



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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 27, 2026

5:00 PM

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

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

STAFF: Tom Pagel, Kimberly Gibeau, Chad Sterle, Rob Mattei, Will Richter, Carl Babich, Sam Grigsby, Amy Dettmer, Chery Pierzina

VISITORS: Linda Harringer, Renee Ducharme

POSITIVE HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY:

Mayor Connelly acknowledged staff years of service and congratulated GRHS Drama department for their successful production of Hades Town.

PUBLIC FORUM:

No one from the public wished to speak.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilor Blake reviewed various meetings he attended and provided legislative updates.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approve Council minutes for Monday, April 13, 2026 Regular Council meeting.

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

VERIFIED CLAIMS:

2. Approve the verified claims for the period April 7, 2026 to April 20, 2026 in the total amount of \$220,173.65.

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

ACKNOWLEDGE MINUTES FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

3. Acknowledged the following:
 - ~ February 11, 2026 Library Board Meeting
 - ~ March 11, 2026 Golf Board Meeting
 - ~ March 11, 2026 Library Board Meeting

CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Consider approval of a resolution authorizing a grant request to MN IRRR for demolition work associated with a project to replace equipment at the Itasca Curling Club.

Adopted Resolution 26-16

5. Consider approving the attached memorandum establishing the 2026 goals for the City Administrator
6. Consider Voiding Lost Accounts Payable Check and Issue Replacement Check.
7. Adopt a resolution calling a public hearing on tax abatement and issuance of a general obligation tax abatement bond.

Adopted Resolution 26-17

8. Consider accepting the resignation of Amy Blomquist from the Human Rights Commission
9. Consider authorizing the Library Director to apply for a Minnesota Association of Library Friends Good Neighbor Grant
10. Consider adopting a standard agreement with Requests for Proposals for professional services
11. Considering approving the HMEP grant from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

Adopted Resolution 26-18

12. Authorize the Fire Chief to file an attestation with PERA to correct a retirement payout.
13. Consider Voiding Lost Accounts Payable Check and Issue Replacement Check.
14. Consider rehiring Shari Huson as seasonal golf shop assistant at Pokegama Golf Course.
15. Consider approving an agreement with LHB for the Horn Bridge Rehabilitation Study
16. Consider authorizing staff to request proposals for engineering services related to the Block 19 Improvements
17. Consider after the fact approval of an agreement with Point 7 Group for consulting services related to a municipal dispensary

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

18. Consider authorizing staff to submit a lease agreement application to BNSF Railway Company.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Mertes to approve authorizing staff to submit lease agreement application to BNSF Railway as requested. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

ENGINEERING PUBLIC WORKS:

19. Consider adopting a resolution accepting the Highway 2 Corridor Study

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Seconded by Councilor MacGregor to **adopt Resolution 26-19**, accepting Highway 2 Corridor Study. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

POLICE:

20. Consider adopting a resolution to accept a \$250 donation from the Itasca County YMCA, for the Grand Rapids Police Reserve Unit, for volunteer services at 2026 Itasca Father Daughter Ball.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Mertes to **adopt Resolution 26-20**, accepting donation from Itasca County YMCA for Police Reserve as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

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

21. Conduct a Public Hearing to consider the adoption of an Ordinance amending and updating sections of Municipal Code Chapter 30 - Land Development Regulations (R-4 Maximum Height).

Mayor Connelly stated the purpose of the public hearing, noting that all those wishing to be heard on the matter may do so upon the opening of the public hearing. Staff confirmed that all required notices were made and there has been no correspondence received by the City Clerk's office.

Zoning Administrator, Will Richter, presented proposed changes.

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

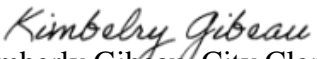
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

22. Consider the recommendation of the Planning Commission regarding the adoption of an Ordinance amending and updating sections of Municipal Code Chapter 30 - Land Development Regulations (R-4 Maximum Height).

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Seconded by Councilor MacGregor to **adopt City Ordinance 26-04-03**, amending and updating sections of Municipal Code Chapter 30. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted:


Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk