



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

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, April 13, 2026**

**5:00 PM**

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

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

**STAFF:** Tom Pagel, Kimberly Gibeau, Chad Sterle, Chery Pierzina, Carl Babich

**VISITORS:** Linda Harringer, Renee Ducharme, Stacia Rom, Matt Maves

### **POSITIVE HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY:**

Mayor Connelly shared that North in Bloom, with the owner Madeline Cook, was chosen as the only shop selected outside the Twin Cities to showcase her floral talent at the Galleria in Edina. Ms. Cook has an up-north theme, so she's bringing Grand Rapids down to the Twin Cities. The showcase is April 10th to the 19th and is free and open to the public at the Galleria in Edina. There is voting that happens, so hopefully she wins, however, we're really just proud of people who are doing really creative things and showcasing our city.

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

No one from the public wished to speak.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Councilor Blake reports on multiple recent meetings and legislative events attended since the last council meeting. Key topics included:

1. Municipal utilities priorities, including a push to lift Minnesota's nuclear energy moratorium
2. Advocacy at the state Capital, meeting with legislators about local priorities
3. Concerns about zoning preemption, which could reduce local government control
4. Infrastructure discussions including road design and water systems
5. Economic development updates, especially significant activity at Mesabi Metallics
6. Business and utility legislative updates from statewide organizations

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Approve minutes for Monday, March 23, 2026 Council Worksession and Regular Meetings.

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

**VERIFIED CLAIMS:**

2. Approve the verified claims for the period March 17, 2026 to April 6, 2026 in the total amount of \$577,858.66.

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

**ACKNOWLEDGE MINUTES FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

3. Acknowledged minutes for:
  - ~ November 30, 2025 Police Community Advisory Board
  - ~ February 20, 2026 Golf Board Special Meeting
  - ~ February 25, 2026 Human Rights Commission
  - ~ February 26, 2026 GREDA Meeting
  - ~ March 12, 2026 GREDA Meeting

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

4. Consider adopting a resolution accepting a grant from Catholic Community Foundation of Minnesota

**Adopted Resolution 26-12**

5. Consider adopting Election Day Emergency Response Plan
6. Consider adopting a resolution accepting Minnesota DNR grant to purchase protective equipment and water movement apparatus for the Fire Department.

**Adopted Resolution 26-13**

7. Consider adopting a resolution approving LG214 Premises Permit Application for Heroes Helping Heroes

**Adopted Resolution 26-14**

8. Consider entering into an Elevator Inspection Agreement with Larson Elevator at Yanmar Arena.
9. Consider adopting a resolution requesting changes to portions of the MSAS street system

**Adopted Resolution 26-15**

10. Consider accepting the resignation of Stephanie Meittunen from the Human Rights Commission

11. Consider rehiring and hiring of seasonal golf staff.
12. Consider approving the disposal of 3 retired squad vehicles, 1 Grand Rapids FD retired pickup, and 2 forfeited vehicles at auction.
13. Consider approving the purchase of radio equipment for public works
14. Consider approving a Lease Agreement with ISD 318 for use of the City's athletic fields.
15. Consider hiring staff for Public Works for the 2026 Spring/Summer Maintenance Season.
16. Consider extending the employment for seasonal Civic Center employee, Aidric Adam and accept resignation of PT Civic Center employee, John Arnold.
17. Consider allowing the police department to enter a contract with Rampart Audit LLC for the purposes of fulfilling Minnesota statute 13.824 requirement.
18. Consider approving seasonal golf contractors

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

#### SET REGULAR AGENDA:

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

#### ADMINISTRATION:

19. Consider approving Peace Labor Agreements with the Local 49ers related to a cannabis dispensary license.

City Administrator Pagel stated that the city is considering opening a municipal cannabis dispensary and must meet state requirements to move forward. One key requirement is entering into a peace labor agreement with a union to receive preliminary approval. However, this agreement does not automatically unionize employees, future staff would decide on union representation.

Motion made by Councilor Mertes, Seconded by Councilor Sutherland to approve Peace Labor Agreements with Local 49ers. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

#### CITY COUNCIL:

20. Consider appointing Matt Maves to the Arts & Culture Commission and Planning Commission

Mayor Connelly noted Councilor MacGregor has made the recommendation to appoint Matt Maves to both the Arts and Culture Commission and the Planning Commission. Based on that recommendation, the following motion was made.

Motion made by Mayor Connelly, seconded by Councilor Mertes to appoint Matt Maves to the Arts & Culture Commission to fill an unexpired term through December 31, 2026 and to the Planning Commission to fill an unexpired term through March 1, 2027. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

*Kimberly Gibeau*  
Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk