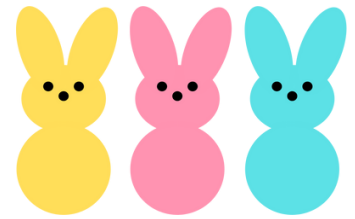


APRIL 2025

CITY OF LE GRAND

# NEWSLETTER



## CITY EVENTS

- April 1-** Proposed Tax Levy Hearing-  
**6 PM, Monet Center**
- April 3-** Library Board Meeting-  
**2 PM, Pioneer Library**
- April 6-** Bluegrass Fest
- April 8-** City Council Meeting-  
**6 PM, Monet Center**
- April 12-** Easter Bunny In the Park-  
**Sponsored by Celebrate Le Grand**
- April 17-** Fire Department Meeting-  
**7 PM, Fire Station**
- April 18-** Good Friday- City Hall Closed
- April 20-** Easter
- April 26-** Pancake Breakfast-  
**7:30 to 10 AM, Fire Station**
- May 7-** Library Board Meeting-  
**2 PM, Pioneer Library**
- May 13-** City Council Meeting-  
**6 PM, Monet Center**
- May 15-** EMS Meeting-  
**7 PM, Fire Station**
- May 18-** East Marshall Graduation-  
**2 PM, High School**
- May 22-** Fire Department Meeting-  
**7 PM, Fire Station**
- May 23-** East Marshall Last Day of School
- May 26-** Memorial Day- City Hall Closed

## CITY HALL HOURS

- Monday** 7-4:30
- Tuesday** 7-4:30
- Wednesday** 7-12
- Thursday** 7-4:30
- Friday** 8-12

## LIBRARY HOURS

- Sunday** 2-6
- Monday** 10-3:30
- Tuesday** 1-6:30
- Wednesday** 10-3:30
- Thursday** 12-5:30

## NEWS FROM CITY HALL

Ready to hop into the Easter season? Join Le Grand Parks & Rec and Celebrate Le Grand for the annual Easter Bunny in the Park Event! There will be a pancake breakfast from 8:30 to 10 AM, pictures with the Easter Bunny, and an Easter Egg hunt starting at 9:30 AM!

Want a yummy breakfast? Join the Fire Department at the Le Grand Fire Station for the annual Pancake Breakfast April 26 from 7:30 to 10:00 AM!

JQ Construction has been awarded the contract for the Water Distribution Project. Construction will hopefully begin soon, with an anticipated completion date of early September.

Construction has begun on the new playground equipment. The City asks for your patience as the project is ongoing! Anticipated completion date is June 1.

With the warmer weather, it is tempting to drive your golf cart around if you own one. Just remember, to legally drive your cart on city streets, you must have a permit and must be at least 16 years old. Permits are \$20.00 and can be applied for at City Hall.

If you recently have been contacted by City Hall regarding changing your water meter, please contact City Hall to get an appointment scheduled to change it.

LEAP Counselors are needed. If you are interested, stop by City Hall to pick up an application. Trish Dobson is the director for LEAP this year! If you are a dog owner, please clean up after your animal! We have had several complaints regarding this at city hall.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY

It's a Coloring Contest! Visit the library in April to color a Spring picture to hang on the Circulation desk. The winner will be randomly drawn from participants on April 17 to receive a library gift pack.

Children can stop in the library from April 7 to 17 to look for 6 hidden eggs. Find all 6 to win a small prize!

Put a spring in your step with Coffee and Conversation every Monday at 10 AM!

Monthly meals for senior citizens from the Northeast Iowa Agency on Aging will begin April 17 at 12:00 PM. Lunch is provided, along with a discussion on nutrition. If you are interested, please call the library at 641-479-2122 to reserve a meal. Donations to Nei3a are welcome but not required.

East Marshall Alum and author Rhonda Mumby will be at the library on April 21 at 2 PM to present on her debut novel *A Journey To My Life* and the steps taken to become a self-published author.

Need to take a step into the craft world? Join us on April 24 at 1 PM to paint and decoupage paving stones. Registration is required with a \$5 materials fee collected the day of the program.

## **FEBRUARY 25, 2025 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

The Le Grand City Council held a Special Meeting at the Monet Center at 11:00 AM, February 25, 2025 with Mayor Jodi L Abrahams presiding. Roll call: Jodi L Abraham, Judy Cecak, Todd Parrish, Lou Ann Cooling. Absent: Don Weitzell, Troy Underhill. Also attending: KyLee Stone- City Clerk/Treasurer, Rod Fehrmann- Public Works Director, Andrew Lynn- Public Works. No citizens.

Approval of Agenda: J Cecak motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by L Cooling. Roll Call: 3-0. Carried.

Mayor J Abrahams opened the discussion on further consideration of bids for the 23-WD-0053 Water Distribution System Project. L Wilson, CGA Project Manager, presented. The city had 6 bids for the project, with the low bid being JQ Construction at \$636,468.75, which was roughly \$300,000.00 below the projected cost. L Wilson stated he had spoken with JQ Construction and received and contacted references for projects that JQ had completed. L Wilson stated that JQ will handle digging and trenching, and all boring will be done by Hoffman & Hoffman. L Wilson stated that JQ Construction has received their packets, submitted all the required paperwork and have been cleared to complete the project. L Wilson stated that all that is needed is the final Funding Eligibility clearance from the Iowa DNR. T Parrish questioned what the timeline will be for this project. L Wilson stated that the timeline allows roughly 1 month for contracts, putting the projected earliest date at early April, with an estimated length of 6 to 8 weeks for construction. L Wilson stated that if construction is able to begin in April, construction should potentially be done in June. L Wilson stated that usually construction goes fairly quickly for a project similar to the current project. L Wilson stated that there may be disruptions to service for homeowners, but those should be able to be taken care of. L Wilson stated that the contractors will check in with Public Works every day.

Mayor J Abrahams opened the discussion regarding Resolution 18-2025, A Resolution Awarding the Contract for the Water Distribution System Improvements Project. Mayor J Abrahams read the resolution awarding the contract to JQ Construction LLC in the amount of \$636,468.75. T Parrish motioned to approve Resolution 18-2025. Seconded by J Cecak. Roll Call: 3-0. Carried.

After the passing of the resolution, L Wilson stated that 5% contingency should be remembered, which should be about \$30,000.00 to \$50,000.00. L Wilson stated that with the bid being lower than expected, he is not sure how it will affect the forgiveness granted by the state. L Wilson stated that CDBG will not be pulled, and he believes that the forgiveness may be pro-rated and the loan will be substantially lower than expected. K Stone questioned the time frame of the forgiveness. L Wilson stated that the construction loan needs to be closed out, then the paperwork can be submitted for the loan forgiveness. T Parrish questioned that with the lower loan amount, would lowering the water rates be an option. J Abrahams stated that water rates could be reread and with the loan qualification, the FY26 rates should be left unchanged and look at possibly slowing rate increases after that. L Wilson stated that leaving FY26 would be good and see how the loan payment is made. T Parrish stated that water rates could be what is in the ordinance for FY26 and then possibly lower after that be reading another ordinance. J Abrahams stated that council should review Profit and Loss Statements to track where the spending is at and see if lowering rates is possible. J Abrahams stated that with the project having a General Obligation loan, General Fund and LOST helps pay for the project, allowing the rates to not increase as much. T Parrish questioned if there are any other larger water project that would require a substantial amount that rate increases could fund. R Fehrmann stated that the water main project should be the final large project for some time, and the only main that might cause an issue is along Julien Street. J Abrahams stated that once the loan closes and the total debt is known, the water fund balance could be reviewed and could possibly keep water rates down. J Abrahams stated that if rates are not cut, another option could be to pay the loan off early. J Abrahams stated that the lower expectation of cost opens up more discussion on the water rates and the council should keep their options open.

Mayor J Abrahams opened the discussion regarding Resolution No 19-2025, A Resolution Approving Acceptance of Engineering Invoice #502740 in The Amount of \$657.60 for the 23-WD-0053 Le Grand Water Main System Improvements Project by Clapsaddle-Garber Associate (CGA) of Marshalltown, Iowa for the City of Le Grand, Iowa. J Cecak motioned to approve Resolution 19-2025. Seconded by L Cooling. Roll Call: 3-0. Carried.

T Parrish motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by J Cecak.

Meeting adjourned at 11:18 AM

Respectfully submitted, KyLee Stone

Minutes published prior to approval

## MARCH 11, 2025 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Le Grand City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Monet Center with Mayor, Jodi L Abrahams, presiding. Public Attendance: 3 citizens.

Roll Call: Jodi L Abrahams, Judy Cecak, Todd Parrish, Lou Ann Cooling, Don Weitzell. Troy Underhill entered the meeting at 6:19 PM. Also attending: KyLee Stone- City Clerk/Treasurer, Rod Fehrmann- Public Works Director, Andrew Lynn-Public Works, Brad Mauseth-Fire Chief, Stacia Foster- Library Director.

Approval of Agenda: L Cooling motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by J Cecak. Roll Call: 4-0. Carried.

Consent Agenda: T Parrish motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by D Weitzell. Roll Call: 4-0. Carried. Consent Agenda Contained: A. February 11, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes. B. February 25, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes. C. February 2025 Financials. D. March 2025 Claims for Payment. E. 2025 Statement of Agreement between Le Grand Community Center and Marshalltown Area United Way- Le Grand Enrichment and Arts Program.

No comments made during Citizens Forum.

Committee Reports: Water/ Wastewater: Public Works Director gave the report. Nothing to report.

RUT: Public Works Director gave the report. Snow plowing has been happening and Public Works have been locating potholes to fill once the weather warms up. Mayor questioned R Fehrmann regarding the handicap parking and parking lot lines at the post office. R Fehrmann stated that it has to be a certain temperature and that the parking lot will be done at the same time as street markings.

Library: Library Director gave the report. February Door count 727, with 221 checkouts and 191 eBooks checked out this year. There is a community soup luncheon on March 12 at 11 AM.

Parks & Rec: Luke Wilson, Parks & Rec Board Member gave the report. Easter event will be April 12th with a Pancake Breakfast from 8:30 to 10 AM and an Easter Egg hunt at 9:30 AM. Parks & Rec has the pricing for a new fridge for the Community Center with the best option being similar to what is in the kitchen now. Pricing will be provided for approval. Park project has started, with one dead tree being removed as well. The quote for removing the second dead tree is \$1,500.00. D Weitzell questioned who removed the tree. L Wilson stated that Top Notch took down the first tree. L Cooling questioned what can be done for temporary trash cans. L Wilson stated that the cans could be brought up to the park and chained temporarily, and that they will work with Public Works on it. L Wilson stated that Top Notch filled in holes to the best of their ability. R Fehrmann stated that Public Works can fill any remaining holes. D Weitzell questioned if the Parks & Rec have any plans for Waterworks Park. L Wilson stated that it had been discussed, and that there were some benches and trash cans, as well as the possibility for a smaller playground setup. L Wilson stated that there is potential for some trees to be planted as well.

Fire: Fire Chief gave the report. 2 calls for the month of February. The Fire Department will be holding a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser April 26 from 7:30 to 10 AM.

EMS: Fire Chief gave the report. 13 calls for the month of February.

Clerk: City Clerk gave the report. There is a special meeting for property tax levy on April 1 at 6 PM, and any changes to the budget need to be completed by April 30.

Mayor read the third reading of Ordinance 253, An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances for the City of Le Grand, Iowa, by Amending Provisions Pertaining to Water Administration Fees. Water deposits for new customers will increase to \$75.00. J Cecak motioned to approve the third reading of Ordinance 253. Seconded by L Cooling. Roll Call: Weitzell-Y, Parrish-Y, Cecak-Y, Cooling-Y. Absent: Underhill. 4-1. Carried. D Weitzell motioned to adopt Ordinance 253. Seconded by T Parrish. Roll Call: Cecak-Y, Cooling-Y, Weitzell-Y, Parrish-Y. Absent: Underhill. 4-1. Carried.

Mayor read the third reading of Ordinance 254, An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances for the City of Le Grand, Iowa, by Amending Provisions Pertaining to Sewer Administration Fees. Sewer deposits for new customers will increase to \$75.00. T Parrish motioned to approve the third reading of Ordinance 254. Seconded by D Weitzell. Roll Call: Cecak-Y, Weitzell-Y, Cooling-Y. Parrish-Y. Absent: T Underhill. 4-1. Carried. L Cooling motioned to adopt Ordinance 254. Seconded by J Cecak. Roll Call: Parrish-Y, Weitzell-Y, Cecak-Y, Cooling-Y. Absent: Underhill. 4-1. Carried.

Mayor opened the discussion on FY26 Water and Sewer rates. Mayor stated that the clerk was instructed to look into the possibility of lowering rates would be. Clerk stated that water is profiting, and figured what the rates would be if they were raised or lowered with the percentages of wages. Clerk stated that she estimated the annual revenue projection with estimated expenses and that water would potentially profit approximately \$16,000.00 with not raising rates.

D Weitzell questioned if the changes are for FY26. Clerk stated that yes, the rates would be for FY26, and rates would be the same that they currently are. Residential rates would be \$9.72 for base rate and per thousand would be \$11.63. K Stone stated that sewer could be up for discussion at another time, with the clerk bringing Profit and Loss statements quarterly to review. L Cooling stated she believed citizens would be in agreement with a decrease or freeze. D Weitzell stated after reviewing what is in water reserves for FY23, 24 and 25, it would be possible. Mayor stated that she believed that sewer rates could possibly be reduced for at least two years and still be able to complete some lining projects and maintaining the lagoon. D Weitzell stated that sewer profit margin is sitting quite well. T Parrish questioned if the increase for FY26, but then no increase for FY27 and FY28. Mayor clarified that the proposal is to not increase rates for FY26 and the advantage is that the project is funded by a GO bond. The loan can be paid with a combination of Water Revenue, General Fund and LOSST, with the first year potentially being heavy from General Fund and LOSST. Mayor stated that with a GO Bond, council can choose how to pay the loan payment, with potentially adding in more from Water. T Parrish stated that council is not sure what the loan payment will be. L Wilson stated that the loan payment amount is not set, but voiced concerns on the effects of not approving a rate increase for FY26. Mayor stated that she had the clerk reach out to Tim Oswald with Piper Sandler to ensure that not increasing rates would not affect any qualifying stipulations, which it would not. L Wilson stated that he believes the qualifying stipulations should be clarified again. Mayor instructed the clerk to reach out to Tim Oswald and check once more to verify.

Mayor tabled the third reading of Ordinance 255, An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances for the City of Le Grand, Iowa, by Amending Provisions Pertaining to Water Service Rates.

Mayor tabled the third reading of Ordinance 256, An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances for the City of Le Grand, Iowa, by Amending Provisions Pertaining to Sewer Service Rates.

Mayor read the first reading of Ordinance 257, An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances for the City of Le Grand, Iowa, by Amending Provisions Pertaining to Solid Waste Licensing. The purpose of the ordinance is to increase Sanitation Permit fees from \$25.00 to \$75.00. J Cecak motioned to approve the first reading of Ordinance 257. Seconded by T Parrish. Roll Call: Underhill-Y, Cooling-Y, Cecak-Y, Parrish-Y, Weitzell-Y. 5-0. Carried.

L Wilson, CGA Project Manager, gave the update on the 23-WD-0053 Water Distribution project. Contracts have been put together and sent to JQ Construction. Bonding should take a couple of weeks and once the contracts are received, they will be sent to the City. L Wilson stated that contracts will be back on April council meeting, Mayor questioned if there were any hiccups or issues. L Wilson stated that there wasn't any issues and that the contract needs to be signed so Dorsey and Whitney can issue their legal opinion that everything was done correctly. Project is supposed to be done by September 1. Mayor questioned how paperwork is going. L Wilson stated that the construction application is almost completed.

D Weitzell motioned to approve Resolution No 20-2025, A Resolution Approving Acceptance of Engineering Invoice #502906 in the amount of \$1,437.80 for the 23-WD-0053 Le Grand Water Main System Improvements Project by Clapsaddle-Garber Associate (CGA) of Marshalltown, Iowa for the City of Le Grand, Iowa. Seconded by T Underhill. Roll Call: 5-0. Carried.

L Wilson, Parks & Rec Board Member, gave the update on the 2025 Playground Update project. L Wilson stated that CAT grant has been awarded and the contract is on the agenda. Any cost incurred as of January 17, 2025 can be submitted for reimbursement. IEDA requests a final report when the project has been completed. L Cooling motioned to approve Resolution No 21-2025, A Resolution Approving the Iowa Economic Development Authority- Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Agreement for the Le Grand Park Improvement Project. Seconded by T Underhill. Roll Call: 5-0. Carried. J Cecak motioned to approve Resolution No 22-2025, A Resolution Approving Acceptance of Engineering Invoice #502907 in the amount of \$3,000.00 for the 25-DS-0069 Le Grand Pickleball Courts by Clapsaddle-Garber Associate (CGA) of Marshalltown, Iowa for the City of Le Grand, Iowa. Seconded by L Cooling. Roll Call: 5-0. Carried. Marshall County Sheriff's Office Deputy Paige entered the meeting at 6:32 PM and gave the report. 46 documented business checks, 70 miscellaneous patrol sessions, 4 park checks, 1 council meeting, 4 school checks, 1 school traffic, 3 traffic stops, 4 calls for service.

Mayor read Resolution No 23-2025, A Resolution to Memorialize and Clarify the Transaction as to Parcel B Located at 505 West Main St, Le Grand, Iowa. T Parrish motioned to approve Resolution No 23-2025. Seconded by J Cecak. Roll Call: 5-0. Carried.

Mayor read Resolution No 24-2025, A Resolution Fixing a Date for the Public Hearing to Set the Proposed Tax Levy Rate for the City of Le Grand, Iowa for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026. The resolution set the hearing for April 1, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Monet Center. Notice will be published March 17, 2025. L Cooling questioned the dates listed. Mayor clarified that the meeting cannot be held prior to March 20 D Weitzell motioned to approve Resolution No 24-2025. Seconded by T Parrish. Roll Call: 5-0. Carried.

Mayor read Resolution No 25-2025, A Resolution Providing for Notice of Hearing on Proposed Amendment to the Revitalization Plan for the Le Grand Urban Revitalization Area. The resolution set the hearing date for April 8, 2025 council meeting. Mayor stated that changes were made in 2023 to the Urban Revitalization Plan at the state level, and due to turnover, the changes were missed in City Hall. Mayor stated that the changes were that any abatement must still pay school taxes on the first \$75,000.00 of the assessed value and the abatement can be 100% of the first \$75,000.00 assessed valuation. Mayor stated that Dorsey and Whitney sent paperwork for a five year plan due to state code. Mayor stated that a 5 year plan at \$75,000.00 cap is still less than the current 100% for 3 years, but it still gives taxpayers a break. Clerk stated that she is waiting to hear back if a 3 year plan is possible. Mayor stated main structure of the plan hasn't changed. T Parrish questioned if it would be applicable to new applications. Mayor stated that according to the county, anything applied for February 1, 2025 would be covered under the old plan except for school tax. J Cecak motioned to approve Resolution No 25-2025. Seconded by L Cooling. Roll Call: 5-0. Carried.

Mayor read Resolution No 26-2025, A Resolution Approving the City of Le Grand, Iowa Federal Motor Carrier Administration Substance Abuse-Drug and Alcohol Policy. Clerk read the resolution. Public Works clarified that the policy is what is in the handbook. Mayor clarified that testing will be done through UnityPoint in Grinnell. Mayor stated that another policy will be supplied for pre-employment. Public Works stated that the first line should be changed to "controlled substance or alcohol in any city owned property, buildings and worksites." T Parrish questioned if the policy presented is the current city policy. Public Works stated that it is directly out of the handbook. T Parrish questioned who is the City. Council is in agreement that "the city" should be council and mayor. Mayor stated that the policy should reference the Federal Motor Carrier. J Cecak motioned to approve Resolution No 26-2025 with the addition "controlled substance or alcohol in city property, buildings or worksites". Seconded by L Cooling. Roll Call: 5-0. Carried.

Mayor opened the discussion regarding Agenda Formats. Mayor stated that this is apply the change of requiring a motion and second to end a council meeting and change the title "Committee Reports" to "Department Reports". Council was in agreement with the changes. J Cecak motioned to approve the changes to the Agenda Format. Seconded by D Weitzell. Roll Call: 5-0. Carried.

Clerk presented regarding the Spring 2025 IMFOA Conference. Clerk stated that she is unable to attend due to family obligations, and Deputy Clerk would have to leave early on Thursday due to family obligations as well. Council was in agreement of Clerk and Deputy Clerk not attending the Spring Conference.

Mayor opened the discussion regarding Security Cameras for City Hall. Mayor stated that both the Amazon cameras and the BDH quote were included. BDH quote included interior cameras, which were optional and that the cameras back up 30 days of footage at a time. BDH is access controlled. Mayor stated regardless of if decision is made, cameras would not be installed until policies are put in place regarding access and where the cameras will be. T Parrish questioned if BDH allows access to more than one person. Mayor stated that yes it would and the policies would state who is to have access. J Cecak questioned if the cameras would be able to provide the clerks with knowing who would be at the back door. Mayor stated yes there would be live feed. T Underhill questioned if there was any monthly fees associated with the BDH. Mayor stated that she believes it is included in the monthly contract with BDH. D Weitzell questioned if there would be any access on a cell phone. T Underhill questioned what fees would be and if there would be the ability to review footage. D Weitzell stated that the cameras should be clear enough to read a license plate. Clerk stated that the cameras found on amazon have storage as well. Mayor questioned if the storage was cloud based. Clerk stated she believed so. Mayor stated that all the wiring is already set for BDH cameras.

