

CITY OF GRANT
MINUTES

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DATE : : August 5, 2025
TIME STARTED : 6:30 p.m.
TIME ENDED : 8:02 p.m.
MEMBERS PRESENT : Councilmember Rog, Cornett,
Cremona, Anderson and Mayor Giefer
MEMBERS ABSENT : None

Staff members present: City Attorney, Amanda Johnson; City Engineer, Brad Reifsteck; City Treasurer, Sharon Schwarze; and Administrator/Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Ryan Nagel, 9730 103rd St. N., came forward and stated several complaints have been filed on a property within the City. Residents do not feel heard and he is asking the Council to review the complaint process that is currently in place. He thanked the Council for their time and service.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SETTING THE AGENDA

Council Member Cremona moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Council Member Cornett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

July 2025 Bill List, \$114,354.52	Approved
June 3, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes	Approved
Kline Bros., Road Maintenance, \$27,205.00	Approved
Washington County Sheriff’s Department – Jan-June Services, \$95,535.89	Approved
Northern Salt, Dust Control, \$22,308.00	Approved
ARC Paving, Potholing, \$15,600.21	Approved

1 City of Grant/Stillwater Traffic Control Agreement

Approved

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3 **Council Member Cornett moved to approve the consent agenda, as presented. Council**
4 **Member Cremona seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

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6 **STAFF AGENDA ITEMS**

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8 **City Engineer, Brad Reifsteck**

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10 **Consideration of Trail Study** – City Engineer Reifsteck a new trail is proposed along the south side
11 of CSAH 12 between Inwood Way N and the newly constructed signal and crosswalk at the
12 intersection of CSAH 12 and the Mahtomedi School entrance. Washington County has been awarded
13 \$555,500 in funding through the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant for a trail along CSAH 12.

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 - Eligible Costs for funding include Construction Costs only (\$555,500)
 - Non-Eligible costs include Engineering and Construction Admin cost estimated at \$183,315 – 50/50 Cost Share between City and County.
 - Funds will expire between June 20, 2027, and December 31, 2027, Accordingly, projects should be ready for construction in 2026.

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22 County staff have acknowledged the City of Grant’s limited resources available for the proposed trail
23 project. In an effort to move the project forward while managing costs, the County has offered to
24 complete the engineering design in phases. This approach will help both parties better understand and
25 manage overall project expenses.

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27 As a first step, the County will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for engineering consultants to
28 complete a 30% preliminary design. A representative from the City of Grant will be involved in the
29 design meetings to ensure the City’s interests are represented throughout the process.
30 The estimated cost for preliminary engineering is \$50,000. The County is requesting that the City
31 contribute 50% of this amount, or \$25,000. The City has allocated budget for projects in partnership
32 with the County.

33
34 Staff would like to inform Council of potential external funding opportunities that may support this
35 project and other future City projects, particularly related to trails and active transportation
36 infrastructure.

37
38 The Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) program, administered locally by the
39 Washington County Public Health and Environment (PHE) Department, provides grant funding that
40 may align with the City’s goals.

41 Key details about the SHIP grant program include:

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 - **Administration:** Grants are managed by the Washington County Public Health and Environment Department.
 - **Annual Cycle:** The grant application cycle opens on **November 1st** and closes on **October 31st** of the following year. Projects are typically awarded by **January 1**.
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- 1 • **Eligible Activities:** Funding may be used for **feasibility studies** and **preliminary**
2 **engineering**, making it a potential resource for early-phase planning of trail and active
3 transportation projects.
- 4 • **Funding Levels:** Award amounts vary annually based on state allocations and the number of
5 applicants.

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7 **Council Member Cremona moved to approve \$25,000 for preliminary trail design, and apply**
8 **for any appropriate grants, as presented. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion.**
9 **Motion carried unanimously.**

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11 **City Planner, Jennifer Haskamp (no action items)**

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13 **City Attorney, Amanda Johnson**

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15 **Consideration of Ordinance No. 2025-84, Administrative Fees** – City Attorney Johnson advised
16 Code enforcement is a necessity for all municipalities. Grant, like most cities, utilizes a complaint-
17 based code enforcement system. When City Staff receive a complaint alleging a code violation, they
18 investigate to determine if a violation exists. If there is a code violation, a compliance letter, or some
19 type of notice, is sent or communicated to the property owner, informing the owner that they are in
20 violation of City Code and identifying the specific Code violation. Often this is enough to obtain
21 compliance.

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23 Sometimes it requires multiple interactions between City Staff and the property owner to gain
24 compliance. Occasionally, a property owner refuses to remove the Code violation. In these cases, the
25 City has the authority to sue the property owner for Code compliance.

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27 Recently, the City was involved in a code enforcement matter that almost required legal action. As a
28 part of that situation, the City Code was examined to see if there was an ordinance authorizing us to
29 assess legal/administrative costs against the property, in the event that we successfully sue a property
30 owner for code compliance. Currently, the City does not have such a code provision.

31
32 For the Council's consideration is a proposed ordinance that grants the City the following authority:

- 33
34 • Authorizes the City to take any and all administrative, civil and criminal actions necessary to
35 obtain compliance with City Code.
- 36 • Authorizes the City to enter the affected property to abate code violations, pursuant to
37 additional terms of a court order.
- 38 • Provides 60 days for property owner to appeal a court order (this is already required under
39 state law, but by including it in the ordinance it helps City Staff to remember to wait 60
40 days before conducting any abatement activities). There is an exception for emergency
41 situations.
- 42 • Provides prevailing party with reasonable attorney's fee and costs. In addition, if the City
43 prevails, it allows us to recover all actual fees, legal fees, court costs, and abatement costs.
- 44 • Defines the process to access the code enforcement costs including requiring a bill to be
45 mailed to the property owner. If the bill is not paid within 30 days, the unpaid amounts may
46 be assessed against the property and certified to the taxes the following calendar year.

1 It was the consensus of the Council to remove the words “rare and extreme.”

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3 **Council Member Rog moved to approve Ordinance No. 2025-84, as amended. Council Member**
4 **Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

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6 **Consideration of Resolution No. 2025-11, Summary Publication of Ordinance No. 2025-84 –**
7 **Staff advised Resolution No. 2025-11 authorizes a summary publication of Ordinance No. 2025-84.**

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9 **Council Member Rog moved to adopt Resolution No. 2025-11, as presented. Council Member**
10 **Cornett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

11 **NEW BUSINESS**

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13 **Accept 2024 Audit –** Staff advised the 2024 Audit was distributed via email and should formally be
14 **accepted by the City Council.**

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16 **Council Member Cornett moved to accept the 2024 Audit, as presented. Council Member**
17 **Cremona seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

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19 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

20 **DISCUSSION ITEMS (no action taken)**

21 **Staff Updates (updates from Staff, no action taken)**

22 **City Council Reports/Future Agenda Items**

23 The City Council agreed Construction of McKusick Avenue will be on the next meeting agenda.

24 **COMMUNITY CALENDAR AUGUST 6 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2025:**

25 **Mahtomedi Public Schools Board Meeting, Thursday, 14th and May 28th, Mahtomedi District**
26 **Education Center, 7:00 p.m.**

27 **Stillwater Public Schools Board Meeting, Thursday, August 14th, Stillwater City Hall, 7:00 p.m.**

28 **Washington County Commissioners Meeting, Tuesdays, Government Center, 9:00 a.m.**

29 **CLOSED SESSION**

30 **Council will hold a closed session pursuant to Minn. Stat. Sec. 13D.05, subd. 3(b) for the**
31 **purposes of attorney-client privileged communications to discuss pending litigation *Hillukka v.***
32 ***Grant*, Court File No. 82-CV-25-3834. The Council will not come back into open session after**
33 **the closed session expect to adjourn the meeting.**

34 Council Member Rog excused himself from the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

35 **Council Member Anderson moved to go into closed session at 7:37 p.m., per State Statute.**
36 **Council Member Cremona seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

37 **Mayor Giefer moved to end the closed session at 8:01 p.m. and go back into open session.**
38 **Council Member Cornett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

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ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Cornett moved to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. Council Member Cremona seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

These minutes were considered and approved at the regular Council Meeting on September 2, 2025.

Kim Points, Administrator/Clerk

Jeff Giefer, Mayor

