



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA DATE: September 9, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: Consider approval of a new contract between the City of Grand Rapids and Tom Pagel, City Administrator

PREPARED BY: Chery Pierzina, Human Resources Officer

BACKGROUND:

The City Council has been negotiating a new contract with Tom Pagel for City Administration services.

Tom Pagel has been involved with the City for the past 36 years. From 1988 to 2002, Tom worked as a consulting engineer for the City of Grand Rapids. Tom worked as the City Engineer from June 2002 through March 2013. In March 2013, Tom started working for the City as the City Administrator. Tom has institutional knowledge, passion for community, collaboration, and creativity. Some of Tom's accomplishments include:

Upgrade of 7 th Avenue SE – 80%+ Fed. Funded	Railroad Quiet Zone – No more train horns in City
Completion of South Collector Box	New Fire Hall – In under one year!
49ers Health Insurance – Save \$100k+ annually	Upgrade of Civic Center
Yanmar Naming Rights	GR Riverfest
GoMarti – Autonomous Vehicle – No City Taxes	Pedestrian Bridge over Mississippi River
Trail system throughout the City	Soil Corrections on Block 20 near library
Land swap with ISD 318 – East Elementary site	Northland Counseling Expansion
Creation of Storm Water Utility – MPCA compliance	Day time fire response

Rental Inspection	Collaborations with YMCA – Rec. programing, pickleball, outdoor rink, senior center.
Hospital Security	Library Heat Exchanger – UPM waste
Elimination of concessions at Yanmar Arena	Completion of Miner Pavilion in under one year!
Reorganization of Police Department	New Clubhouse at golf course
Library Design/Construction	Lots of Streets
CURRENT INITIATIVES	
Central School Renovations	Legion Park Master Plan
Cannabis Dispensary	Rapids Rockfest
Labor Negotiations	WWTP Redevelopment
ISD 318 Admin Building Redevelopment	

Other accomplishments not identified is the tens of millions of dollars in grant funding that he has secured for the City. There are very few areas of the physical city and history that Tom is not familiar with. This provides value to the City.

Salary information from comparable cities was also reviewed. Recognizing Tom’s knowledge, experience, education, and dedication to the City, the contract proposal is more than justified.

The proposed contract is attached for review.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:

Make a motion to approve the employment contract with Tom Pagel, City Administrator effective September 9, 2024.