



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

## **PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 05, 2022**

**4:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Pursuant to due notice and call thereof a Regular Meeting of the Grand Rapids Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 4:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

**CALL OF ROLL:**

**PRESENT**

Commissioner Betsy Johnson  
Commissioner Mark Gothard  
Commissioner Ted Hubbes  
Chairperson Molly MacGregor

**ABSENT**

Commissioner Patrick Goggin

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Consider approval of the minutes of the February 15, 2022, 4:00 pm special meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Johnson, second by Commissioner Hubbes to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022 special meeting. The following voted in favor thereof: Johnson, MacGregor, Hubbes, Gothard. Opposed: None, passed unanimously.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

2. Consider a recommendation to the City Council regarding the vacation of platted street and alley right-of-way within Reynolds' Addition to Grand Rapids.

Matt Grose, Superintendent of ISD #318, on behalf of the School District Board submitted a valid petition, on April 15, 2022 requesting the vacation of the following described public right-of-ways:

6th Avenue East Lying Between Lot 6, Block 1 and Lot 1, Block 2, Reynolds' Addition to Grand Rapids AND N/S alley in Block 1 and the N/S alley in Block 2, Reynolds' Addition to Grand Rapids, Itasca County, Minnesota.

The School District is the owner of the of the former Murphy Elementary School property. The vacation request, if approved, would remove the unimproved right-of-ways from the property, providing a clean title to the site, for potential future sale.

As described in the attached email correspondence, the Engineering/Public Works Department have no objections to the petitioned vacation, however Matt Wegwerth, City Engineer/Public Works Director, noted the ownership of the sidewalk along the east side of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue appears to be fully on ISD 318 property, which would require the walk to be the responsibility of the District. With the vacation, this would eliminate all public ownership of this walk.

Historically, the sidewalk along the east side of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue (between 9<sup>th</sup> Street NE and 8<sup>th</sup> Street NE) has been maintained by the school district. During the schools operational years, snow removal was taken care of by the districts grounds maintenance department, as the school busses unloaded and picked up on the west side of the school, for the majority of its time open. The northern 2/3's of the sidewalk, on this side of the school, remain on the School District's property.

There were no concerns or objections regarding the petitioned right-of-way vacations from the remaining members of the staff review committee which consists of the Engineering/Public Works Department, Community Development Department, Fire Department, Police Department, and the Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Hubbes, second by Commissioner Johnson that, based on the findings of fact presented here today, and in the public's best interest, the Planning Commission does hereby forward to the City Council a recommendation to **approve** the vacation of public rights-of-way described as:

6th Avenue East Lying Between Lot 6, Block 1 and Lot 1, Block 2, Reynolds' Addition to Grand AND N/S alley in Block 1 and the N/S alley in Block 2, Reynolds' Addition to Grand Rapids, Itasca County, Minnesota

1. Is the right-of-way needed for traffic purposes?

Why/Why not? No, it is not and has not been needed for traffic purposes.

2. Is the right-of-way needed for pedestrian purposes?

Why/Why not? No, it is not needed for pedestrian purposes. A public easement will be acquired for the sidewalk on the east side of 5th Avenue.

3. Is the right-of-way needed for utility purposes?

Why/Why not? No, they are not needed for utility purposes, as stated by the staff review committee.

4. Would vacating the right-of-way place additional land on the tax rolls?

Why/Why not? Yes, with the sale of the land it could put additional land on the tax rolls.

5. Would vacating the right-of-way facilitate economic development in the City?

Why/Why not? Yes, if sold to developers could create economic development.

#### PUBLIC INPUT:

*Individuals may address the Planning Commission about any non-public hearing item or any item not included on the Regular Meeting Agenda. Speakers are requested to come to the podium, state their name and address for the record and limit their remarks to three (3) minutes.*

MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES:

Mr. Trast stated that there are still vacancies on the Planning Commission if anyone is interested in becoming a member they can contact the City of Grand Rapids Administration Department.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Commissioner Johnson, second by Commissioner Hubbes to adjourn the meeting at 4:17 P.M. The following voted in favor thereof: Gothard, Hubbes, MacGregor, Johnson. Opposed: None, passed unanimously.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 2, 2022 AT 4:00 PM.

Hearing Assistance Available: This facility is equipped with a ready assistance system.

ATTEST:

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Aurimy Groom, Recorder