



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

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, November 13, 2023**  
**5:00 PM**

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

**PRESENT:** Mayor Dale Christy, Councilor Dale Adams, Councilor Tom Sutherland. **ABSENT:** Councilor Tasha Connelly, Councilor Molly MacGregor

**STAFF:** Tom Pagel, Chad Sterle, Jeremy Nelson, Barb Baird, Chery Pierzina, Julie Kennedy, Rob Mattei, Dan Swenson, Mandy Mitchell

**PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Yellow Ribbon Presentation

Mayor Christy acknowledged Jerry Terhaar for years of service with the VFW Auxiliary and Yellow Ribbon Committee.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

No one from the public wished to speak.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Councilor Adams reviewed RAMS meeting from October 25, 2023, including opportunity to speak to the HWY 35 Project.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

2. Approve Council minutes for Monday, October 23, 2023 Regular Meeting and Tuesday, October 17, 2023 Special meeting.

Motion made by Councilor Adams, Second by Councilor Sutherland to approve Council minutes as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Christy, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland

**VERIFIED CLAIMS:**

3. Approve the verified claims for the period October 17, 2023 to November 6, 2023 in the total amount of \$1,422,484.24.

Motion made by Councilor Sutherland, Second by Councilor Adams to approve the verified claims as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Christy, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland

ACKNOWLEDGE MINUTES FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

4. September 28, 2023, October 12, 2023, October 16, 2023 GREDA meetings  
October 3, 2023 Arts & Culture meeting  
October 11, 2023 Library Board meeting  
October 10, 2023, October 18, 2023, October 25, 2023 PUC meetings

CONSENT AGENDA:

5. Consider approving the continuation of general liability insurance through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust for calendar year 2024.
6. Consider accepting the resignation of Ted Hubbes from the Planning Commission
7. Consider approving and authorizing the retirement of surplus assets
8. Consider entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with MN Army National Guard and renew the Annual Coordination Letter
9. Consider adopting a resolution approving updated City-wide fee schedule

**Adopted Resolution 23-86**

10. Consider approving Public Works PT Eligibility List for Winter Maintenance
11. Consider authorization to advertise for part-time Hospital Security Officers and authorize Human Resources to fill the vacancies.
12. Approve hiring of PT Seasonal Warming House Attendants
13. Consider approving change order for the IRA Civic Center project.

Motion made by Councilor Adams, Second by Councilor Sutherland to approve the Consent agenda as read. Voting Yea: Mayor Christy, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland

SET REGULAR AGENDA:

Motion made by Councilor Adams, Second by Councilor Sutherland to approve the Regular agenda as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Christy, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland

ADMINISTRATION:

14. Appointment of Lance Kuschel to the position of Captain for the Grand Rapids Fire Department effective January 1, 2024.

Ms. Pierzina presented background information on vacant Captain's position with the Fire Department and recommendation to appoint Lance Kuschel.

Motion made by Councilor Sutherland, Second by Councilor Adams to appoint Lance Kuschel to the position of Captain for the Fire Department. Voting Yea: Mayor Christy, Councilor

Adams, Councilor Sutherland

15. Consider creation of Maintenance II position and rate of pay at the Civic Center, hire Civic Center PT employees, and re-classify employee.

Ms. Pierzina presents request for new position and notes that the titles will be changed to Arena Attendant I & II. Also noted recommendation to hire individuals to fill vacancies.

Motion made by Councilor Sutherland, Second by Councilor Adams approved new positions with Yanmar Arena, changing titles to Arena Attendant I and II and approve hiring John Arnold as Arena Attendant II and Jack Hoover as part time Arena Attendant I as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Christy, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland

#### ARENA, PARKS & RECREATION:

16. Consider assisting Kootasca with a fully accessible playground with in-kind services and \$5,000 from the City's Park Land Dedication account.

Motion made by Councilor Adams, Second by Councilor Sutherland to approve assisting Kootasca with in-kind service and \$5,000 donation as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Christy, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland

17. Consider entering into an Equipment Lending Agreement with Yanmar Compact Equipment North America for use of a machine at Yanmar Arena.

Motion made by Councilor Adams, Second by Councilor Sutherland to approve Yanmar Compact Equipment Agreement. Voting Yea: Mayor Christy, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland

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

18. Conduct a Public Hearing to consider the rezoning of 0.2 acres of land (Parcel 91-550-0340) from SR-2 (Shoreland One and Two Family Residential) to SPU (Shoreland Public Use)

Dan Swenson, Asst. Com. Dev. Director, reviewed requested amendment to zoning map.

Motion made by Councilor Adams, Second by Councilor Sutherland to open the public hearing. Voting Yea: Mayor Christy, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland

Corrine Ivanca, 501 NW 9th Street, opposes the change due to structures not fitting in the current neighborhood, not enough clear information for future usage.

Tyenne Betts, 419 NW 9th Street, What is the long term plan for water treatment system? Opposes rezone. Noted not opposed if dedicated green space forever.

Fred Callahan, 329 NW 6th Ave, is this a market value purchase and if so, what is the market value? Need to make sure the City is paying actual market rate.

Art Clairmont, 822 NW 6th Ave, disagree with the amount being paid. Believe the Council should table this issue. Also expressed concerns for accessing neighboring property.

Julie Kennedy addressed questions presented by Council and residents.

Joel Gebhart, 501 NW 9th Street, questions why does this need to be rezoned now if there is no plan?

Motion made by Councilor Adams, Second by Councilor Sutherland to close the public hearing. Voting Yea: Mayor Christy, Councilor Adams, Councilor Sutherland

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

19. Consider the recommendation of the Planning Commission regarding adoption of an ordinance, amending the Official Zoning Map, by rezoning of 0.2 acres of land (Parcel 91-550-0340) from SR-2 (Shoreland One and Two Family Residential) to SPU (Shoreland Public Use)

Following the public hearing and lengthy discussion, the Council recommends PUC conduct a special meeting prior to closing on Friday, November 17, 2023 to seek removal of contingency for land purchase.

Ms. Kennedy, General Manager, rescinds rezoning petition. No further action is noted.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

*Kimberly Gibeau*  
Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk