

# MEETING MINUTES

## GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION



Held: January 9, 2023

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 7:00 P.M. to 7:47 P.M. in the Old Fire Hall. Mayor John Berry called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

**Council Drew Seats:**

1. Glassford
2. Donsbach
3. Sylvain
4. Frantz
5. Smith
6. Tolles

Rachel Smith – Present  
Lynn Sylvain – Present  
Alex Glassford – Present

Martha Frantz - Present  
Rick Tolles – Present  
Jody Donsbach – Present

Mayor explained to Council that a President of Council needs to be nominated. Donsbach nominated Rachel Smith for President of Council. Lynn Sylvain nominated herself for President of Council. Mayor stated if no other nominations, nominations will be closed and we will go to a written vote.

Written votes were Smith - 5 votes and Sylvain - 1 vote.

Mayor congratulated Smith on being nominated Council President.

**EMPLOYEES:** Chad Beyer and Kristel Beyer

**VISITORS:** Adeline Hamrick, Keira Schroeder, Peggy Seab, David Fowler & Doug Grey

**MINUTES:** Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Smith to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 12, 2022.

Sylvain stated on the fourth page the Mayor made a comment about having trouble with a person in town that goes against the codes and ordinances then sits on a seat and tries to enforce them. Sylvain asked the Mayor if he would like to be more specific. Mayor stated he will leave the comment just as it is written. Sylvain stated did you not also make a comment of someone stealing from the Village. Mayor said yes, it was either stealing or abusing the right of what other people cannot do. Sylvain asked did you make a police report on the theft from the Village. Mayor said I did not mean it in that particular context. It is taking the right away from other people that would want to do the same thing but cannot because there are ordinances against it. Sylvain stated so, there was not a theft from the Village. Mayor explained I am not saying there was or was not, it was a theft of rights not anything physically.

**BILLS:** Sylvain asked if Rowe Tree Service \$4,200 included the tree that was just removed on Third Street. Chad said no it does not. Sylvain asked Tolles if they got three quotes on the K & K Construction \$49,964 for sidewalks, Tolles said no, the Mayor clarified and stated yes. Sylvain asked about the \$5,500 salt spreader. Chad stated it goes on the back of the

dump truck, Sylvain asked if this is new or replacing something. Chad said it is new and replacing the v-box. Sylvain asked if he got three quotes, Chad said no. Smith made a motion, seconded by Frantz to approve the bills from December 9, 2022 – December 31, 2022 and January 1, 2023 - January 5, 2023.

Votes were: Glassford – yes Tolles – yes Frantz – yes  
 Donsbach – yes Smith – yes Sylvain – no receipts, no

**MOTION APPROVED**

Mayor Berry stated approval of bills have passed.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:** Mayor stated we have Adeline Hamrick and Keira Schroeder here to present to Council. Their teacher

Mr. Floro stated they are in his leadership course studying Federal, State & Local Government and he challenged them to come up with a problem and offer a solution to the problem. Adeline Hamrick and Keira Schroeder presented to Council the idea to turn the old fire station into a museum/historical place because it is currently not being used very much. They presented the idea of remodeling the building for a new purpose so people can learn about the town. Mayor thanked both of them for their ideas.

Mayor asked David Fowler if he had a letter to read to Council and asked if he would present it to him first. David stated he didn't think he needed too but would if that is what the Mayor would prefer. Mayor stated he is not against it but would prefer to see it first. David mentioned it is an encouraging letter to adopt a community spirit, professionalism and stated that whether it is work or Village Council you are not going to agree with everyone. He stated there is an importance for being respectful and professional in the disagreement, he feels has been lacking over the last year. The letter is to encourage Council to work together and adopt that. David Fowler passed out his letter to Council. Mayor mentioned to Peggy Seab that we are looking into the Vision and low-pressure sewer question. Mayor is hoping to have an answer at the next meeting. Doug Grey asked if Council will be pursuing an outdoor refreshment area in town called a DORA. Smith stated this has been discussed on Council and it needs to be determined what the designated area should be and how we handle the park. The last time we discussed this the question was how to keep people contained in the area and stay out of the park which alcohol is off limits in. Smith stated this has been something Council has been interested in. Doug Grey said he would certainly volunteer his efforts, if necessary. He also mentioned another avenue would be to do a petition to the get it on a ballot for a vote from the citizens.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:** Sheriff gave Mayor monthly report. Mayor asked the deputy about the theft around the Town Hall, the deputy stated he can look into that. Mayor also asked them to keep an eye out for speeders going down the main street. Deputy stated he believes for the month of December in Grand Rapids we have had 21 traffic stops.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor stated he hoped everyone had a good holiday. He mentioned Santa stopped at the new Fire Hall on December 21<sup>st</sup> and he was a big hit. He thanked the fireman for hosting him. The Mayor said he is aware we need to work together as Council for the people of the Village. He stated we may have struggled with this last year but he believes there is hope that we can work on a better year going forward. Mayor stated there are things that need done and projects that need addressed. We have sidewalks again, beautification around the town, care for the flowers and plantings that we have. We have discussed more parking and need to have committee meetings to start things going. He thinks signage would help people to find the parking. We had someone

wanting to plant trees but he has not heard back from them. We will be having another committee meeting on the utility rates. Mayor stated we have several things to look forward to work on. Mayor said he was notified that Bowling Green is raising their rates which could in turn effects us. Mayor will be leaving the Council committees the same as last year so the commitees can continue their work.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Chad said the furance got replaced in the Lab building. He had Rowe cut a tree down on Third Street that was unsafe. Sylvain stated the Pavilion post bottom are rotting and asked if these got fixed. Chad said he has not found anyone, the builders that did it are no longer in business. Chad and the Mayor had discussed, the Mayor contacted someone but they were so busy they couldn't get to it. Chad said he still will try to find someone. Mayor said the fascia boards need looked at as well. Sylvain asked about the header in the Town Hall that needs replaced, Chad said he can look into that. Sylvain asked if he placed the photo of the ceiling repair on the website. Chad said we have not done that yet. Donsbach asked about the pole that is leaning over with the caution tape, Chad said he can contact ODOT on that. Donsbach asked about the clock, Chad said they are waiting for nicer weather to repair.

**FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT:** None

**READING OF COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**COMMITTEES:** None

**ORDINANCES:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Sylvain asked the Mayor that he mentioned several projects have been started with the committees, other than reviewing the expenses of water rates what other projects? Mayor stated as he mentioned earlier we have the sidewalks, beautification of plantings. Sylvain interupted and questioned these have been started. Mayor stated these are things to work on this year and the sidewalks were started last year. Sylvain said and the water rates, Mayor said yes. Smith mentioned the Vision has been discussed as well. Mayor asked Chad about the sidewalks. Chad will contact them.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Glassford stated the Utilities, Sewers and Streetlights Committee has scheduled a meeting on January 23, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Old Fire Hall to discuss the utility rates.

**COMMENTS:** Sylvain stated Peggy submitted a really nice vision for Grand Rapids. If anyone has missed it, it is published in the meeting minutes and is a really nice starting point.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Smith made a motion, seconded by Tolles, to adjourn.

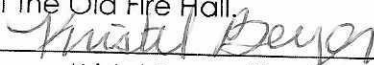
Votes were: Tolles – yes  
yes

Frantz - yes  
Sylvain – yes

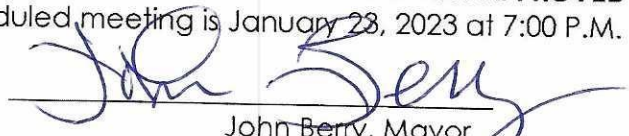
Donsbach – yes Smith –  
Glassford – yes

**MOTION APPROVED**

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is January 23, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. at the Old Fire Hall.



Kristel Beyer, Fiscal Officer



John Berry, Mayor

All formal actions of the Council of The Village of Grand Rapids concerning and relating to the adoption of resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.