



CITY OF  
**GRAND RAPIDS**  
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, December 02, 2024**  
**5:00 PM**

Mayor Connelly called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

PRESENT: Mayor Tasha Connelly, Councilor Dale Adams, Councilor Tom Sutherland, Councilor Rick Blake

ABSENT: Councilor Molly MacGregor

STAFF: Tom Pagel, Chad Sterle, Chery Pierzina, Rob Mattei, Matt Wegwerth, Laura Pfeifer, Andy Morgan, Will Richter

**POSITIVE HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY:**

Mayor Connelly noted that Santa & Mrs. Clause will be riding through town on a Fire Truck on Saturday, December 7th beginning at 1:00 PM. The route is posted on the City's Facebook page. Also noted is the upcoming Shop with a Hero program on December 15th, hosted by the Police Department with participation by other area emergency service organizations.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

No one from the public wished to speak.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Councilor Adams shares information regarding the RAMS Board and the upcoming annual dinner.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Approve Council minutes for Monday, November 25, 2024 Worksession and Regular Meetings.

Motion made by Councilor Sutherland, Second by Councilor Adams to approve Council minutes for Monday, November 25, 2024 Worksession and Regular meetings as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

**VERIFIED CLAIMS:**

2. Approve the verified claims for the period November 19, 2024 to November 25, 2024 in the amount of \$359,568.67.

Motion made by Councilor Adams, Second by Councilor Sutherland to approve the verified claims in the amount of \$359,568.67 as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

ACKNOWLEDGE MINUTES FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

**3. Acknowledge minutes for Boards & Commissions as follows:**

- ~ June 12, 2024 Planning Commission
- ~ August 28, 2024 Human Rights Commission
- ~ September 19, 2024 PCA Board
- ~ September 25, 2024 PUC Meeting
- ~ October 1, 2024 Arts & Culture Commission
- ~ October 9, 2024 Library Board
- ~ October 15, 2024 Golf Board
- ~ October 24, 2024 Grand Rapids EDA

CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Consider adopting a resolution to authorize an operating transfer from the Debt Service Fund-2017B GO Refunding Bonds to the Capital Project Fund- Permanent Improvement Revolving Fund (PIR).

**Adopted Resolution 24-104**

5. Consider adopting a Resolution Establishing 2025 Compensation for City of Grand Rapids Exempt & Non-Exempt Non-Represented Employees.

**Adopted Resolution 24-105**

6. Consider the adoption of a resolution approving the conveyance of certain property to the Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority (GREDA)

**Adopted Resolution 24-106**

7. Consider approving Collection of Lodging Tax Administration Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

8. Consider renewal of concessionaire contract renewal with recommended changes.

9. Consider approval of seasonal contractor.

10. Consider adopting a resolution decertifying Tax Increment Financing District No. 1-12: the Pillars of Grand Rapids.

**Adopted Resolution 24-107**

11. Consider approving final payments in the total amount of \$263,826.50 for Work Scopes 3, 6, 7, and 8 on the Yanmar Arena Project

12. Consider approving School Resource Officer Policy 470 for the Grand Rapids Police Department to comply with MN POST Boards mandates and State Law changes
13. Consider Voiding Lost Accounts Payable Check and Issue a Replacement Check.

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Second by Councilor Sutherland to approve the Consent agenda as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

#### SET REGULAR AGENDA:

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Second by Councilor Adams to approve the Regular agenda as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

#### ADMINISTRATION:

14. Consider appointment of Angela Hill to the Grand Rapids Police Department Administrative Assistant position.

Ms. Pierzina notes that the current union contract with Clerical employees includes allowance for years of service credit. Requesting that motion to hire include years of service, allowing Ms. Hill to begin as a Class III, step three.

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Second by Councilor Adams to approve appointment of Angela Hill to the position of Police Department Administrative Assistant, with years of service credit allowing for beginning at step three of Class III. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

15. Consider advertising and interviewing for police officer

Motion made by Councilor Sutherland, Second by Councilor Blake to authorize staff to advertise and conduct interviews for police officer position. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

#### ENGINEERING PUBLIC WORKS:

16. Consider adopting a resolution approving the updated City-Wide fee schedule for city services

Staff noted the addition of local Franchise fees and registration fees related to Cannabis retail businesses as per City Ordinances.

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Second by Councilor Adams to **adopt Resolution 24-108**, approving amended City Wide Fee Schedule. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

#### POLICE:

17. Consider adopting a resolution accepting ten (11) separate donations totaling \$3,250 to support Grand Rapids Police Shop with a Hero Program.

Chief Morgan reviewed donations by various families and organizations in support of the annual Shop with a Hero program, providing local children with the opportunity to shop for Christmas gifts for family.

Motion made by Councilor Sutherland, Second by Councilor Blake to **adopt Resolution 24-109**, accepting donations for the Shop with a Hero program. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS: (scheduled to begin no earlier than 5:00 PM)

18. Conduct a public hearing to consider the establishment of TIF District 1-17 and approval of a tax abatement; Grand Rapids Workforce Housing Project.

Mayor Connelly noted the purpose of the public hearing, and confirmed appropriate notice had been made and inquired about correspondence received, if any.

Mr. Mattei provided project background, TIF & Abatement Business Assistance, requirements for approval, etc.

Motion made by Councilor Adams, Second by Councilor Sutherland to open the public hearing. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

No one wished to speak, therefore the following motion was made.

Motion made by Councilor Sutherland, Second by Councilor Blake to close the public hearing. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

19. Consider adopting a resolution approving a modification to the development program for the Municipal Development District 1 and the establishment of Tax Increment Financing District No. 1-17: Grand Rapids Workforce Housing Project, and a Tax Increment Plan therefore.

Eric Martin, Oppiden, stated that groundbreaking is planned for late May/early June 2025 with opening of early 2027.

Motion made by Councilor Adams, Second by Councilor Blake to **adopt Resolution 24-110**, approving modification of development program for Municipal Development District 1, establishment of TIF Dist. 1-17 and a Tax Increment Plan. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

20. Consider the adoption of a resolution granting a property tax abatement for certain property in the City; Grand Rapids Workforce Housing Project

Motion made by Councilor Sutherland, Second by Councilor Blake to **adopt Resolution 24-111**, granting property tax abatement for property identified in Workforce Housing Project as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

Mayor Connelly recessed the meeting at 5:53 PM.

TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARINGS 6:01 PM

Mayor Connelly called the meeting back to order at 6:02 PM.

21. Conduct a Public Hearing on 2024 Levy Payable in 2025 and 2025 budget at 6:00 p.m. as stated in the Truth in Taxation Statements.

City Administrator Pagel provided overview of proposed property tax levy. Specifics noted were increases, changes in tax capacity and impact of updated homestead credit.

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Second by Councilor Sutherland to open the public hearing. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

No one from the public wished to speak, therefore the following motion was made.

Motion made by Councilor Adams, Second by Councilor Sutherland to close the public hearing. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kimberly Gibeau*  
Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk