



# MEETING MINUTES

## GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION



Held: September 11, 2023

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 7:00 P.M. to 7:51 P.M. in the Old Fire Hall. Mayor John Berry called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

Rachel Smith – Present  
Rick Tolles – Present  
Jody Donsbach – Present

Martha Frantz - Present  
Lynn Sylvain – Present  
Louise Estep - Present

**EMPLOYEES:** Chad Beyer and Kristel Beyer

**VISITORS:** Shirley Lambert, Carole Sarkan, Peggy Seab, Robert Stickley

**MINUTES:** Smith made a motion, seconded by Donsbach to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 28, 2023.

Sylvain questioned the Wapakoneta ditch being mowed for \$800 and asked where that was. Chad said the ditch on Wapakoneta from the village limits into town. Sylvain stated Ordinances/Resolutions need three readings unless an emergency is declared. She did not see one declared. There was a first reading for resolution 2023-4 and it was passed, she asked how that occurred with one meeting. Kristel stated finance resolutions can be passed upon the first reading, the auditor told her this a long time ago. Sylvain asked for something to verify that. Sylvain asked about resolution 2023-6 about transferring current expenses, what is occurring here. Kristel stated we are moving money within the income tax fund to cover expenses. Sylvain asked about Resolution transferring funds from sewer debt funds to sewer revenue fund, Kristel said it was for payment of Poggemeyer Invoices. Estep stated this was all mentioned in the meeting. Sylvain stated it was not captured in the minutes. Estep stated not everything needs to be captured. Sylvain stated the trees were discussed and Chad asked what to do. Sylvain asked if an arborist was contacted to see if they can trim them. Chad said he does not think they can the roots are starting to pop the sidewalks. Sylvain recommends that we do a phase approach. Sylvain stated in the minutes Estep said it was a conflict to be on the utilities committee and ask John if anything was done. Mayor said no not yet.

Votes were: Estep - yes Donsbach - yes Tolles - yes  
Smith - yes Frantz - yes  
Sylvain - decline to vote was not in attendance

**BILLS:**

Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Estep to approve the bills from August 25–September 7, 2023 in the amount of \$37,244.23.

Votes were: Donsbach – yes Tolles - yes Smith - yes  
Frantz - yes Sylvain - no Estep yes

**MOTION APPROVED**

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Shirley Lambert received a letter from the mayor and asked Mayor to read it. Mayor read letter allowed. Shirley does not know how she is full. Mayor does not know what is wrong and it is past the Village's responsibility. Estep asked Shirley if she contacted the company in the letter, Shirley has not since nothing has happened. Mayor asked if her pump is still working, Shirley says as far as she knows of. The Mayor does not know how they work that is

what the company is for, the Village cannot go and check it since they are not the villages. Mayor said you could possibly ask a neighbor for help. Smith asked if she contacted a plumber, Shirley said Downey and they told her it was backing up and she should probably get someone to jet it or put a camera in there. Bob Stickley said just for the Bluffton Aeration Company to come look at it costs \$160. He knows the contractor that put the water line out there and they asked while placing the waterline why don't we place a sewer line and lift station but that did not happen. Mayor said we cannot turn back time. Bob does not feel we should have had to pay for the system. Mayor stated it is the same from Nazareth Hall to Williamsburg they are all grinder pumps. Carole Sarkan was here for an update on noise situation and wants the sheriff involved. Donsbach stated the signage is in the works. Peggy Seab gave council a handout with questions. She also did a comparison on lighting in Grand Rapids and Weston was the most comparable Village. Peggy stated Bowling Green, Haskins, Togony, Whitehouse and Waterville all do not have lighting assessments. Peggy stated according to the Wood County Auditor's website our individual property taxes are increasing 17 to 30 %. Peggy stated it is best to query the auditor now. She stated Brian Jones was very helpful over there. Estep asked Peggy when she contacted Bowling Green, Haskins and Togony did you ask them who their provider was for electric, Peggy said no. Sylvain stated really nice job and thanked her for her work she put into this. Sylvain read the Council questions allowed concerning streetlights and asked Chad if he had these answers, Chad stated not at this time. Donsbach thanked Peggy for the information and stated the five minutes is up. Sylvain stated she is allowed 5 minutes per topic, council questioned that. Peggy continued with asking how often the hydrants get flushed, Chad said twice a year. Peggy asked if the village has any lead service water lines, Chad said not according to Poggemeyer. Peggy asked about the old water plant building, Chad said we do not use that anymore. Peggy said it was her understanding that was there in case of an emergency, Chad said it is not operational at all.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:** Deputy gave Mayor the monthly report.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor stated we lost a great man in the community on the 5th of September, his name is Ray Wright, he owned the Wright Funeral Home, he was a good man and a good pillar in the community. He was involved in a lot of organization and he will be missed. In a Moroccan quake there was 2800 people killed just before we came here, we should keep them in our thoughts and prayers. Mayor stated 22 years ago today people could probably think about where they were standing with 9/11. Mayor received a letter from the Ovarian Cancer Society and they did a great job at turning the town teal. The Fest is 4 weeks away, on Sept. 30th there will be a little stir and told Chad they will need no parking signs or barricades. Mayor stated as many are probably aware that the drugstore has bricks falling out of it and the building to the west needs addressed both in bad shape, the county will most likely be taking a look at them. Mayor hopes the work will get done before the festival or it may be that way during. Donsbach asked if the Applebutter Fest Safety Meeting has been set. Mayor said it is September 19th. Mayor received a letter from First Lady Governor Dewine about a program that supports an imagination library program, all local partners are 501c3 organizations who provide funding for one half of the program. Dolly Partons Imagination Library of Ohio and matches the funding to ensure the program stays free to families to help improve literacy. They sent out 387,000 books across our state in August.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Administrator received some quotes for line striping. Hill Asphalt \$3,121.80 and Rescue Asphalt \$5,500. Rowe cut down the Mulberry tree on the tow path. The Grand Rapids Youth Baseball/Softball Organization was donated some funds, so they

are getting new bleachers for the big diamond and new fencing for the small diamond along with fixing some of the fence on the big diamond. He asked if Council would like to proceed with updating our code of ordinances, this would require a motion for approval. Sylvain asked if Rowe put the wood out and is it posted on our website, Chad said Rowe is now taking the wood. Sylvain asked about the chemical used behind the Town Hall, Chad said its roundup power max. Sylvain asked for a picture of the msds sheet. Chad told Peggy the fungicide and insecticide was called A Frame plus and Calvary two. Peggy asked if there is a schedule, Chad is not aware of any schedule. Tolles asked about the line striping behind the bank and angling them, Mayor said this would be a good time to do it. Chad can let the company know; they will also be painting handicap parking at Town Hall. Peggy asked about the lamp posts in front of Town Hall they are full of cobwebs, Chad can take a look.

**FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT:** Fiscal Officer gave Council a copy of the February Bank Reconciliation and everything is reconciled. Gave Finance Committee Appropriation Status, Revenue Status and Fund Listing. We have one resolution on the agenda tonight for a first reading. This is the county's best estimate on what we will receive in property taxes next year. Smith asked if this was from the levy from 2021, Kristel said yes and normal property tax. Sylvain questioned who the budget commission was, Kristel said the county budget commission.

**READING OF COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**COMMITTEES:** Smith stated she will be scheduling a parks committee meeting to discuss the upcoming park grant submission.

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:** Mayor gave second reading to Resolution 2023-05: A Resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to prepare and submit a 2024 application to participate in the Wood County Park Grant Program(s) and to execute contracts as required.

Sylvain questions the resolution and asked Chad what contracts this would be applicable for. Chad said contracts to bid for the park grant. Sylvain asked if there is a spend threshold. Chad said yes there are three different levels on the application. Kristel stated there is \$100,000 available within Wood County that the committee determines what they will support, 5 communities could get \$20,000 or 10 communities could get \$10,000, etc. Sylvain asked if we have ever applied before and what did we get. Estep stated we have been applying for this grant for years, she knows of the pavilion on Bridge Street, the handicap swing, Chad said mulch, picnic tables, Smith said bike repair station.

Mayor gave first reading to Resolution 2023-07 A Resolution to determine the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor.

Sylvain asked if it has any impact on homeowners tax this year, is there a benefit for passing or not passing. Kristel stated the county needs approval of this, basically the council is approving what the budget commission has estimated. Sylvain asked if this is done yearly, Kristel said yes.

Votes were: Tolles - yes                      Smith - yes                      Frantz - yes  
                    Sylvain - yes                      Estep - yes                      Donsbach - yes

**MOTION APPROVED**



Mayor stated Resolution 2023-07 has passed.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Sylvain asked Smith if she received her power point. Smith has not she just wants to make sure that we are doing things correctly, currently doing research and waiting on the power point. Tolles said he reached out to the resident on the river birch tree, they stated the nursery will deliver but holes will need dug, they do ask for a temporary fencing to protect trees. Tolles stated the individual will be willing to help with the project. Mayor asked if we want to move forward with the trees, Chad said we can plan on getting the trees.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Smith made a motion, seconded by Estep for approval for the administrator to obtain American Legal Publishing to update our Code of Ordinances for \$11,000.

Votes were:            Smith - yes            Frantz - yes            Sylvain - yes  
                              Estep - yes            Donsbach - yes        Tolles - yes

**MOTION APPROVED**

Sylvain asked Smith if she was interested in meeting on the American Rescue Plan Funds and how we will use it for next year, Smith said not at this time.

**COMMENTS:** Tolles received another call from the Bomers concerning the Dollar truck sitting all night. They are wondering if something can be done, if trucks cannot sit for certain hours. Chad did send an email but will follow-up. Sylvain cautioned the council on the way they address the council visitors, she does not think it is fair for Bob to be asked to help his neighbor and for Donsbach cutting Seab off that are just general conversation items. Mayor stated he has known Bob and Shirley for 35 years.


**ADJOURNMENT:**

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Frantz to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is September 25, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. at the Old Fire Hall.

Votes were:    Frantz – yes            Sylvain - yes            Estep - yes  
                              Donsbach – yes        Tolles - yes            Smith - yes

**MOTION APPROVED**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristel Beyer, Fiscal Officer

  
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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.