



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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 08, 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, Andy Morgan, Rob Mattei, Will Richter, Kevin Ott, Amy Dettmer, Carl Babich

POSITIVE HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY:

Mayor Connelly noted that the Historic Central School celebrated its 130th Birthday and the recent annual Riverfest music event on September 6th.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Sue Bigwood, 223 NE 8th Street, Grand Rapids addressed the Council regarding big sewer project and continuing issues.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilor Sutherland, announced that on January 31, 2026 at 4:00 PM, Yanmar Arena will be hosting the US Hockey Hall of Fame Museum Women's Face-Off Classic.

Mayor Connelly provided an update on the Library Study group and ongoing discussions related to Library funding and operations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approve Council minutes for Monday, August 25, 2025 Regular meeting and Council summary for Monday, August 25, 2025 Closed meeting.

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

VERIFIED CLAIMS:

2. Approve the verified claims for the period August 19, 2025 to September 2, 2025 in the total amount of \$1,126,429.00.

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

ACKNOWLEDGE MINUTES FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

3. Acknowledged the following:

March 20, 2025 PCA Board
June 24, 2025 Planning Commission
July 15, 2025 Golf Board
July 23, 2025 Public Utilities Commission
July 30, 2025 Human Rights Commission
August 13, 2025 Library Board
August 14, 2025 GREDA

CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Consider accepting the resignation of Nikki Roberts from the Police Community Advisory Board and authorize filling the vacancy.
5. Consider approving airport land leases
6. Consider rehiring and hiring part-time employees at Yanmar Arena.
7. Consider hiring a part-time seasonal golf course employee.
8. Consider adopting a resolution approving updated City-wide fee schedule

Adopted Resolution 25-59

9. Consider labor agreement with Library Union.

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

SET REGULAR AGENDA:

Staff requested addition of item #14a, considering member appointment to GREDA.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Blake to approve the Regular agenda, including the addition of item #14a. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

ADMINISTRATION:

10. Consider appointment of Dale Schneider to the Assistant IT Director position.

City Administrator Pagel presented staff recommendation to appoint Dale Schneider to the position of Assistant IT Director.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Mertes to appoint Dale Schneider to the position of Assistant IT Director contingent upon completion and passing all pre-employment requirements. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

11. Consider accepting the retirement from Jacob (Jake) Barsness from his position as Firefighter.

Motion made by Councilor Mertes, Seconded by Councilor Sutherland accepting the retirement from Jacob Barsness from the position of Firefighter. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

POLICE:

12. Consider adopting a resolution accepting a 2025-2026 Toward Zero Death (TZD) grant from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety- Office of Traffic Safety in the amount of \$37,200.00.

Captain Ott provided overview of TZD grant and recommended adoption of the resolution.

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Seconded by Councilor MacGregor to **adopt Resolution 25-60**, accepting a 2025-2026 TZD grant from MN Dept. of Public Safety in the amount of \$37,200.00. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

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

13. Conduct a Public Hearing to consider the adoption of an Ordinance amending and updating sections of Chapter 30 Land Development Regulations and Chapter 10 Animals.

Mayor Connelly noted the purpose of the public hearing, and confirmed that all required notices have been made. Staff affirmed that no correspondence was received by the Clerk's office.

Zoning Administrator Will Richter provided background information related to the proposed amendments to the City's Municipal code.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Sutherland to open the public hearing. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

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

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Sutherland to close the public hearing. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

14. Consider the recommendation of the Planning Commission regarding the adoption of an Ordinance amending and updating sections of Chapter 30 Land Development Regulations and Chapter 10 Animals.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Mertes to **adopt City Ordinance 25-09-02**, amending and updating sections of Chapter 30 Land Development Regulations and Chapter 10 Animals. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

- 14a. Consider the appointment of Jean MacDonnell to the Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority.

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Seconded by Councilor MacGregor to appoint Jean MacDonnell to the Economic Development Authority, filling an unexpired term through March 1, 2030. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly Gibeau".

Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk