

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan 1-** New Year's Day/ City Hall Closed  
**Jan 2-** Library Board Meeting- **2 PM, Pioneer Heritage Library**  
**Jan 9-** EMS Meeting- **7 PM, Le Grand Fire Station**  
**Jan 14-** Regular City Council Meeting- **7 PM, Monet Center**  
**Jan 16-** Fire Department Meeting- **7 PM, Le Grand Fire Station**  
**Feb 5-** Library Board Meeting- **2 PM, Pioneer Heritage Library**  
**Feb 11-** Regular City Council Meeting- **7 PM, Monet Center**  
**Feb 14-** Valentine's Day  
**Feb 17-** President's Day/ City Hall Closed  
**Feb 20-** Fire Department Meeting- **7 PM, Le Grand Fire Station**

## NEWS FROM CITY HALL

Well, it's the snowy season! Here is a reminder of the city's snow ordinance: 69.12 SNOW REMOVAL. No person shall park, abandon or leave unattended any vehicle on any public street, alley, or City-owned off-street parking area during snow removal operations unless the snow has been removed or plowed from said street, alley or parking area and the snow has ceased to fall. 69.13 SNOW EMERGENCY. A snow emergency parking ban shall continue from its proclamation throughout the duration of the snow or ice storm and the 48-hour period after cessation of such storm except as above provided upon streets which have been fully opened.

The Fire Station addition project has made even more progress. They are done with the sheetrock and painting, as well as having all electrical and HVAC done and inspected. The current steps being completed is trim and flooring.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2024 Parks & Rec Christmas Lighting Contest! First place went to Todd & Lori Egleston, second to Matt and Kristi Ihde, and third to Mike and Sue Lewis. Thank you to everyone who voted!

Le Grand Parks & Rec and Celebrate Le Grand would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined them for the annual Christmas Extravaganza, as well as Dollar General and the Le Grand Fire Department for their generous donation of toys! They would also like to thank Breanna Sawyer for taking the fantastic pictures of the kids with Santa!

Here is an update on the Water Main Distribution project. The CDBG process has been completed and the City is moving forward with the process, taking the necessary steps to put the project out to bid in January, with bids being opened in February.

Le Grand Parks & Rec and Celebrate Le Grand are doing great in their fundraising efforts for the new city park playground. They recently received \$24,000.00 from the Marshall County Board of Supervisors and have submitted grant applications from other funding sources. With the private donations, what the Board of Supervisors allocated to them, and what has been promised by the City, they are at 80% of the funding raised for the project!

Please note that City Hall will have new hours, beginning the week of January 1, 2026! City Hall hours are as follows: Monday 7-4:30, Tuesday 7-4:30, Wednesday 7-12, Thursday 7-4:30, Friday 8-12. If you have any questions, please reach out to City Hall at 641-479-2464.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY

Tired of being stuck at home? Join us at the Pioneer Heritage Library every Monday at 10 AM for Coffee and Conversation!

A warm cinnamon roll is an amazing thing. Learn how to make one at the Cinnamon Roll Demonstration and Sampling January 15 at 11 AM in the Community Center. Registration is required, as space is limited. Register by contact the library during open hours.

The January Library Board meeting is January 2 at 2 PM, instead of January 1 due to New Year's.

## NOVEMBER 20, 2024 JOINT COUNCIL & TOWNSHIP MEETING

The Le Grand City Council and Le Grand Township Trustees met in special session at 5:30 PM at the Monet Center with Mayor Jodi L Abrahams presiding. Before roll call, Mayor Abrahams announced that since no Citizen's Forum is listed on the agenda, citizens are allowed to speak throughout the meeting after receiving Mayor acknowledgement. Roll Call: Don Weitzell, Judy Cecak, Todd Parrish, Lou Ann Cooling, Troy Underhill. Township Roll Call: Chuck Grove, Carl Rasmussen, Rhonda Hendricks, Township Clerk. Attending via phone: Rob Schrader. Also Attending: Kylee Stone, City Clerk/Treasurer, Brad Mauseth, Fire Chief, Spencer Wolf, EMS Director. 5 citizens attending.

J Cecak motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by L Cooling. Roll Call: Cecak-Y, Weitzell-Y, Parrish-Y, Underhill-Y, Cooling-Y. 5-0. Carried. City Clerk K Stone opened the discussion on Volunteer Pay, Capital Reserve Funds, Savings Accounts, etc. K Stone stated that at November 12, 2024, Le Grand City Council passed Resolution 64-2024, outlining the Township portion of the unused budget to Capital Reserve: Emergency Services Equipment. K Stone stated that the Township portion that was transferred to Capital Reserve was \$13,134.22. K Stone stated that per Resolution 68-2024, the volunteers would be paid through payroll, taxes will be taken out, and will be paid for calls & training for those who attend at least 50% of

## City Hall Hours

**Monday 7:00- 4:30**  
**Tuesday 7:00- 4:30**  
**Wednesday 7:00- 12:00**  
**Thursday 7:00- 4:30**  
**Friday 8:00 -12:00**  
**Phone # 641-479-2464**

## LIBRARY HOURS:

**SUNDAY 2:00-6:00**  
**MONDAY 10:00-3:30**  
**TUESDAY 1:00-6:30**  
**WEDNESDAY 10:00-3:30**  
**THURSDAY 12:00-5:30**  
**FRIDAY CLOSED**  
**SATURDAY CLOSED**

**PHONE # 641-479-2122**

them. K Stone stated that the Resolution states how pay will be processed and that payroll will occur yearly, in June. K Stone requested the Fire Chief and EMS Director to supply reports monthly or bi-yearly potentially. B Weitzell asked for clarification of when the pay window will be. Clerk K Stone stated that June to May will be the pay window. K Stone stated she is still waiting on information on IPERS. K Stone stated that she believes that with the Capital Reserve Fund, the Fire and EMS Savings accounts are not necessary. B Weitzell stated that potentially Fire and EMS may have to be separated due to a specific tax for EMS to be assessed on property taxes that may eventually pass. Chief B Mauseth discussed the Fire Department's 5, 10 & 20- Year Plan. B Mauseth stated that the current plan is for a second tanker and the 5-year plan includes a thermal camera, SCBA compressor, gear washer, and PPV Fan. B Mauseth stated that the 10-year plan includes a new engine and SCBA packs/tanks, and that the 20-year plan includes replacing tanker 1, as well as purchasing new rescue tools and jaws. He stated that the department would be possibly pursuing grants and fundraising to replace or fund some of the items listed in the plan. B Weitzell stated that the plan is based on if the equipment or need is \$5,000.00 or more.

B Mauseth opened the discussion regarding the purchase of a new fire truck. B Mauseth stated that he and T Parrish talked to the Gilman Fire Chief about their tanker. B Mauseth stated that the Gilman department financed the truck for possibly 17 years at a price of approximately \$340,000.00. B Mauseth stated that he spoke to the manufacturer of the Gilman truck, Simon, as well as other manufacturers and that Simon was cheaper by \$50,000-100,000.00. B Mauseth stated that he and T Parrish visited the facility where trucks were manufactured. B Mauseth stated that the apparatus has a lifetime warranty and the chassis would be a standard manufacturer warranty. B Mauseth stated that they compared an International and Freightliner chassis and the International was cheaper with the total quote being \$300,000.00 B Mauseth stated that he spoke to the financing company to get quotes for financing with different down payment amounts to get a range for payments. B Mauseth stated he does not see a way for the department to buy a truck without financing and that the warranty is a huge benefit. B Mauseth explained that the truck that is being considered is a pumper/tanker truck, so it will be able to be used for multiple purposes. L Cooling questioned if the quotes were for purchasing or leasing. J Abrahams stated that the quotes are for purchase only and that manufacturing takes at least year. J Abrahams questioned that with the manufacturing time, what would the financial obligation be for that time frame. B Mauseth stated that the manufacturer wants the chassis paid for up front and through the financing company. K Stone inquired on the price of a chassis. B Mauseth stated that the price depends on the manufacturer, with the International chassis costing approximately \$114,900.00 and a Freightliner is \$122,000.00. J Abrahams questioned if the manufacturer needs a financial security or down payment. B Mauseth stated that the manufacturer requires a down payment, and the finance company will make sure the manufacturer is satisfied enough to begin production if they decide to finance. B Mauseth stated that the finance company is willing to work with the department on what works for them for financing. T Parrish stated that it sounded like the company is flexible with the department and municipality on what works for them for making the payment. B Mauseth stated that two possible payment times would be August or June, so the clerk can have time to get everything shifted for fiscal year. C Rasmussen stated that per the plan, the department would possibly get this truck and another new one in ten years. B Mauseth stated that the plan states that in ten years, the department would like to replace the engine. T Parrish stated that the new pumper/tanker would be paid off by then, and the loan can be paid off as quickly as the city or township would like. L Cooling questioned the age of the current pumper. B Weitzell stated that the current pumper is 22 years old. C Grove/Rasmussen questioned the ages of the current fire department vehicles. B Weitzell stated that Tanker One is 2005, the Tahoe is 2007, the Ford Grass Rig is 2005 and the engine is 2002. D Weitzell stated that the engine was purchased new and the Assistance to Firefighters grant paid for \$135,000.00 of the truck. B Weitzell stated that he has spoken to the person who wrote the grants for the engine, SCBA packs and jaws. The individual stated that the problem with truck grants currently through the Assistance to Firefighters Grants is that there is only \$60,000,000.00 allocated for apparatus purchases and with the higher prices of trucks, there is a fewer number of trucks being able to be purchased and most grants are for equipment that the average age is 40 years old or older. C Rasmussen questioned if the current pumper will be sold. B Mauseth stated that the current pumper will be still be in service. C Rasmussen stated that if the truck is fixed, it would be another \$100,000.00. B Weitzell stated that the pumper will be 33 years old in ten years, so they are trying to extend the lifetime of the truck and they are trying to spread out the need for equipment. C Rasmussen questioned if all chassis are automatic. B Mauseth stated that all trucks viewed are automatic. L Cooling asked for clarification if there are enough funds for a down payment. D Weitzell stated that the current Capital Fund does not, but it could be budgeted for. J Cecak questioned what fundraising the Fire Department is doing for the truck. T Parrish stated that the Fire Department fundraises every year. R Hendricks stated that she believes that the department should have potentially used funds that were used for the Fire Station Addition on a new truck instead. T Underhill stated he has heard several comments with the same sentiment R Hendricks has. B Mauseth stated that several vehicles and apparatus were purchased with fundraised money. B Weitzell stated that he believes that the department is proving their due diligence by applying for grants and fundraising to purchase gear and equipment and that there have been under \$100,000 in major purchases made by the township and city council in the last 20 years. R Hendricks stated that she believes fundraising is for important items. B Weitzell stated that the addition is important because it provides room for another truck and a better space for training. J Cecak stated that she had heard concerns on the thickness of concrete in the station. D Weitzell stated that the addition was needed due to need for space and storage for gear to avoid contamination. J Abrahams questioned what the fire department's timeline for this purchase would be. B Mauseth stated that the department was not wanting an answer that evening, but the price of the truck would likely increase the longer the wait. J Abrahams stated that some of the critical decisions to make would be if there would be a majority agreement to purchase, how the down payment would be handled, how long financing would be for, and consider how the payment affects the annual budget. T Underhill questioned who sets the payment and terms of the loan. B Mauseth stated that the finance company would be flexible on options for the city or department on payments and pay schedule and that the representative he spoke to was open to a possible phone conference. T Parrish questioned if the department has used Simon before for a truck. B Mauseth stated that they have. J Abrahams stated that the council and township should take documents home and review and discuss. J Abrahams stated that it is nice to see a shorter-term loan option is nice, providing the revenue is available to make the payment. C Rasmussen questioned how much the city has to put towards a purchase. J Abrahams stated that the city could pull from General Fund Reserve or Local Option Sales Tax. J Cecak stated that possibly sending a mailing stating that the department is fundraising for a truck is an option as well. B Weitzell stated he would like to have an open dialogue of what the department needs and what the city believes the department needs, the department would be able to fundraise for those as well. T Parrish stated that some of the biggest donors at the fundraisers are citizens who live outside of Le Grand Township. T Parrish stated that an option for the department is to pause on the addition and put some fundraising money towards payments on the truck. J Abrahams stated that the city has funds to allocate to this and that the payment would be made. R Hendricks clarified the question, asking if the city has the funding to buy the truck outright. J Abrahams stated it was something that would have to be discussed. L Cooling questioned if a SRF loan would be able to pay for a truck. J Abrahams stated that it would not be able to. C Rasmussen stated that the down payment isn't the issue,

it's how much the township and city have to accumulate in the first two years to make the truck purchase. Mayor J Abrahams and R Hendricks spoke regarding the finances of the city and township in regards to purchasing the truck without financing. T Parrish stated the possibility of saving money by not having to pay interest if the truck is bought in full. T Underhill questioned what purchasing the truck in full would do to the township savings. R Hendricks stated that the township savings would be depleted. J Abrahams stated that the city would be the one signing the paperwork. J Abrahams stated that the township should look over what has been supplied and let the city know when they are ready to make a decision. Item tabled to a later meeting.

Clerk K Stone opened the discussion reviewing the city and township agreement. The agreement that was presented is the same as the previous one with minor changes. The changes are adding lines in section 6 stating that leftover city budgeted funds will go back to the general fund and section 9 stating that leftover township budgeted funds will go to the Capital Reserve Emergency Services Equipment fund. R Hendricks questioned why the city budgeted funds go back to the general fund and the township go into the Emergency Services Equipment fund. K Stone stated that the city was informed that once township funds have been given to the city for a specific department, it must go towards that specific department. K Stone stated that the date in section 19 was incorrect, and that it was corrected. Council requested that the clerk send the map that was attached to the previous agreement. R Hendricks questioned what maintenance has been done to current fire truck. B Mauseth stated the current tanker has been taken to Z Line. The fuel pump and accelerator pedal have been replaced, but that did not fix the problem. B Mauseth stated that the best option will be to get the truck to the International dealership. R Schrader questioned where the truck would be taken next and if Hogeland Bus Company in Marshalltown had been contacted. B Mauseth stated that O'Halloran Internation in Altoona is where the truck should be taken and that he has not talked to Hogeland. R Schrader that Hogeland Bus would work on any International issues that Alliant Energy had while he was employed there. B Mauseth questioned if they were dependable. R Schrader stated that Alliant was satisfied with the work they had done. L Cooling motioned to approve the Agreement and Contract for Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services between the City of Le Grand, Iowa and Le Grand Township of Marshall County, Iowa. Seconded by T Underhill. Roll Call: Underhill-Y, Cooling-Y, Weitzell-Y, Parrish-Y, Cecak-Y. 5-0. Carried. Clerk K Stone led the discussion regarding FY26 Budget Discussion. K Stone stated that the city has to decide how much funding to budget to the Capital Reserve: Emergency Services Equipment. K Stone stated that if the city is contributing to the truck, it has to be in the Fire budget, and transferred to Capital Reserve when FY26 starts. L Cooling questioned if the funding is included in the budget that was approved or if the budget needs to be approved again for a different amount. T Underhill stated that if the truck purchase would be approved, the city would have to consider if the funds would be available for that purpose. J Cecak questioned if the funds are strictly city or if the amount in the fund will be township as well. K Stone stated that if anything is added to the budget amount, it would be city, but if the amount is not added to the budget, it would be split between township and city. K Stone stated that there will be proof of what the city and the township are inputting into the fund. J Abrahams questioned the council if they want to add to the budget. T Underhill stated that he would prefer if the decision was tabled until more information was reviewed. Citizen B Mauseth questioned if the city would be a year behind if the city matches what the township contributes. Item tabled to a later meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted, KyLee Stone City Clerk/Treasurer. Minutes published prior to approval.

## NOVEMBER 21, 2024 BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEETING

The Board of Adjustment of the City of Le Grand, Iowa met on November 21, 2024 at the property of 206 W Fremont. Interim Chairperson Mick Bryant called the meeting to order at 4:28 PM. Committee members attending the meeting: Mick Bryant, Steven Clay, Linda Weitzell, Shawn Hoskins. Absent: Chris Kadner. Also attending: Mayor Jodi L Abrahams, Deputy Clerk Nicole Paustian. 1 member of the public attending.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider a variance for the property owner at 206 W Fremont St, Le Grand, Iowa. The property owner is requesting a 25' front and side setback instead of the 30' setback required by the Zoning Ordinance. Discussions took place regarding the placement and setback of the house compared to the neighbors. M Bryant stated that there is plenty of room between the house and street. S Clay questioned the dimensions of the house. S Hoskins motioned to approve the requested variance of a 25' front and side setback. Seconded by S Clay. Roll Call: Bryant-Y, Clay-Y, Weitzell-Y, Hoskins-Y. 4-0. Passed. M Bryant motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by S Clay. Roll Call: Bryant-Y, Clay-Y, Weitzell-Y, Hoskins-Y. 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:37 PM. Respectfully submitted, Nicole Paustian, Deputy City Clerk. Minutes published prior to approval.

## DECEMBER 10, 2024 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Le Grand City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Monet Center with Mayor, Jodi L Abrahams, presiding. Public Attendance: 9 citizens.

Roll Call: Jodi L Abrahams, Judy Cecak, Todd Parrish, Lou Ann Cooling, Troy Underhill, Don Weitzell. Also attending: City Clerk/Treasurer- KyLee Stone, Public Works- Rod Fehrmann, Fire Chief- Brad Mauseth, Library Director- Stacia Foster.

Approval of Agenda: T Parrish motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by T Underhill. Roll Call: Cecak- Y, Underhill- Y, Parrish-Y, Cooling-Y, Weitzell-Y. 5-0. Carried.

Consent Agenda: J Cecak motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by L Cooling. Roll Call: Underhill-Y, Parrish-Y, Cooling-Y, Weitzell-Y, Cecak-Y. 5-0. Carried. A. November 12, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes. B. November 20, 2024 Joint Meeting Minutes. C. November 2024 Financial Reports. D. December 2024 Claims for Payment. E. Tax Abatement Applications: 304 N Webster, 207 N Jeffrey. Citizen's Forum: no citizen comments.

Committee Reports: Marshall Co Sheriff's Office: Deputy Paige read the November 2024 Sheriff's Report. 57 documented business checks, 89 miscellaneous patrol sessions, 3 park checks, 9 school checks, 6 school traffic checks, 2 traffic stops. 10 calls for service. T Underhill questioned if go carts are legal to drive on city street and what the legal age is to operate one. Deputy Paige stated he does not believe the go carts are legal to drive and that to drive a golf cart or ATV, the person has to have a driver's license. Deputy Paige questioned where the go cart has been driving. T Underhill and J Abrahams stated that it is all over town. J Abrahams stated she had a video of said go cart. Deputy Paige stated that he would like the video sent to him.

Water/Wastewater: Public Works R Fehrmann gave the report. Iowa DNR will be inspecting December 13, 2024 for the permit.

RUT: Public Works R Fehrmann gave the report. Apprentice survived the first snow fall and he did well for his first time alone.

Library: Library Director S Foster gave the report. November door count was 803. 565 physical and 233 e Book checkouts for this fiscal year. 12 events open to the public for month of November. Final reports for pantry grant are due end of December, so final invoice for pantry supplies is included in December claims. Additional donations for the pantry were received in November and the pantry is used every day.

Parks & Rec: Parks & Rec President B Parrish gave the report. Christmas Extravaganza will be happening December 20. Fliers posted around town and sent home with elementary students from East Marshall and GMG schools. Christmas Lighting Contest currently occurring. Voting closes December 20, so signs for winners can be placed in yard prior to Christmas.

Fire/EMS: Chief B Mauseth gave the Fire report. 3 calls in November for fire. The pumper is at Hogeland Bus for fuel pressure issue. Hogeland is doing testing and looking into other issues. Sheetrock and painting are done in the addition. Trim and flooring are the next things to be done. Electrical and HVAC are done and have passed inspection. Dollar General donated toys to the Fire Department, who then gave them to Parks & Rec for the Christmas Extravaganza. D Weitzell gave the EMS report. 7 calls in November for EMS. Lightbar on Tahoe is completed.

Clerk: Clerk K Stone gave the clerk report. Clerk did a website demo with Municipal Impact. Attorney is currently looking at current website agreement to see if it can be broken without penalty. BDH Technologies is currently putting together a quote. Attorney believes that Alliant Black Fiber would be a good idea, but cannot speak much on the issue due to conflict of interest. Attorney will be attending January 14, 2025 meeting and is currently working on the Dollar General issue. IPAIT gained \$3,119.00 in the past month, bringing current total for interest amount to \$14,104.00. L Wilson, CGA Project Manager, gave the update for the 2023 Water Distribution System Improvement Project. CDBG has been completed. Next step for the project is to set a public hearing for approval of plans and acceptance of bids for the February meeting. Project will be opened to bidding in January. Since the project is CDBG funded, any material on the project must be Buy America, Build America compliant. CGA is working with Dorsey and Whitney to set any legal proceedings for the project. Julie with Region Six is the current contact for the project due to extended absence of Marty Wymore.

Resolution 70-2024: A Resolution to Provide a Notice of Hearing on Proposed Plans, Specifications, Forms of Contract and Estimate of Cost for the Water Distribution System Improvement Project, and the Taking of Bids therefor. T Underhill motioned to approve Resolution 70-2024. Seconded by T Parrish. Roll Call: Weitzell-Y, Underhill-Y, Parrish-Y, Cecak-Y, Cooling-Y. 5-0. Carried.

Resolution 71-2024: A Resolution Approving Acceptance of Engineering Invoice # 502472 in the amount of \$1,026.25 for the 23-WD-53 Le Grand Water Main System Improvements Project by Clapsaddle-Garber Associate (CGA) of Marshalltown, Iowa for the City of Le Grand, Iowa. L Cooling motioned to approve Resolution 71-2024. Seconded by J Cecak. Roll Call: Cooling-Y, Parrish-Y, Underhill-Y, Weitzell-Y, Cecak-Y. 5-0. Carried.

Resolution 72-2024: A Resolution Approving a Contract with TRUGREEN Commercial for the 2026 Lawn Services for the Le Grand Parks & Rec Department. T Parrish motioned to approve Resolution 72-2024. Seconded by D Weitzell. Roll Call: Cecak-Y, Weitzell-Y, Cooling-Y, Underhill-Y, Parrish-Y. 5-0. Carried.

L Wilson and B Parrish gave an update on funding for the Parks & Rec Playground Improvement project. The Marshall County Board of Supervisors pledged \$24,000.00 for the county match needed for the IEDA Grant. There have been approximately \$6,000.00 in private donations. With all funding combined, the project is at 81% total funding. One grant letter of intent was considered as the grant application for Assistance League of Marshalltown, for approximately \$5,000.00. The Community Foundation of Marshall County grant is due in January. The grant to be approved is the Iowa Economic Development Community Attraction and Tourism Grant. The project has a lot of positive feedback. The grant is for \$48,000.00. One stipulation of the grant is 65% of funding needs to be raised prior to grant application, and with 81% raised, it puts the grant towards the top. The award of this grant should be known by end of January and would complete funding needed for the project. D Weitzell questioned the timeline listed on the grant. L Wilson stated that the timeline is just for the grant application. They cannot start work until the grant has been awarded, otherwise it disqualifies the grant.

Resolution 73-2024: A Resolution Authorizing the Le Grand Parks & Recreation Department to submit the Iowa Economic Community Attraction and Tourism Grant Application. L Cooling Motioned to approve Resolution 73-2024. Seconded by J Cecak. Roll Call: Underhill-Y, Weitzell-Y, Cecak-Y, Parrish-Y, Cooling-Y. 5-0. Carried.

Guest speaker L Weitzell entered the meeting late and gave the Marshall County Solid Waste Commission Report. The Commission has added solar panels to reduce electric costs. The old scale house has been redone and there has been a new scale house built, allowing for board meetings to occur at the landfill. The landfill has added recycling bins for customers to use for a small fee. Commission is trying to keep equipment upgraded and in good condition. L Weitzell stated her appointment to the commission is up November 2025, but would be willing to serve again. J Abrahams questioned on if the Commission has been working on cleaning up the pond. L Weitzell stated that the pond is a memorial, but the family is working on a plan for that. L Weitzell stated that the Executive board meets 10 times a year and the full commission meets twice a year. Mayor directed clerk to put appointment to the commission on a later agenda to approve.

Resolution 74-2024: A Resolution Naming Depositories. Clerk K Stone informed the council that IPAIT was added as a Depository and a max balance was established. T Parrish motioned to approve Resolution 74-2024. Seconded by L Cooling. Roll Call: Cooling-Y, Parrish-Y, Cecak-Y, Underhill-Y, Weitzell-Y. 5-0. Carried.

Discussion took place regarding sewer forgiveness for 605 W Main Street. D Weitzell stated that everything was explained clearly in the paperwork supplied for the council to review. D Weitzell motioned to award sewer forgiveness in the amount of \$1,203.63. Seconded by L Cooling. Roll Call: Underhill-Y, Parrish-Y, Weitzell-Y, Cooling-Y, Cecak-Y. 5-0. Carried.

Clerk K Stone led the discussion regarding Utility Billing Deposits. K Stone stated that the current deposit no longer covers a minimum bill. Clerk and Deputy Clerk did research on what other cities currently charge for deposits and discussed with the mayor. Current deposit is \$85.00, broken down into \$35.00 each for water and sewer and a \$15.00 non-refundable fee. City Hall staff recommend raising the deposit to \$175.00. Clerk stated the minimum bill is \$74.38 and the new deposit will increase to \$75.00 each for water and sewer with a \$25.00 non-refundable fee. J Abrahams and T Underhill questioned what an average bill is. Deputy Clerk N Paustian stated that average bill is usually \$100.00 to \$120.00. N Paustian stated that the reason for the increase is if someone leaves town without informing the city, there is enough in the deposit to cover two months. J Abrahams stated that this change will not affect any current customers. T Underhill stated that the other taxpayers would be stuck paying for the water on those properties that had left town without paying. L Cooling stated that she understands that covering two months is important and makes the jump better. J Abrahams stated that collection of utility payments is better than it had been previously. T Parrish stated that the jump is substantial. J Abrahams stated that the deposit not only covers the unpaid bill, but also any labor towards trying to collect that unpaid bill. L Cooling stated that

moving costs are already substantial. J Abrahams stated that Melbourne's deposit is at \$150.00. J Cecak stated that it also needs to be taken into consideration that if they are moving from another town or rental, they will have a deposit coming from that as well. T Underhill motioned to approve increasing Utility Billing deposit to \$175.00. Seconded by D Weitzell. Roll Call: Parrish-Y, Cecak-Y, Weitzell-Y, Cooling-Y, Underhill-Y. 5-0. Carried.

Clerk K Stone led the discussion regarding the gWorks Upgrade. K Stone stated that she believes that the city should continue to use gWorks., and that gWorks is the most user-friendly. The quote provided included ACH capabilities and all credit card transactions must be through gWorks. K Stone stated that the biggest concern is that online and credit card transaction fees are higher than that of i3 Vertical, the current company used. K Stone decision must be made by December 20, or there may be an implementation fee and that the beginning of the onboarding process will be in late May at earliest. L Cooling questioned if the cost on the quote of \$5,400 will be for 2026 as well. K Stone said that she is waiting to hear back from gWorks, but as the wording is understood, it will be the cost for 2026 as well. D Weitzell motioned to upgrade gWorks. Seconded by L Cooling. Roll Call: Weitzell-Y, Underhill-Y, Cooling-Y, Cecak-Y, Parrish-Y. 5-0. Carried.

Mayor J Abrahams led the discussion regarding Urban Revitalization and Property Tax Abatement. J Abrahams stated that there were some state changes that went in to effect July 1, 2023, but the city is behind. J Abrahams stated that it is believed the city plan can stay in place, but any new abatement has to pay the school portion of property taxes. J Abrahams stated that with the changes, the city is still trying to find out if the abatement can be 100% for three years or 100% of the first \$75,000.00 of valuations. J Abrahams stated that the reason she was made aware of this was the Marshall County Assessor reached out to her regarding the lack of action on the city's part. T Underhill stated that Le Grand is not the only city who is behind on this. T Underhill stated that the city needs to make any citizen building on a property that the abatement may not be correct and that what is currently happening. J Abrahams stated that if it does need to be 100% of the first \$75,000.00, the city may have to change the Urban Revitalization.

Mayor J Abrahams led the discussion regarding the minimum-Security Procedures and City Hall hours. J Abrahams stated that the security procedures were included in the previous month packet. J Abrahams stated that the reason for changing hours is to better help people with trade permits and to answer the phone. J Abrahams also stated that the clerk and deputy clerk are working on sharing information for where to go on the website to retrieve permits or forms needed. T Underhill asked for clarification on the hour printout for City Hall. The proposed City Hall hours are Monday 7-4:30, Tuesday 7-4:30, Wednesday 7-12, Thursday 7-4:30 and Friday 8-12. J Abrahams stated that Fridays are more for the phone and email. T Underhill stated that he is happy that City Hall will be open Fridays, but if the clerk or deputy clerk were to leave, the hours would need to be changed again. J Abrahams stated that the best way to resolve changing hours would be to remove the section from the employee handbook and just have them set by resolution. L Cooling questioned the minimum-Security Procedures. J Abrahams read the Security Procedures aloud. J Abrahams stated that these procedures have been in place since a Homeland Security, EMC Insurance and ISEP training in 2019, but have not been written down. T Parrish questioned if a security camera should be in the current motion or if that should be at a later time. K Stone questioned if the council would like prices for security cameras to be presented with the resolution at January 14, 2025 council meeting. J Abrahams stated that she would like that. N Paustian asked for clarification when new City Hall Hours would take effect. Council consensus was the first week of 2025. J Cecak motioned to approve the Minimum-Security Procedure and Updated City Hall Hours. Seconded by L Cooling. Roll Call: Cecak-Y, Underhill-Y, Weitzell-Y, Parrish-Y, Cooling-Y. 5-0. Carried.

Mayor J Abrahams led the discussion regarding Council Meeting start time. During recent Finance Committee meetings, it has been discussed starting the meetings at 6:00 PM rather than the current start time of 7:00 PM. All council members agreed that it would be beneficial to start earlier. L Cooling motioned to change the City Council Meeting start time from 7:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Seconded by T Underhill. Roll Call: Parrish-Y, Cooling-Y, Underhill-Y, Cecak-Y, Weitzell-Y. 5-0. Carried.

Clerk K Stone led the discussion on the FY26 Budget and Wages. K Stone stated that the budget worksheets presented to the council are for the General Fund to review. K Stone stated that the recommendation of the Finance Committee is for a wage increase of 3.5% to 4% with a possible stipend increase. K Stone stated that the wage increase sheet was presented to the council and Public Works Apprentice wages are based off the increases stated in the hiring resolution. K Stone stated that the council has worksheets with the old and new department percentages for splitting payroll from and that increases are broken out on the summary page. J Abrahams stated that the new percentages will help with General Fund, Water and RUT. K Stone stated that there is budgeted overtime of 100 hours for Public Works and 75 hours for Clerk and Public Works apprentice. T Underhill clarified that the discussion is on wages. T Underhill stated that he does not agree with even raises across the board. J Cecak stated that no one is saying the raises have to be even across the board. J Abrahams stated that there are 5 employees that council is to consider raises for: Public Works, Public Works apprentice, Clerk/ Treasurer, Deputy Clerk and Seasonal Mower. T Parrish stated that he thought the Seasonal Mower position was retired with the hiring of the Public Works apprentice. J Abrahams stated that the budgeted funds for Seasonal Mower can be moved. K Stone stated that the title can be changed to On-Call. T Parrish questioned the amount budgeted in Recreation Wages. K Stone stated that is for the LEAP Director and counselors. J Cecak stated that there can still be funds budgeted for Seasonal On Call to avoid having to amend the budget. T Underhill asked for clarification on starting dates for the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. T Parrish stated that he would rather see the raises go to cents per hour rather than percentages and he was concerned with the pay gap between the Clerk and Deputy Clerk and Public Works and Public Works apprentice. T Parrish stated that the apprenticeship was originally aimed more for a college or high school aged person, so the current pay may not be enough. T Parrish stated that he has considered \$0.30 to \$0.40 for the Clerk and Public Works, \$0.60 for Deputy Clerk and \$1.00 for Public Works apprentice. J Cecak stated that \$0.30 to \$0.40 is not even a 3% raise for the Clerk and Public Works. T Underhill stated that he believed the Public Works apprentice knew the situation when he got hired and he would prefer to follow the hiring resolution for that position. T Underhill stated he would like to give the Clerk and Public Works \$0.50 an hour increases and give the Deputy Clerk \$1.00 an hour increase. J Abrahams asked for clarification on the pay of the Public Works apprentice. K Stone read from the hiring resolution that at 90 days, he is to receive a \$0.50 increase and at July 1, 2025, he is to receive another \$0.50 increase. T Parrish asked for clarification of the length of employment of Public Works. R Fehrmann stated that he has been employed for 6 years. T Parrish stated if the Public Works apprentice only gets a \$0.50 a year increase, he would be below what the current Public Works is at when he reaches the 6-year mark. T Underhill stated that it is just assuming the Public Works only gets a \$0.50 increase. R Fehrmann stated that he also got a \$0.50 an hour increases for any certification he received. J Abrahams stated that the amount per certification is the point due to the amount of time needed for each certification. J Cecak stated that she believes that the Clerk and Public Works deserve more of an increase. J Abrahams asked for clarification on what current hourly wages are. J Cecak stated that a 3% increase for the Clerk would be \$0.72 and Public Works would be \$0.75. J Cecak stated that the cost of living has increased and these increases would not be enough to contend with the cost of living. T Parrish questioned that if the Clerk and Public Works were to get a 3% increase, what amount would be acceptable

for the Deputy Clerk? J Cecak stated that she agrees with T Underhill that raises should not be even across the board and that she feels the amount suggested for the Clerk and Public Works were not acceptable. T Parrish that those figures were just a starting point for discussion and that he agrees with T Underhill to close the gap between the Clerk and Deputy Clerk pay. J Cecak stated that she agrees with that statement. T Underhill stated that if the Clerk were to get a 3% increase, the Deputy Clerk would need an increase of 4.5% to get the same amount. T Underhill stated that he believes that the Deputy Clerk deserves more of a raise. L Cooling stated that she also agrees with the statement that across-the-board percentages are unfair. T Parrish stated that the reason he brought up closing the pay gap is because he believes that \$7.00 is a huge gap between the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. J Cecak stated that she agrees that the Deputy Clerk should get more of an increase to close the pay gap. T Parrish questioned what percentage everyone is thinking for the Deputy Clerk. L Cooling questioned if the amount has to be a percentage. T Underhill stated that a 7% increase would be \$1.19, which would be roughly \$0.40 more than what is proposed for the Clerk. L Cooling stated that with the amount of work done by all employees, the increases should be more, but tax dollars have to be considered. T Parrish stated that it has to be considered that the Clerk and Public Works are more toward the upper end of the pay bracket. T Underhill stated that the Clerk was started higher than the prior clerk. T Underhill stated that if increases keep going, the tax money will not be able to keep up. D Weitzell stated that his concern is retention. T Underhill stated that is a chance that is taken when hiring anyone. J Abrahams questioned if the council is at a point to decide. L Cooling stated that it will be simpler to go by cents rather than percentages. T Underhill stated that he believes 3% for the Clerk and Public Works and 7% for the Deputy Clerk. J Abrahams clarified that with those increases, Public Works would be at \$25.35 with a \$0.75 increase, Clerk would be at \$24.79 with a \$0.75 increase and Deputy Clerk would be at \$18.20 with a \$1.20 increase. R Fehrmann stated that the Public Works apprentice gets an insurance stipend and the Deputy Clerk does not. J Cecak questioned what the council thought of a \$1.00 increase for the Clerk and Public Works. T Parrish questioned what J Cecak would think for an increase for the Deputy Clerk. J Cecak stated that she believes that the Deputy Clerk should be \$1.20 increase. D Weitzell stated that then the pay gap would not be closed as much. T Underhill stated that the Deputy Clerk should possibly receive more than that. T Parrish stated that if the Clerk and Public Works get \$1.00 increase, the Deputy Clerk should be \$1.50. T Underhill stated that he believes the Finance committee should research what other clerks in smaller towns make. J Cecak questioned if the Personnel Committee had done the same research when the Clerk was hired. T Underhill stated that the council was aware that the Clerk was making a higher amount to begin with. J Cecak stated that the Clerk should not be punished for that and she would not work for a place with little to no increases because she was started at a higher wage. T Parrish stated that the city will eventually be at a point where the city will not be able to give an increase, and that it seems as if the city were racing towards that point. T Underhill stated that the clerk will also receive an increase when she is certified. J Cecak stated that the Clerk did not receive a raise the previous year. J Abrahams stated that if the council is not comfortable voting that the wages be tabled until January, but suggests that the Clerk budgets high for wages to continue work on the budget. K Stone stated that she understands that she may cap out, but she is not making more than other clerks. T Underhill stated that he has given an employee the option of a higher starting wage or raises every year for three years and the employee chose the higher start wage. T Underhill stated that he believes that the raise may be a big jump. J Abrahams stated that the council also needs to understand that in the future, there may have to be cuts in the budget somewhere else. T Parrish motioned to keep the Public Works apprentice increase in line with the hiring resolution, Public Works and Clerk will receive an increase of \$0.50 an hour, and Deputy Clerk will receive an increase of \$1.00 an hour. Seconded by T Underhill. Roll Call: Cecak-N, Weitzell-N, Cooling-N, Underhill-Y, Parrish-Y. 2-3. Motion failed.

Council Reports: T Parrish questioned if the Clerk and Township have talked regarding a meeting about the purchase of a fire truck. K Stone stated that she has not heard anything from the Township clerk about setting up a meeting. J Abrahams instructed the clerk to reach out and set a meeting soon, as to avoid the budget deadline.

Mayor Report: J Abrahams stated that in January, she will be changing and going over committee assignments.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted, KyLee Stone, Clerk/Treasurer. Minutes published prior to approval.

Claims:

DECEMBER 2024 CLAIMS REPORT			EFTPS	FED/FICA TAX	\$2,912.87
<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>REFERENCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	FIRE SERVICE TRAINING BUREAU	FIRE - TRAINING	\$150.00
ALEX AIR APPARATUS 2, LLC	FIRE - MINOR EQUIP	\$46.00	GWORCS	ANNUAL FEES - CLOUD INCLUDED	\$5,400.00
ALLIANT ENERGY/IPL	SEWER - LIFT STATION	\$267.93	HARDON'S	MONET CENTER - BUILDING REPAIR	\$183.75
ALLIANT ENERGY/IPL	MULTI-DEPT UTILITIES	\$2,219.34	HAWKEYE FIRE & SAFETY CO	GEN CAPITAL-INSPECTIONS	\$115.95
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	LIB/LIB GIFT - SUPPLIES	\$733.52	HAWKEYE TRUCK EQUIPMENT	SNOW - VEHICLE OP/MAINT	\$269.61
ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY, INC	MULTI DEPT SUPPLIES	\$554.82	IA DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	SEWER - NPDES PERMIT	\$85.00
B3 TECHNOLOGIES	LIBRARY GIFT - TECHNOLOGY	\$38.00	IOWA DEPT OF REVENUE	WATER - EXCISE TAX NOV.2024	\$881.32
BDH TECHNOLOGY	MULTI DEPT TECHNOLOGY	\$353.00	IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY	SEWER BOND INTEREST	\$13,480.00
CAPITAL ONE-WALMART	MULTI DEPT SUPPLIES	\$1,534.52	IOWA PUMP WORKS	SEWER - OTHER PROFESS SERVICES	\$1,032.65
COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC	PUBLICATIONS	\$445.77	IPERS	IPERS REGULAR	\$2,397.85
COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC	CLERK - PUBLICATIONS - JT MINU	\$229.77			

			<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$64,701.43</b>
IRUA	WATER-OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERV	\$6,256.64		
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	MULTI DEPT SUPPLIES	\$87.95		
			<b>REVENUE 11/01/2024 -</b>	
			<b>11/30/2024</b>	
KYLEE STONE	CLERK -MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT	\$82.41	001	GENERAL \$15,330.64
LE GRAND SANITATION	MULTI DEPT GARBAGE	\$90.00	110	ROAD USE TAX \$11,084.47
MARSHALL COUNTY SHERIFF	Q3 SHERIFF FEES	\$6,617.50	112	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS \$737.17
			121	LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX \$9,124.53
MEDIACOM	MULTI DEPT PHONE/ COMMUNICATIO	\$510.14	124	CAPITAL RESERVE \$41,486.23
			600	WATER \$25,211.92
MEDIACOM	FIRE - TELEPHONE/COMMUNIC ATION	\$177.96	610	SEWER \$27,562.99
MENARDS	MULTI DEPT SUPPLIES	\$174.28	613	SEWER SINKING \$8,413.34
			<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$138,951.29</b>
MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	SEWER - TESTING	\$46.00		
MICROMARKETING	LIBRARY GIFT - BOOKS	\$23.19		
SCHENDEL PEST CONTROL	COMMUNITY CENTER - PEST CONTRO	\$41.26		
TIMES REPUBLICAN	CLERK - PUBLICATIONS OCT MINUT	\$440.80		
TOYNE, INC	FIRE - VEHICLE/OP MAINT	\$1,027.75		
TRU GREEN	PARKS - GROUNDS MAINT	\$177.45		
UNITED BENEFIT SOCIETY INC	FIRE - DUES	\$10.80		
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE	WATER/SEWER - POSTAGE UB	\$154.00		
VEENSTRA & KIMM, INC.	BUILDING PERMIT/INSPECTIONS	\$583.20		
VERIZON	MULTI DEPT - PHONE/COMMUNICATI	\$162.96		
WEX BANK	MULTI DEPT VEHICLE OPER/MAINT	\$236.73		
XEROX CORPORATION	LIBRARY - LEASE/RENT COPIER	\$95.01		
YOUTH & SHELTER SERVICES	FY25 CONTRIBUTION	\$225.00		
Z LINE LTD	FIRE - VEHICLE OP/MAINT	\$945.23		
<b>Accounts Payable Total</b>		<b>\$51,497.93</b>		
Payroll Checks		\$13,203.50		
<b>***** REPORT TOTAL *****</b>		<b>\$64,701.43</b>		

**EXPENSES 11/13/2024 - 12/10/2024**

001	GENERAL	\$27,027.64
110	ROAD USE TAX	\$5,880.19
169	LIBRARY GIFT	\$728.36
600	WATER	\$12,328.75
610	SEWER	\$5,256.49
613	SEWER SINKING	\$13,480.00