



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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 28, 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 Rick Blake. ABSENT: Councilor Tom Sutherland.

STAFF: Tom Pagel, Chad Sterle, Matt Wegwerth, Barb Baird, Kevin Ott, Chery Pierzina, Julie Kennedy, Will Richter, Dale Anderson

POSITIVE HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY:

Councilor Adams reviewed recent season of high school sports, noting appearances at State.

Mayor Connelly noted location of City of Grand Rapids polling places and expressed appreciation to election poll workers and City staff for services provided during the election season.

PUBLIC FORUM:

David Marty, 1127 Fairgrounds Road, addressed the Council regarding the proposed franchise fee on behalf of ISD 318. The school is tax exempt, but this will put the fee on the school and this cost will be passed on to the community.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Mayor Connelly reviewed the October 21, 2024 public meeting with Minnesota Department of Transportation regarding Hwy 2 corridor study; League of Minnesota Cities is hosting Mayor for the Day essay contest for elementary school students, 4th through 6th grades; noted Affordable housing - Commonwealth Apartment project.

Councilor Blake expressed appreciation for the Greenway Joint Recreation board and collaborative efforts with the City of Grand Rapids.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approve Council minutes for Monday, October 14, 2024 Worksession and Regular meetings.

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

VERIFIED CLAIMS:

2. Approve the verified claims for the period October 8, 2024 to October 21, 2024 in the total amount of \$963,023.02.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

3. Consider approving Voting Operations, Technology, & Election Resources (VOTER) Funding Agreement with Itasca County.
4. Consider approving final payment for AP 2023-2, S Taxilane Crack Seal project in the amount of \$2,403.60.
5. Consider approving the purchase of three snowplow kits from Martin's Snowplow and Equipment.
6. Consider approving the purchase of a chipper box for public works
7. Consider authorizing the retirement and sale of surplus assets.
8. Consider approving a lease agreement with VFW Post 1720 for the Purple Heart Memorial
9. Consider removal of appointment for new hire and authorize Human Resources to post, interview and hire for the open position of Police Officer.
10. Consider approving rate of pay increase for Maintenance -Winter (Public Works) position and approve Public Works PT Eligibility List for Winter Maintenance.
11. Consider Pay Adjustment for Building Inspector Paul Martinetto.
12. Consider a resolution approving the fiscal year 2024/2025 budget for Yanmar Arena.

Adopted Resolution 24-96

13. Consider quotes for Central School site work
14. Consider approving final payment in the amount of \$158,310.00 for Acoustical Panel Installation at Yanmar Arena
15. Consider approving 2 change orders for Yanmar Arena Project
16. Consider adopting an Ordinance establishing Franchise Agreements.

Adopted City Ordinances 24-10-05, 24-10-06, 24-10-07

17. Consider approval of purchase agreement for patio furniture

18. Consider adopting City Ordinance regulating cannabis businesses.

Adopted City Ordinance 24-10-08

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

SET REGULAR AGENDA:

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

ADMINISTRATION:

19. Consider accepting the resignation from Andy Horton from his position as Safety Officer from the Grand Rapids Fire Department, act on revised GRFP Officer salaries, approve revised Safety Officer job description, and authorize City staff to begin the process of filling the internal Safety Officer vacancy.

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Second by Councilor MacGregor to accept the resignation of Andy Horton, approve revised GRFD Officer salaries, revised job description and authorize filling the position as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake

20. Consider accepting the resignation from Amanda Mitchell from her position as Administrative Assistant with the GRPD and authorize Human Resources to post, interview and hire for the open position of Administrative Assistant.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Second by Councilor Adams to accept the resignation of Amanda Mitchell and authorized the process of filling the position. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake

21. Consider approving structure change with Hospital Security Staff, revised job description for Lead Hospital Security Officer, and appointment to open positions.

Motion made by Councilor Adams, Second by Councilor MacGregor to approve Hospital Security Staff structure changes, revised job description for Lead Hospital Officer and appoint Jared Anderson and Christina Davis to the position of Lead Hospital Security Officer, Samuel Grigsby to the position of Full-Time Security and Heather McNally to Part-Time Security Officer. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake

CIVIC CENTER & PARKS:

22. Consider passing a resolution accepting a donation from the Greater Pokegama Lake Association for financial assistance with the July 4th Fireworks Display.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Second by Councilor Adams to adopt **Resolution 24-97**, accepting \$3000 donation from Greater Pokegama Lake Association as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake

CITY COUNCIL:

23. Consider appointment to the Library Board.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Second by Councilor Blake to appoint Amanda King to fill an unexpired non-resident term through December 31, 2026. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake

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

24. Conduct a public hearing to consider the adoption of an ordinance as it pertains to Franchise Fees.

Mayor Connelly stated the purpose of the meeting.

Matt Wegwerth provided overview of proposed Franchise Fee Ordinance including fee structure, increases, schedule, etc.

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

Acknowledged all notices have been made and identified correspondence received.

John Johnson, Coleraine Resident and Itasca County Commissioner, request the Council consider moving with caution, review before approving.

Melissa Bahr, Chamber of Commerce, requesting the Council slow down and table this ordinance to provide time to review and work with local businesses to raise understanding.

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

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

ENGINEERING PUBLIC WORKS:

25. Consider adopting an Ordinance establishing Franchise Fees.

Mr. Wegwerth reviewed the proposed ordinance.

Initial motion was to bring back fee schedule for consideration on November 25, 2024, and following discussion, was amended as follows:

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Second by Councilor Blake to **adopt City Ordinance 24-10-09**, and bring proposed fee schedule to Council for consideration on Monday, December 2, 2024. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberly Gibeau

Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk