



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

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, September 28, 2026**

**5:00 PM**

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

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

**STAFF:** Tom Pagel, Kimberly Gibeau, Chad Sterle, Carl Babich, Matt Wegwerth, Chery Pierzina, Amy Dettmer, Will Richter, Travis Cole, Rob Mattei

**VISITORS:** Linda Harringer, Renee Ducharme

### **POSITIVE HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY:**

Mayor Connelly acknowledged years of service for City staff and reminded residents that the Local Sales tax is ending December 31, 2026.

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

No one from the public wished to speak.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Councilor Sutherland noted that the Annual National Rough Grouse hunt is in Grand Rapids next week, there are good things happening with Mesabi Metallics.

Councilor Blake reviewed attendance at various organizational meetings and provided overview for ITASCAP, RAMS, and Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Connelly discussed recent public open house regarding block 19 updates, and Range Gateway Coalition for highway 169 update.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Approve minutes for Monday, September 14, 2026 Worksession and Regular meetings and Closed meeting summary.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded 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 September 9, 2026 to September 21, 2026 in the total amount of \$1,971,547.18 of which \$4,095.00 are debt service payments.

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

#### CONSENT AGENDA:

3. Adopt a Resolution Accepting two FAA Grants totaling \$547,104 for the Snow Removal Equipment purchase at the Grand Rapids/Itasca County Airport and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute.

#### **Adopted Resolution 26-70**

4. Consider approving City Council meeting date change from December 21, 2026 to December 14, 2026 and close City Hall to public December 23, 30, 31.
5. Consider authorizing public works staff to solicit quotes for the 2027 downtown flowers
6. Adopt Resolutions Accepting three State Airport Fund Grants for the Grand Rapids/Itasca County Airport and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute.

#### **Adopted Resolutions 26-71, 26-72 and 26-73**

7. Consider adopting an ordinance regulating the retail sale and registration of Lower-Potency Hemp Edible products.

#### **Adopted City Ordinance 26-09-07**

8. Consider hiring Alex Stuber as PT Arena Attendant II at Yanmar Arena.
9. Consider adopting a resolution approving updated City-wide fee schedule

#### **Adopted Resolution 26-74**

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

#### ADMINISTRATION:

10. Consider a resolution adopting the 2026 Preliminary Levy payable 2027

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Seconded by Councilor MacGrego to **adopt Resolution 26-75**, adopting proposed 2026 levies payable in 2027. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

#### FIRE:

11. Consider adopting a resolution accepting a \$2,000 donation from the Grand Rapids Speedway to the Grand Rapids Fire Department.

Motion made by Councilor Sutherland, Seconded by Councilor Mertes to **adopt Resolution 26-76**, accepting donation from Grand Rapids Speedway. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

12. Consider adopting a resolution accepting a \$100 donation from members of the YMCA to the Grand Rapids Fire Department's Public Safety Education Fund.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Mertes to **adopt Resolution 26-77**, accepting donation from YMCA. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

#### CITY COUNCIL:

13. Consider appointment to the Library Board.

Motion made by Councilor Sutherland, Seconded by Councilor Blake to appoint Frieda Hall to the Grand Rapids Area Library Board to fill an unexpired term through December 31, 2027. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

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

14. Conduct a Public Hearing to consider the adoption of Ordinance amending Municipal Code Chapter 30 - Land Development Regulations.

Will Richter, Zoning Administrator, reviewed proposed changes.

Mayor Connelly stated the purpose of the public hearing, confirmed proper notices have been made, and no correspondence has been received regarding this issue.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Mertes to open the public hearing.

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

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

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

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

15. 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.

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Seconded by Councilor Sutherland to **adopt City Ordinance 26-09-08**, amending and updating sections of chapter 30 Land Development Regulations. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk