



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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 09, 2025

5:00 PM

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

PRESENT: Mayor Tasha Connelly, Councilor Molly MacGregor, Councilor Tom Sutherland, Councilor Rick Blake, Councilor Dan Mertes

STAFF: Tom Pagel, Kimberly Gibeau, Chad Sterle, Will Richter, Carl Babich, Andy Morgan

POSITIVE HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY:

Mayor Connelly shared that we currently have two Grand Rapids High School sports teams headed for state tournaments. We like to acknowledge all the hard work and effort of our athletes, including being good stewards and representatives of our Grand Rapids community. We wish them good luck next week. Next, the Free Range Food Co-Op was awarded \$1.5 million dollar grant from the Blandin Foundation to support construction. This new co-op grocery store, planned to open in 2027, will provide local organic food to over 50,000 residents, with 1,200 owner-members already invested. The community expressed gratitude for the grant and looks forward to continued progress.

Councilor Blake acknowledged organizations that contribute to scholarships for local area students and expressed gratitude for the support.

PUBLIC FORUM:

No one from the public wished to speak.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilor Mertes noted that the Blandin Foundation awarded approximately \$70,000 to the Greenway Joint Recreation Board. The funding will be used for improvements to the arena and other long-overdue projects.

Councilor Blake mentioned the recent Itasca County Board meeting at which the Library funding was discussed, and noted that there was over 300 people in attendance, with people overflowing into the hallway, up the stairs, and out the door. Many people from Grand Rapids and across Itasca County participated.

Councilor MacGregor stated that the Human Rights Commission met last week and that Pride Day is coming up on June 22nd, with the Commission helping with a pancake breakfast for the public. She'll also be presenting on the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission at the League of Minnesota Cities annual conference in Duluth on June 27th. Additionally, two commission members attended a League-sponsored Braver Angels training, focused on helping elected officials handle difficult conversations.

Braver Angels is a national group with a strong presence in Minnesota, and it might be valuable for the commission to explore further.

Mayor Connelly stated that she attended the Range Mayors' meeting recently, where she met with area mayors and discussed local updates. Topics included a legislative update from Mr. Peltier regarding RAMS, and general discussions about infrastructure, mining, and other ongoing projects in the region. These monthly meetings provide valuable insights into the broader Range community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approve Council minutes for Tuesday, May 27, 2025 Worksession & Regular Meetings.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Second by Councilor Sutherland to approve Council minutes as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

VERIFIED CLAIMS:

2. Approve the verified claims for the period May 20, 2025 to June 2, 2025 in the total amount of \$581,477.19.

Motion made by Councilor Mertes, Second by Councilor Blake to approve the verified claims as submitted. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

CONSENT AGENDA:

3. Consider adopting a resolution to enter into Joint Powers Agreement Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and to approve the Joint Powers Agreement

Adopted Resolution 25-39

4. Consider seasonal rehire at Pokegama Golf Course.
5. Consider the appointment of Taylor Ruppelius Klopp to the position of Police Department Summer Intern with the Grand Rapids Police Department.
6. Consider approving a contract with SEH for construction administration at the GPZ Airport for the Taxiway A (South) Reconstruction Project
7. Consider authorizing quotes and awarding a contract to Hawk Construction for the 11th Avenue NE Sidewalk Project
8. Consider authorizing the purchase of a new Zamboni trailer and adopting a resolution accepting a donation from the Grand Rapids Amateur Hockey Association (GRAHA)

Adopted Resolution 25-40

9. Consider entering into a service agreement with Gartner Refrigeration Company for preventive maintenance on the chiller at the Grand Rapids Library.

10. Consider entering into a MOU with The PLUM Catalyst
11. Consider adopting a resolution renewing a Limited Use Permit between the City of Grand Rapids and the Commissioner of Transportation, State of Minnesota for the Mesabi Connection Trail.

Adopted Resolution 25-41

12. Consider Approving Designation of Tom Pagel and Carl Babich as Authorized signers on all City Bank Accounts
13. Consider authorizing the Grand Rapids Police Department to enter a twelve (12) month contract with Flock Safety.
14. Consider approving special permit for use and possession of Firearm for Minnesota Mounted Shooting Association.

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

SET REGULAR AGENDA:

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

CITY COUNCIL:

15. Consider appointing a member to the Arts & Culture Commission

Councilor MacGregor interviewed both candidates and found them highly qualified. Trevor Charnley is a musician with an interest in bringing music to the area. Nancy Jacobson works in events at Timberlake, has experience in the Twin Cities, and is skilled in event marketing and planning. Based on her broader experience and Timberlake connection, Councilor MacGregor recommended Nancy Jacobson for the Arts & Culture Commission.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Second by Councilor Blake to appoint Nancy Jacobson to fill an unexpired term on the Arts & Culture Commission, term to expire December 31, 2027. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted:


Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk