



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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 24, 2026

5:00 PM

Mayor Pro-tem MacGregor called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

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

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Pagel, Chad Sterle, Kimberly Gibeau, Carl Babich, Jeremy Nelson

PUBLIC FORUM:

Anthony Serratori, address, previous owner of Pokegama Plaza Liquor. Addresses Cannabis Dispensary. Does not believe the City should be in the business of retail cannabis.

Trina Jacobson Sawyer, Isleview Road, questions the financials and sustainability. Does not agree with City operating a cannabis business.

Nate Schuler, Acheson Tire, expresses concerns about e-bikes.

Betty Burnson and Esther Savage, Lakeshore Place Apartments, reads letter sent to HRA - Diane Larson, regarding the need for rent stability for seniors, annual COLA increase for seniors verses rent increases. Asking for help to keep rent reasonable.

Pat Bujold, business owner in town, does not support cannabis business.

Robert Bennet, thinks that a municipal dispensary is lessor of two evils.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilor Blake attended Highway 161 Range Gateway Coalition meeting.

Councilor MacGregor acknowledges the success of the county fair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approve Council minutes for Monday, August 10, 2026 Worksession and Regular meetings.

Motion made by Councilor Mertes, Seconded by Councilor Sutherland to approve the Council minutes for August 10, 2026 meeting as presented. Voting Yea: Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

VERIFIED CLAIMS:

2. Approve the verified claims for the period August 4, 2026 to August 17, 2026 in the total amount of \$304,356.14.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

3. Consider vacating one seat on the Police Community Advisory Board and support efforts to fill the vacancy
4. Consider adopting a resolution authorizing internal loan for advance of certain costs in connection with a tax increment financing district for property located at 533 NW 4th St (Cargill Purchase).

Adopted Resolution 26-62

5. Consider approving the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission's request to apply for a grant from the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation for \$5,000 for 2027.

5a. Adopt a Resolution Accepting an FAA Grant in the amount of \$2,371,291 for the Taxiway A North Reconstruction Project at the Grand Rapids/Itasca County Airport and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute.

Adopted Resolution 26-63

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Seconded by Councilor Sutherland to approve the Consent agenda as amended with addition of 5a. Voting Yea: Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

SET REGULAR AGENDA:

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

CIVIC CENTER & PARKS:

6. Consider passing a resolution accepting a donation from the Friends of the Skatepark for the purchase of skatepark equipment.

Motion made by Councilor Sutherland, Seconded by Councilor Mertes to **adopt Resolution 26-64**, accepting donation from Friends of the Skatepark as presented. Voting Yea: Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberly Gibeau
Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk