



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

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, February 24, 2025**  
**5:00 PM**

Mayor Connelly called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

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

**STAFF:** Tom Pagel, Kimberly Gibeau, Chad Sterle, Will Richter, Travis Cole, John Linder, Shawn Graeber, Laura Pfeifer, Andy Morgan, Jeremy Nelson

**PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Grand Rapids Fire Department - Pinning Ceremony for Safety Officer Will Richter

Conducted Pinning Ceremony for Will Richter, Fire Department Safety Officer

**POSITIVE HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY:**

Mayor Connelly acknowledged National School Resource Officer week and Grand Rapids Police Officer Troy Scott, ISD 318 SRO and shared a message sent from local resident acknowledging Police Officer Jeff Madsen for his exemplary performance in a recent situation.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

No one from the public wished to speak.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Councilor MacGregor, met with ARDC representative, reviewed Human Rights Commission activities, attended LMC Advanced Training for elected officials and working with WMMPB regarding trail town designation.

Councilor Blake provided overview of CGMC update and focuses.

Mayor Connelly discussed Hwy 169 Coalition, public meeting on corridor, and encouraged awareness about fraud and scams targeting residents.

Councilor Sutherland provided update on Yanmar arena activities including the outdoor pavilion. Youth entering regional competitions. Dry floor event updates.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

2. Approve minutes for Monday, February 10, 2025 Council meeting and Closed meeting summary.

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

VERIFIED CLAIMS:

3. Approve the verified claims for the period February 4, 2025 to February 18, 2025 in the amount of \$1,177,785.32.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Consider approving 2025 pay scales for non-represented employees and authorizing the advertising of the open Finance Director position.
5. Consider adopting a resolution to authorize an operating transfer from the Special Revenue Fund-Civic Center Fund to the Debt Service Fund-GO Refunding Bonds, Series 2024A.

**Adopted Resolution 25-15**

6. Consider adopting a resolution approving budgeted transfers from the General Fund to Special Revenue Funds-Domestic Animal Control Facility and Central School.

**Adopted Resolution 25-16**

7. Consider adopting a resolution to authorize an operating transfer from the General Fund to the Airport Operations and the Airport Capital Project Fund.

**Adopted Resolution 25-17**

8. Consider adopting a resolution approving transfer from the Debt Service Fund-GO Refunding Series 2024A to Capital Project Fund-Yanmar Arena Capital Improvement Project.

**Adopted Resolution 25-18**

9. Consider entering a Memorandum of Understanding with First Call for Help of Itasca County
10. Consider entering into a cooperative construction agreement with Itasca County for 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE
11. Consider the appointment of Jaime Turnbull to the position of Custodian with the Grand Rapids Fire Department.

12. Consider appointing Madison Janecke to the position of Seasonal Assistant Golf Professional at Pokegama Golf Course.

12a. Consider authorizing the Police Department to enter into Educational Tobacco Compliance Check annual plan agreement/contract with Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Second by Councilor Sutherland to approve the Consent agenda with the addition of item 12a. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

SET REGULAR AGENDA:

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

CITY COUNCIL:

13. Consider appointments to Boards & Commissions.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Second by Councilor Sutherland to make the following appointments to Boards & Commissions:

Appoint John Ryan to the Pokegama Golf Board, term to expire March 1, 2028;

Appoint Sholom & Wayne Bruns to the GREDA, terms to expire March 1, 2031;

Appoint Doug Learmont & Ron Grossman to Human Rights Comm., terms to expire March 1, 2028;

Appoint Betsy Johnson to the Planning Commission, term to expire March 1, 2029; and

Appoint Rick Smith to the PUC, term to expire March 1, 2029.

Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

*Kimberly Gibeau*

Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk