

## **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – December 14, 2015**

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, December 14, 2015 in the City Hall Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Janet Moerbe, Councilmember Bonnie Busch, Councilmember Deborah Bradley, Mayor Pro tem John Cernosek, Councilman John Eilert, Councilman Pat Janca, Councilman Arnold Romberg, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief of Police Jackie Skelton, City Secretary Lisa Oltmann. Visitors: Rev. Matthew Kinney, Rev. Eric Hungerford, Bill Bishop, and Jackie Parrish.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Rev. Matthew Kinney of Sacred Heart Catholic Church gave the invocation.

The first item was a report of the Fayette County Village Project. Mr. Bill Bishop and Rev. Eric Hungerford from St. James Episcopal Church briefed the council on the Fayette County Village Project. The basic premise of the project is to establish a way for older adults to stay connected in the home and community. Focus groups for this will be formed in January to see exactly what some of the concerns/needs are for older adults within our community and how the Village Project would best be able to assist with them.

The next item was to discuss the 2016 City Officer's Election. The recommended dates for calling the election are January 25-Feb. 9. This year the following councilmembers are up for re-election: Ward 1-Kathy Weishuhn, Ward 2-Violet Zbranek, Ward 3-Deborah Bradley, and Ward 4-John Eilert.

The next item was an update on the license to open carry handgun legislation. Chief Jackie Skelton updated the council on this legislation. Beginning on January 1, 2016, H.B. 910 will allow a person with a current concealed handgun license, or a person who obtains the new "license to carry a handgun," to carry a handgun in a concealed manner or openly in a belt or shoulder holster. The rules related to where and when a license holder may openly carry are essentially identical to where and when a concealed handgun license holder can carry under current law. There are some distinctions between concealed and open carry, especially related to legal notices. In addition to the existing training criteria, the new license to carry a handgun class must include training on the use of restraint holsters and methods to ensure the secure carrying of openly carried handguns.

The next item was the active project report. City Manager Raborn updated the council on the current active projects which include the N. Main water tank rehab. City Manager Raborn and Community Economic Development Coordinator Scott Byler meet with representatives from Live Air for an update on their fiber expansion plans, at this

time it is not expected for additional fiber deployment in La Grange. Thru a joint effort between the City of La Grange street department, and Fayette County Precinct 1 workers, a temporary repair job was completed on the boat ramp that had been damaged by flood waters.

The next item was to discuss and or consider approval of November 2051 minutes. **MOTION** Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn, **SECOND** Councilmember Deborah Bradley to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The next item was to discuss and or consider allocation of Tourism Grant Funds. Mayor Pro tem Cernosek reported that the Tourism Grant Committee met prior to the council meeting and discussed and considered 3 funding requests. The first request was in the amount of \$10,000 from the Bugle Boy Foundation for operating support, the next was from the Fayette County Tourism Association in the amount of \$6,100 for website operations, and the final was from the Fayette County Sheriff's Posse in the amount of \$10,000 for advertising and promotion of the Aug.6-9, 2015 Bull Riding & Rodeo Event. The committee recommends funding the request from the Bugle Boy foundation in the full amount of \$10,000, they recommend tabling the request from the Fayette County Tourism Association to allow staff additional time to gather information and compare their services to those that are currently being provided by the Fayette County Record Go Fayette County app and marketing plan, the committee also recommends funding the request from the Fayette County Sheriff's Posse in the amount of \$7,500 as the event was held prior to the city receiving the request and the La Grange Main Street & Visitors Bureau could not be included as is now required for those receiving funding. **MOTION** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, **SECOND** Councilmember Weishuhn to fund these request as submitted by the Tourism Grant Committee. Motion carried.

#### Chief Of Police Update

Theft calls continue to increase.

Credit card theft continues.

Officer Pohorelsky was recently involved in a pursuit in which involved an individual with an outstanding U.S. Marshall Warrant. Officer Pohorelsky pursued the individual down past the end of Mode Lane thru private property at which time the individuals car went over an embankment into a creek bed and he then fled the scene. He was apprehended the following day at an apartment in La Grange.

There was also a car which was stolen from a local business and wrecked shortly after the theft.

#### City Manager Update

Main Street hosted Schmeckenfest which was very well attended.

The Recreation Center hosted "Breakfast With Santa" along with the Pilot and Anchor clubs. There were over 200 kids in attendance.

The Library will have their Christmas Open House on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> from 10-2.

The La Grange Volunteer Fire Department will host an Open House on Tuesday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5-7.

Council Committee Reports

Beautification Committee awarded Yard of the Month to the Faison Home at 822 S. Jefferson St.

At 6:55 PM a **MOTION** was made by Councilman Pat Janca, with a **SECOND** by Councilmember Violet Zbranek that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

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Lisa Oltmann, City Secretary

These Minutes Approved by City Council on:

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Janet Moerbe, Mayor