

MINUTES

The Grainfield City Council regular monthly meeting was on June 9th, 2025 p.m. at the city office. Harvey Heier, Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Council members: Darren Racette, Ron Eberle and Gary Gassmann, Ken Wood, Seth Gruber
Absent: Derek Herl
Mayor: Harvey Heier
Present also: Carol Weber and Wade Harvey
Guest: Marilyn Mong, Herby Queen, Joann Zimmerman, Corina Cox, Kay Haffner

Ron made the motion, 2nd by Seth to approve the agenda and motion carried.
Gary made the motion, 2nd by Ken to approve the minutes of May 12th, 2025 and motion carried.

A Public meeting was held to discuss the HAT results. Corina from NW Planning and Development updated the council on the Grant for the Housing Assessment Tool (HAT).

Corina asked if there was any public comment about the HAT findings and what the public perceives as their housing needs.

The following comments were noted: Several members expressed support for the program, citing its potential to assist moderate-income families with access to safe and affordable housing within the city. It was recommended that the city explore partnerships with the city of Grinnell to put up a unit in their town. Kay and Corina left the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Maintenance Report: We have one property that is in violation of weed control. The owner has had a letter sent and messages go right to voice mail with his mailbox full. The council said to mow it and send a bill. The park is being cleaned up after the Memorial Weekend festivities. Wade accidentally slipped into the lagoon with the grasshopper. He was told to go ahead and order the parts and repair it. Havey had bids for new mower. Discussion on a newer mower, grass hopper or a hustler. Council gave Harvey the okay to purchase a hustler if they have a 60" from Better Built trailers.

Fire Chief Report: Derek was absent. The firemen assisted Grinnell after the tornado.

Discussion with Steve Hirsch Regarding Ordinances (via Zoom):

Steve Hirsch joined the meeting via Zoom at 7:30 p.m. to provide clarification on city ordinances. Council Member Darren raised a concern about Section C of Ordinance 158-GO concerning golf carts. Steve explained that, per the ordinance passed by the council, all golf carts are required to be registered with the city to be legal for use within city limits. He stated that his ordinances are written based on guidance from the League of Kansas Municipalities.

Steve advised Darren to contact the League's attorneys, who drafted the ordinance in question, for any further legal clarification. He noted that most Kansas city's follow League guidelines when adopting ordinances. Darren also inquired whether ordinances need to be rewritten if new council members or a new clerk come into office. Steve clarified that there is no need to rewrite an ordinance in such cases, as the official minutes reflect the council members in office at the time the ordinance was adopted, which is sufficient for legal purposes.

Additionally, Darren had a drafting guideline he found online that he believed contradicted the city's current ordinance. Steve pointed out that the document Darren referenced was not from Kansas, but from Minnesota, and emphasized the importance of referencing Kansas-specific guidelines when evaluating or drafting ordinances.

Further Discussion – Handling of Stray Animals:

Council Member Darren also raised concerns regarding how stray cats and dogs are handled within the city, particularly when the animals are not registered. According to the ordinance, if an animal is found and no registration is on file with the city, it may be taken to a local farm or the nearest veterinarian.

Section 11 of the ordinance outlines the impoundment process, including fees and recordkeeping. However, if there is no record of ownership or registration, the animal may be taken directly to the nearest veterinary clinic. This highlights the importance of residents registering their pets with the city to ensure proper care and return if the animals become lost or stray. Clarification on Notification

Regarding Feral Cats:

Darren suggested that residents in the area should be notified if a feral cat is present or being removed. However, City Attorney Steve Hirsch clarified that there is no legal requirement to notify nearby residents in such cases. He stated that handling of feral or unregistered animals falls under the city's animal control procedures, and no public notice is needed for individual incidents.

There was a question regarding Section 7 of the Clean-Up Ordinance, which states that the public officer shall inspect the property and determine whether a violation exists. Steve Hirsch clarified that, according to the ordinance and legal guidance, the city council has full authority to make the determination of a violation and to proceed with issuing an order of violation. The public officer's role is to assist with documentation and follow-up, but the final decision rests with the council. Wade has been helping Herby with his wood pile and will continue before the next meeting.

Seth and Gary compiled a list of violations on properties with pictures for council to review. Letters will be addressed and sent out.

Community storm shelters were discussed. The Fair board requested a liquor license for July 14 to the 17th. For the fair. Darren made the motion, 2nd by Ken and motion carried.

Dexter Herl requested to use the concessions stand to sell his fireworks from June 29 to July 5. Ron made the motion, 2nd by Ken and motion carried with the \$50.00 per day fee.

The Consumer Confidence Report was discussed and will be posted soon. Carol will work on the budget for the next year.

Treasurer's Report: Carol presented the treasurer's report. There are 4 past dues with one that just has the court cost to pay. One has arranged to pay every 2 weeks to get current. Gary made the motion to waive the fees until it is current, 2nd by Ron and motion carried to accept the treasurer's report and motion carried.

Bills were read: Bills were presented by Carol with approval to pay the bills. Gary made the motion to pay the bills presented, 2nd by Ron and motion carried.

Old Business: None

New Business: Discussion on Temporary Relocation Due to Tornado Damage:

The council discussed the possibility of residents from Grinnell temporarily relocating to Grainfield due to the recent tornado damage. It was agreed that if anyone needs to relocate for a short time while they make more permanent arrangements, the city will waive the water and sewer hookup fees to assist those affected during this time of need.

The next meeting will be on July 14th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Ken made the motion to adjourn the meeting 2nd by Ron and motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by Carol Weber, City Treasurer