



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

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, December 16, 2024**  
**5:00 PM**

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

**PRESENT:** Mayor Tasha Connelly, Councilor Dale Adams, Councilor Molly MacGregor, Councilor Tom Sutherland, Councilor Rick Blake

**STAFF:** Tom Pagel, Chad Sterle, Tom Beaudry, Matt Wegwerth, Laura Pfeifer, Will Richter, Travis Cole, Rob Mattei, Kevin Ott, Jeremy Nelson, Erik Scott, Dan Swenson

**PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:**

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1. Presentation of Mayor's Art Award - Itasca Life Options

Mayor Connelly provides overview of award history and nominees. Kari Hedlund, Arts & Culture Commission, presents Mayor's Art Award to Itasca Life Options as voted on by the Grand Rapids Community.

**POSITIVE HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY:**

Mayor Connelly mentioned the "Shop with a Hero" program hosted by the Grand Rapids Police Department with participants from area first responder organizations. Also of note is that tonight is the final Council meeting for City Councilor Dale "Spud" Adams after 18 years of service on the Grand Rapids City Council. Cake and coffee will be served following the meeting. Finally, three letters of appreciation sent to the Police Department were shared.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

No one from the public wished to speak.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Councilor MacGregor discussed information related to the City's Climate Action Plan and work on proposal for solar power plan for the Library.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

2. Approve Council minutes for Monday, December 2, 2024 Worksession, Regular and Special meetings.

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

VERIFIED CLAIMS:

3. Approve the verified claims for the period November 26, 2024 to December 9, 2024 in the amount of \$1,315,733.76.

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

ACKNOWLEDGE MINUTES FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

4. Acknowledged minutes for Boards & Commissions:
  - ~ September 19, 2024 PCA Board
  - ~ October 1, 2024 Arts & Culture Commission
  - ~ October 9, 2024 PUC
  - ~ November 19, 2024 Golf Board

CONSENT AGENDA:

5. Consider approving the Workers Compensation coverage through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust
6. Consider Change in Position for Seasonal Civic Center Employees.
7. Consider revised Earned Sick and Safe Time Policy.
8. Consider amending the Tuition Reimbursement Program.
9. Consider approving a supplemental letter agreement with SEH for 2025 miscellaneous services.
10. Consider approving a Supplemental Letter Agreement with SEH related to CP 2025-1
11. Consider an agreement with Enterprise to sell GRPU vehicles
12. Consider an MOU with GRPU related to shared services
13. Adopt a resolution approving LG 214 Premises Permit for Grand Rapids Amateur Hockey Association.

**Adopted Resolution 24-112**

14. Consider approving a Memorandum of Understanding with Independent School District 318 and the Reif Arts Council for the operation and maintenance of the electronic billboard sign.

15. Consider approving resolutions adopting the 2024 Tax Levy Payable 2025, 2025 General Fund Budgets, 2025 Special Revenue Budgets and 2025 Enterprise Budgets.

**Adopted Resolutions 24-113, 24-114, 24-115, 24-116, 24-117, 24-118, 24-119, 24-120, 24-121, 24-122, 24-123, 24-124, 24-125, 24-126**

16. Consider adopting a resolution accepting a \$130,000 grant from Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) Public Works grant program for the redevelopment of the commercial building at 12 NW 3rd St.

**Adopted Resolution 24-127**

17. Consider adopting a resolution accepting a \$180,000 grant from Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) Public Works grant program for the redevelopment of the commercial buildings at 16 NE 3rd St. and 210 N. Pokegama Ave.

**Adopted Resolution 24-128**

18. Consider adopting a resolution accepting a \$40,000 grant from Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) Commercial Redevelopment grant program for hazardous material abatement and interior demolition associated with the redevelopment of the commercial buildings at 16 NE 3rd St. and 210 N. Pokegama Ave.

**Adopted Resolution 24-129**

19. Consider adopting a resolution authorizing the Itasca County Auditor to assess the delinquent Storm Water Utility charges to the property tax statement of delinquent tax owners.

**Adopted Resolution 24-130**

20. Consider Voiding Lost Accounts Payable Check and Issue a Replacement Check.
21. Consider a motion agreeing to the sale of property by warranty deeds to Minnesota Department of Transportation for infrastructure improvements along State highways in the city of Grand Rapids.
22. Consider accepting proposals for annual fire alarm and sprinkler system testing for the Grand Rapids Fire Hall.

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

**SET REGULAR AGENDA:**

Motion made by Councilor Adams, Second by Councilor MacGregor to approve the Regular agenda as amended with the addition of 26a. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

## ADMINISTRATION:

23. Appointment of Will Richter to the position of Safety Officer for the Grand Rapids Fire Department effective January 1, 2025.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Second by Councilor Blake to appoint Will Richter as Safety Officer for the Fire Department effective January 1, 2025. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

24. Consider appointing Cody Kraskey to the position Public Works Maintenance I Worker and consider establishing an eligibility list for Public Works Maintenance I Worker.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Second by Councilor Adams appointing Cody Kraskey to Public Works Maintenance I worker and establish an eligibility list for PW Maintenance Worker I. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

25. Consider an agreement with Momentum Advocacy for lobbying services

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Second by Councilor Sutherland approving lobbying services agreement with Momentum Advocacy. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

## CITY COUNCIL:

26. Consider appointments to various Boards & Commissions.

Councilmembers discussed interviews with various applicants and make recommendations for appointments.

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

- \* Ashley Lehner, Angie Miskovich and Aaron Squadroni to Arts & Culture Commission with terms expiring December 31, 2027.
- \* Jessi Bloom and Stephanie Meittunen to Human Rights Commission, terms expiring March 1, 2026 & March 1, 2028, respectively.
- \* Cyndy Martin, Aaron Squadroni and Tabbatha Litchke to Library Board, terms expiring December 31, 2027.
- \* Cassey Casteel, Jessica Malmquist and Nikki Roberts to PCA Board, terms expiring December 31, 2027.

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

26a. Letter of Support for Free Range Co-Op

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Second by Councilor Blake to approve letter of support for Free Range Co-Op. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

1st PUBLIC HEARING: (scheduled to begin no earlier than 5:00 PM)

27. Conduct a public hearing to consider vacating a part of Simpson Avenue (Second Avenue NE)

Mayor Connelly stated the purpose of the public hearing, confirmed all required notices were given and inquired after correspondence received.

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

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

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

28. Consider the adoption of a resolution either approving or denying the public vacation of right of way for a part of Simpson Avenue (Second Avenue NE)

Motion made by Councilor Sutherland, Second by Councilor MacGregor to **adopt Resolution 24-131**, vacating part of Simpson Avenue (Second Avenue NE) as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

2nd PUBLIC HEARING: (scheduled to begin no earlier than 5:00 PM)

29. Conduct a public hearing to consider vacating a part of platted right-of-way (Block 18)

Mayor Connelly stated the purpose of the public hearing, confirmed all required notices were given and inquired after correspondence received.

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

Ron Niemala, 1501 Frasier Drive, addressed the Council with concerns regarding alley access for trucks delivering to his tenants, New China Restaurant.

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

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

30. Consider the adoption of a resolution either approving or denying part of the public vacation of right of way (Block 18)

Mr. Mattei addressed concerns expressed by Mr. Niemala. Does not believe turning radius for trucks will be impacted.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Second by Councilor Blake to **adopt Resolution 24-132**, vacating part of Third Street as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

3rd PUBLIC HEARING: (scheduled to begin no earlier than 5:00 PM)

31. Conduct a public hearing to consider vacating a part of platted right-of-way (Block 19)

Mayor Connelly stated the purpose of the public hearing, confirmed all required notices were given and inquired after correspondence received.

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

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

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Sutherland .  
Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

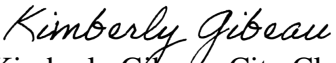
32. Consider the adoption of a resolution either approving or denying part of the public vacation of right of way (Block 19)

Motion made by Councilor Sutherland, Second by Councilor Blake to **adopt Resolution 24-133**, vacating parts of Block 19 as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk