

City of Van Meter, Iowa

City Council Minutes – March 10, 2025

- 1) The Van Meter City Council met for a regular council meeting on Monday, March 10, 2025, at the United Methodist Church located at 100 Hazel Street, Van Meter, IA 50261. Mayor Herman called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. The following council members were present upon roll call: Travis Brott, Blake Grolmus, and Quin Pelz. Council members Akers and Westfall were absent.
 Staff present: City Attorney Fatino, City Engineer Randy Johnson, Police Chief Mike Brown, Public Works Director Drew McCombs, Library Director Jonatha Basye, Parks & Rec Director Sam Chia, Fire Chief Mark Schmitt, City Clerk Jessica Drake, and City Administrator Liz Faust.
 Public Present: Curtis White, Jamie Breece, Rona Jacobs - Residents. Justin Nickel & Tanner Neilsen – Bolton & Menk. Heith Hockenberry – Jester Insurance. Gerald Graves – Van Meter Township Resident.
- 2) Mayor Herman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) Introductions were made.
- 4) Mayor Herman read a Civility Statement setting expectations of respect for the meeting.
- 5) City Clerk Drake noted that agenda item #10 should state Chief Brown as opposed to Officer Brown. Grolmus moved, supported by Brott, to approve the agenda as amended. On roll call the votes were as follows: Akers – ABSENT; Brott – YES; Grolmus-YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall - ABSENT. **YES (3) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (2)**
- 6) Curtis White addressed the Council with concerns regarding a utility bill for services from 2019 to present and a curb stop repair bill at 312 Wilson Street. He stated that the location has not been receiving services and asserted that the curb stop was broken prior to his purchase of the property in 2019. Mayor Herman stated that the Council would discuss.
- 7) Mayor Herman asked for a motion to adopt the consent agenda which included the following:
 - a. Minutes of February 6, 2025 Parks & Rec Board Meeting
 - b. Minutes of February 10, 2025 City Council Business Meeting
 - c. Minutes of February 24, 2025 City Council Workshop
 - d. Minutes of February 26, 2025 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
 - e. March Claims List

Claims Report

Vendor	Reference	Amount
Acco	Under Paid Inv Dated 3/10/25	931
Accujet Llc	Sw Jet Vac	709.36
Aflac	Aflac Pretax	301.32
Amazon Capital Services	February Purchases	2,185.41
American Underground Supply	Water Meter Supplies	1,804.30
Arnold Motor Supply	Decal Remover	19.35
At&T Mobility	Pd Phone	277.6
Baldon & Son Hardware	Kerosene Heater	189.98
Base	Cafeteria Monthly - April	30
Bobcat Wildlife & Pest	Ch Pest Removal	1,985.00
Bolton & Menk Inc	Mastertrailsp1	16,738.50
Bound Tree Medical Llc	Ems Backpack	332.99
Challenger Teamwear	Spring 25 Soccer Uniforms	4,256.77
Culligan	Ch & Pw Water	88.6
Delta Dental	March Dental/Vision	923.26
Denman	Fy24 Audit	3,000.00
Des Moines Water Works	Water Testing 210 Wilson #105	16.05
Earlham Savings Bank	Ebank Eft Ach Fees	25
Eftps	Fed/Fica Tax	6,830.85
Elan Financial - Ebank Cc	January Statement	605.17
Electric Pump	Bs Repair	2,851.75
Elite Sports	Ys Uniforms	540
Fenix Usa Llc	Water Meters	137,188.09
Fire Safety Usa	Ram March	160.9
Forte	Web Processing Fees	426.6
Friends Of Grimes Pub Lib	25adventurepass	450
Gatehouse Media Ia Holdings	02/10/25 Minutes	641.4
Garrison Thummel	Bb Ref 20 Games	400
Gcmoa	March Lunch & Learn	25.5
Hawkeye Truck Equipment	Snow Equip	1,355.54
Heartland Busines System	March Managed Serv	7,419.15
Heartland Coop	L.P.	903.88
Holden Buse	Bb Ref 10 Games	200
Hudson Soderholm	Bb Scorekeeper 11 Games	110
Ia Assoc Of Municipal Ut	25-26 Water Member Dues	860
Imfoa	Climer_Full Membership	30
Industrial Chem Labs	Sw Degreaser	1,190.98
Invision	Field Veri & Bim Model 601main	19,596.00
Ipers	Ipers	9,224.22
Jewish Fed Of Greater Dsm	Soccer Field Rental	1,000.00
Kari Davis	Cpr Training	464
Konica Minolta	March Copier Service	35.2
Laura Kunkel	Fd Clean 1/19 - 3/2	100
Lillie Plumbing	Wabsheater	259.25
Lowe's	Lowe's Feb Purchases	455.71
Lydia Thummel	Bb Scorekeeper 2 Games	20
Mateya Speltz	Bb Scorekeeper 12 Games	120

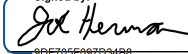
Matheson Tri Gas Inc	Oxygen	40.24
Mediacom	Internet Services	256.95
Midamerican Energy	Gas/Elec	3,754.41
Municipal Emergency Services	Manhole Cover	160
Orkin	March Pest Control Services	79
Plumb Supply Company	3/4 & 1 In Meters	2,784.38
Professional Develp Of Ia	Lf - Spring Conf	175
Raccoon Valley Land Surveying	601 Main	1,850.00
Rangemasters Training Ctr	Ems Uniform	120.74
Star Equipment Ltd	Lift Rental - Jh	1,327.00
Stivers Ford	Pd F150 Outfit	23,226.36
The Hartford	March Life Prem	502.09
Thorpe Water Dev Co	February Sewer Op Affidavit	400
Torgerson Excavating	312 Wilson Curb	1,800.00
Treas - St Of Ia Sales Tx	Feb25 Water Excise Tax	1,780.16
Treas - State Of Iowa W/H	State Tax	1,343.73
Us Postmaster	Utility Bills - March, Apr, May	750
Veenstra & Kimm Inc	Microsoft Public Improvements	230,521.30
Verizon Wireless	Phone Charges	733.91
Waste Connections	Garbage Contract	13,167.76
Wellmark	March Med Premium	13,175.94
Wex Bank	Fuel Dec24-Jan25	2,443.84
Whitfield & Eddy Plc	204 2nd Ave	2,742.50
Accounts Payable Total		530,413.99
Payroll Checks		44,185.58
***** Report Total *****		574,599.57
General		125,957.97
Employee Benefits		84.44
Master Trails Project		16,738.50
601 Municipal Building		23,334.08
Microsoft Capital Improve		221,616.90
Water		166,198.27
Sewer		20,669.41
Total Funds		574,599.57

- f. February Financial Statements
- g. February Building Permit Report
- h. February IPAIT Report
- i. Resolution #2025-29 Assigning Address to City of Van Meter Public Works Shop – 600 Debra Drive
- j. Resolution #2025-30 Assigning Address to Mediacom Power Cabinet – 5222 Josie Drive
- k. Resolution #2025-31 Approving a Purchase of \$3500.00 in Fireworks for Raccoon River Days
- l. Resolution #2025-32 Approving the City’s Participation in the 2025 VMCDC Flag Fundraiser

Brott moved, supported by Grolmus, to approve the consent agenda as amended. On roll call the votes were as follows: Akers – ABSENT; Brott – YES; Grolmus-YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall - ABSENT. **YES (3) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (2)**


- 8) Heath Hockenberry presented a dividend check in an amount over \$9000 to the City as the City’s portion of the IAMU program. He also reviewed the City’s upcoming insurance renewal, noting that the majority of the premium increase is a result of workman’s compensation premium increases.
- 9) Justin Nickel and Tanner Neilsen provided an update on the City’s Master Trails Phase 1 project including an update on timeline and funding.
- 10) Mayor Herman presented Chief Brown and Officer Cooper Challenger Coins on behalf of the State of Iowa Medical Director for their efforts in CPR aid rendered in 2024.
- 11) Grolmus moved, supported by Pelz, to adopt Resolution #2025-33 Approving the Final Plat of Hudson Heights Plat 2 and Releasing the Plat for Recording contingent upon receipt of payment by the Developer to the City of the Engineering Fees pursuant to Chapter 170 of the City’s Code of Ordinances by April 11, 2025. On roll call the votes were as follows: Akers – ABSENT; Brott – YES; Grolmus-YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall - ABSENT. **YES (3) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (2)**
- 12) Pelz moved, supported by Grolmus, to adopt Resolution #2025-34 Approving Scholarship Support for the Iowa Municipal Professional Institute for Jessica Drake. On roll call the votes were as follows: Akers – ABSENT; Brott – YES; Grolmus-YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall - ABSENT. **YES (3) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (2)**
- 13) Grolmus moved, supported by Brott, to adopt the following resolutions pertaining to setting the date for certain public hearings for April 14, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Van Meter United Methodist Church located at 100 Hazel Street, Van Meter, IA 50261. On roll call the votes were as follows: Akers – ABSENT; Brott – YES; Grolmus-YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall - ABSENT. **YES (3) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (2)**
 - a. **FY26 Budget Adoption Hearing – Resolution #2025-35**
 - b. **Chapter 164 Vacant Buildings (expanding the code to include residential property & vacant lots in addition to commercial and industrial properties) – Resolution #2025-36**
 - c. **Chapter 90 Water Service System (adding a temporary vacancy – “Snow Bird” – water shut off policy) – Resolution #2025-37**
 - d. **First Reading of an Amendment to Chapter 92 Water Rates (increasing water connection fees and a one time 5% water rate increase) – Resolution #2025-38**
 - e. **First Reading of an Amendment to Chapter 99 Sewer Service Charges (a one time 5% sewer rate increase) – Resolution #2025-39**
 - f. **Chapter 96 Building Sewers and Connections (increasing sewer connection fees) – Resolution #2025-40**
- 14) A discussion ensued regarding a proposed 28E agreement with Dallas County pertaining to certain road improvement projects in portions of the City of Van Meter and unincorporated Dallas County. Pelz stated that he had initial concerns regarding the improvements in unincorporated Dallas County but sees the overall benefits of the projects. Grolmus concurred. Brott expressed continued concerns with the extent of certain elements of the projects in unincorporated Dallas County. City Engineer Johnson, City Administrator Faust and City Clerk Drake all stated that the County and City are continuing to discuss ways to collaborate, share resources and look at funding options on all phases of the projects. Pelz moved, supported by Grolmus, to adopt Resolution #2025-41 Approving a 28E Agreement with Dallas County for Various Road Improvements including Widening and Resurfacing with Grading and Bridge Repair Projects and Authorizing Execution. On roll call, the votes were as follows: Akers – ABSENT; Brott – YES; Grolmus – YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall – ABSENT. **YES (3) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (2)**
- 15) Grolmus moved, supported by Pelz, that further consideration of the Development Agreement with Microsoft Corporation be adjourned to April 14, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Van Meter United Methodist Church located at 100 Hazel Street, Van Meter, IA 50261 at which time and place the City Council will meet to further consider such Development Agreement. On roll call, the votes were as follows: Akers – ABSENT; Brott – YES; Grolmus – YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall – ABSENT. **YES (3) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (2)**

- 16) Brott moved, supported by Pelz, to direct staff to proceed with a Request for Proposal for Legal Services. On roll call, the votes were as follows: Akers – ABSENT; Brott – YES; Grolmus – YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall – ABSENT. **YES (3) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (2)**
- 17) Grolmus moved, supported by Brott, to adopt Resolution #2025-42 Approving an Agreement for Professional Services with Veenstra & Kimm – Arlington Street Resurface Project Construction Services. On roll call, the votes were as follows: Akers – ABSENT; Brott – YES; Grolmus – YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall – ABSENT. **YES (3) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (2)**
- 18) The Administrative report was provided at the meeting & noted updates relating to code changes, budget updates and economic development activities. City Administrative staff also provided a legislative update. City Clerk Drake noted that the next workshop topic will be Succession Planning for Staff and Elected Officials. Public Works reported on updates with the meter replacements, snow events and continuing education. Police reported that there were 80 calls in February of which 25 were traffic stops. Fire reported that there were 30 calls in February of which 3 were not responded to and several of the calls were due to grass fires. Library reported that programming is ramping up as the weather warms up. Parks & Rec reported the current youth sport registration numbers for youth basketball, spring soccer, youth little league and youth softball and noted upcoming work days at both the soccer and baseball/softball fields.
- 19) Brott moved, supported by Grolmus, to adjourn the meeting. On roll call, the votes were as follows: Akers – ABSENT; Brott – YES; Grolmus – YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall – ABSENT. **YES (3) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (2)**. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Signed by:

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3/13/2025

Joe Herman, Mayor

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3/13/2025

Jessica Drake, City Clerk