



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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 10, 2025
5:00 PM

Mayor Connelly called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

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

STAFF: Tom Pagel, Will Richter, Chad Sterle, Andy Morgan, Rob Mattei, Laura Pfeifer, Matt Wegwerth, Dan Swenson, Kevin Ott, Chery Pierzina

PUBLIC FORUM:

Beth George, 333 NE 8th St, addressing addition of Grand Rapids Rockfest to the City Community Festival event.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilor Blake provided recap of IEDC event and testifying before the Senate Legacy Committee regarding the Central School.

Councilor MacGregor met with the new director of ARDC; update on human rights commission activities.

Mayor Connelly noted a Councilmember was need to conduct Golf Board interviews. Councilor Sutherland volunteered. Also of note is the upcoming City Government Academy beginning April 2nd.

POSITIVE HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY:

Mayor Connelly noted the grand opening of L&M Distribution Center on Airport Road and the arrest of individual scamming members of our community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approve Council Minutes for Monday, January 27, 2025 Worksession and Regular meetings.

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

VERIFIED CLAIMS:

2. Approve the verified claims for the period January 22, 2025 to February 3, 2025 in the total amount of \$1,382,542.45.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mr. Pagel addresses public hearing comments relative to item #16, Community Festivals.

3. Consider accepting the resignation from Anthony Clifton from his position as Custodian with the Grand Rapids Fire Department; and authorize Human Resources to begin the process of filling the internal Custodian vacancy.
4. Consider awarding the 2025 miscellaneous concrete quote to TNT Construction Group.
5. Consider awarding the 2025 stump grinding quote to 218 Tree Service
6. Consider adopting a resolution approving 2024 budget amendments for the Rental Inspector/Fire Fighter salary adjustments.
7. Consider approving sale of retired squad car to City of Coleraine.
8. Consider Approving Wells Fargo Bank Pledge Agreement & Authorization List and Fedwire Securities Joint Custody Service FedMail Request Form.
9. Consider entering into agreement with Paul Bunyan Communications
10. Consider Approving Closure of Golf Course Sweep Account at Grand Rapids State Bank.
11. Consider approving the purchase of a Gravely Mower from L&M Supply
12. Consider purchasing a columbarium from Eickhof Columbaria
13. Consider approving the first amendment to a land lease at the GPZ Airport with L3Harris Technologies
14. Consider awarding a contract to TNT Construction Group for the 2025 storm pond maintenance project
15. Consider approving a Lease Agreement with the Northeast Higher Education District for use of the City's athletic fields.
16. Consider amending official list of designated Community Festivals for the City of Grand Rapids
17. Consider accepting a proposal for engineering services related to the Highway 169 South Lighting Project, Phase 3
18. Consider approval of Pierringer Release with Jonathan Edward Treece.

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

19. Consider adopting a resolution approving a Development Assistance Agreement with KTJ 435, LLC and providing the form, terms, covenants and directions for the issuance of a TIF revenue note in connection therewith.

Mr. Mattei presents proposed apartment project. This is a \$33M project, with various funding sources.

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Second by Councilor MacGregor to **adopt Resolution 25-11**, approving development agreement with KTJ 435 and providing the form, terms, covenants and directions for the issuance of a TIF revenue note as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

20. Consider a professional services agreement with Voyageur Cannabis for the preparation of a municipal dispensary application

Mr. Mattei reviewed previous discussion by Council regarding possible Municipal Cannabis retail dispensary and the best way to move forward if desired. Licensing is still in early stages, with Municipalities authorized to submit applications beginning February 18th. Voyageur Cannabis would operate a municipal dispensary as a concessionaire.

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Second by Councilor Sutherland to approve agreement with Voyageur Cannabis as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, 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 a Division 12 (Floodplain Restrictions) within Chapter 30 Land Development Regulations.

Mayor Connelly noted the reason for the public hearing. Clerk Gibeau stated that all required notices had been made and no correspondence was received in the Clerks office.

Mr. Swenson provided background on proposed text amendment to City Municipal code.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

22. Consider the recommendation of the Planning Commission regarding the adoption of an ordinance, amending Division 12 (Floodplain Restrictions) within Chapter 30 Land Development Regulations.

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Second by Councilor Mertes to **adopt City Ordinance 25-02-01**, Floodplain Text Amendment and authorized publication in summary form. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

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

23. Conduct a public hearing to consider vacating a platted utility easement (Airport South Industrial Park – Phase I)

Mayor Connelly noted the reason for the public hearing. Clerk Gibeau stated that all required notices had been made and no correspondence was received in the Clerks office.

Mr. Swenson provided background on vacation request made regarding platted utility easement on Airport South Industrial Park - Phase 1.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

24. Consider the adoption of a resolution either approving or denying the platted utility easement (Airport South Industrial Park – Phase 1)

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Second by Councilor Mertes to **adopt Resolution 25-12**, vacating utility easement as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

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

25. Conducting a public hearing relating to the issuance of street reconstruction bonds.

Mayor Connelly noted the reason for the public hearing. Clerk Gibeau stated that all required notices had been made and no correspondence was received in the Clerks office.

Rebecca Kurtz, Ehlers, presented background information.

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

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

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

FINANCE:

26. Consider approving a resolution approving a street reconstruction plan and authorizing the issuance of general obligation street reconstruction bonds.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Second by Councilor Blake to **adopt Resolution 25-13**, approving street reconstruction plan and authorized issuance of general obligation street reconstruction bonds as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

27. Consider approving a resolution providing for the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds, Series 2025A in the proposed aggregate principal amount of \$5,180,000.

Motion made by Councilor Mertes, Second by Councilor Sutherland to **adopt Resolution 25-14**, issuance and sale of general obligation bonds as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted:


Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk