ready but highly commended the VIPS for their dedicated time they obligate to this project.

Devitt asked for clarification about the street light replacement along Highway 59 North. Bower responded by saying that the City has received quotes for that project but the insurance wants a paid receipt before they will reimburse. Bower indicated that it would cost the city an estimated $30,000 to replace all of the missing police lights.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**:

Follis announced that there are no further negotiations to discussion with respect to an Executive Session pertaining to the Fraternal Order of Police - Grand Lake Lodge No. 171. No action taken.

At 7:16 PM Devitt made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Nielsen. AYE: Trumbull, Nielsen, Dyer, Devitt and Follis. NAY: None. Motion carried.