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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 26, 2026
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, Carl Babich, Dale Anderson, Travis Cole, Chery Pierzina, Amy Dettmer

POSITIVE HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY:

Mayor Connelly recognizes employee years of service and acknowledges Grand Rapids School District sports teams accomplishments.

PUBLIC FORUM:

No one from the public wished to speak.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilor Blake reviewed recent RAMS meeting where updates were provided on Mesabi Metallics.

Councilor MacGregor noted that Indigenous People's Day event was successful with a good turnout.

Mayor Connelly City/County meeting update and reminder that curfew is 10pm for 12 and under and encourages residents to be mindful as Halloween approaches.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approve minutes for Monday, October 12, 2026 Worksession and Regular Council meetings.

   Motion made by Councilor Sutherland, Seconded by Councilor MacGregor to approve Council minutes for October 12, 2026 meetings as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

VERIFIED CLAIMS:

2. Approve the verified claims for the period Octobe 6, 2026 to October 19, 2026 in the total amount of $362,529.23.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

3. Consider allowing the IT Department to donate retired equipment

4. Consider approving seasonal golf contractors

5. Consider signing cart storage agreement

6. Consider approving Maintenance - Winter (Public Works) seasonal rehires for the 2026–2027 winter season and pay rate increase.

7. Consider approving Peyton Emerson as a Civic Center/Parks & Recreation hire for the 2026-2027 Winter season.

8. Consider approving renewal contracts for City Website and Agenda & Meeting Management with CivicPlus (formerly Municode).

9. Consider adopting a resolution in support of sustaining Deputy Registrar offices and enact a permanent state revenue sharing fund for Deputy Registrars.

   Adopted Resolution 26-81

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

ADMINISTRATION:

10. Consider approving a letter of support to Mesabi Metallics related to State leases

    Motion made by Councilor Blake, Seconded by Councilor MacGregor to approve letter of support for Mesabi Metallics. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake Voting Abstaining: Councilor Mertes

11. Consider Grand Rapids Area Library 2027 Hours and Library Public Services Clerk I Position.

    Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Sutherland to approve 2027 library hours and authorize staff to begin the process of filling the Library Public Services Clerk I position. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

CIVIC CENTER & PARKS:

12. Consider passing a resolution accepting a donation from the Cap Baker Lions Club for the construction of a pavilion at McGowan Park.

    City Councilors attended a ribbon cutting at the pavilion located at McGowan Park in SW Grand Rapids.

    Motion made by Councilor Mertes, Seconded by Councilor Sutherland to **adopt Resolution 26-82**, accepting donation from Cap Baker Lions Club as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

FIRE:

13. Consider allowing the Grand Rapids Fire department the purchase a a skid unit for our side x side.

    Motion made by Councilor Sutherland, Seconded by Councilor Mertes to approve the purchase of a skid unit for side by side from QTAK in the total amount of $11,930. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberly Gibeau

Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk