



# MEETING MINUTES

## GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION



Held: June 24, 2024

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 7:00 P.M. to 8:09 P.M. in the Town Hall. Mayor John Berry called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

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

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

Mayor stated Donsbach was absent because she is traveling. Frantz made a motion seconded by Tolles to excuse Jody Donsbach from tonight's meeting.

Roll Call: Estep – yes Tolles – yes Sylvain – abstained  
Frantz – yes Smith – yes

**MOTION APPROVED**

**EMPLOYEES:** Chad Beyer and Kristel Beyer

**VISITORS:** Lisa Hatfield, Paula Gillespie, Chuck Thomas, Angie Studer, Diana Votava

**MINUTES:** Frantz made a motion, seconded by Estep to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 10, 2024.

Mayor stated if there are no corrections, the minutes are approved as presented.

**BILLS:**

Smith made a motion, seconded by Tolles to approve the bills from May 10 – June 6, 2024 in the amount of \$38,366.65.

Sylvain asked if we received three quotes for the Premier Patching \$9,127.80, that was already approved. Estep stated we approved the expenditure in one of his reports. Sylvain asked for copies of the quotes. Sylvain asked what the \$2,090 Tyler Technologies annual utility billing maintenance fee was for, Fiscal Officer stated it is for our utility billing program. Sylvain questioned the alarm service for \$497 and asked if it was just for the administration building, Administrator said no it is also the lab office and the maintenance building. Sylvain asked if this building was included, Administrator said no. Sylvain asked if it should be and asked the Administrator to find out how many keys are out there.

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

**MOTION APPROVED**

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:** Lisa Hatfield from the Otsego Food Pantry thanked Council for the \$7,500 grant award. She stated since Covid this has really helped us in a most critical time since prices went up, donations are down, and their cupboards were getting bare. Typically, the Scouting for Food, the Otsego School District and Stamp out Hungry help stock our shelves, one of these events no longer participate

and donations are just not what they used to be. Lisa stated with the \$7,500 we have been shopping at Aldi's, Kroger's, and at sales at major grocery stores to stock up our shelves for a few months. They now have an agreement with Thurman's market, where people will take a \$25 certificate to Thurman's to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables. Lisa stated another item that was difficult during the pandemic was communication, so they will be earmarking \$500 to build a webpage for the Otsego Food Pantry, this also started a partnership with Huntington Bank where people can make donations to the Otsego Food Pantry during normal business hours. Lisa Hatfield discussed the speed of cars entering and existing the west end of RT 65. She would like to ask for the possibility of getting another speed sign at the end of town. Administrator stated we can try to move the speed sign there since it has dried up. Estep remembered Donsbach reaching out to ODOT about it not warranting a speed change. Lisa thought about having a cross walk there at Saylor and Second Street could possibly help make drivers more attentive. Lisa stated her and her mother in-law have offered their driveways to the Sheriff's Office to catch speeders.

Paula Gillespie was here to discuss Food Trucks and charging a permit fee, she thinks for all the fees, inspections, and licensing they already go through, she feels it would be a money grab. She feels these food trucks have massive followings that would help our current businesses and our restaurants. Paula did some checking on the smaller villages and no one is charging permit fees besides Perrysburg or Napoleon. She checked with Weston, Napoleon, Whitehouse, Wauseon, and none of these charge permit fees. Sylvain stated this is certainly the most restrictive food permitting she has ever seen. Chuck Thomas stated he understands having them when restaurants are not open, but if it becomes a food truck capital, the village has restaurants and how much will it impact the restaurants. He stated after 5 pm the people are already limited to what they can do since none of the businesses are open other than the restaurants. Sylvain stated the idea of food trucks came when events came in. Chuck Thomas stated he has always advocated to the Village to charge a permit for people that setup the day of the fest to help cover additional costs of trash and utilities used that day. Estep stated that Council has not even discussed what the solicitor sent. Chuck stated he does not have a problem with it, but is very concerned with the business store fronts in the village and how they will be affected. He stated when someone coming into town to do business, he does not feel it is outrageous to charge a fee for being here. Estep said one of the reasons why it was brought up, was the non-profits are starting to want them and we should have some sort of process/regulations in place for it.

Chuck Thomas proposed a Halloween Walk starting at the Town Hall then go through the back into the park across the bridge onto the Tow Path and continue down by Bluebell. They would probably use 6 to 8 fire pits, have some sort of entertainment in the Wright Pavilion. He thought trick or treat is usually 4 to 6, then Hocus Pocus and then people can go to the Town Hall for the Halloween Walk. He asked if Council would be interested in them doing this? Frantz asked about the Fire Dept costume judging that has always happened. Matthew Snyder stated he believes the costume judging is at 6:30 pm and was hoping they would continue to do that to bring people in town for this other event. Frantz asked what the money was for, Chuck Thomas said the Town Hall. Sylvain asked if the insurance would be covered by the Historical Society, Chuck said yes. Smith thinks this sounds like a great event; she thinks you have our support just need to work out the final details.

Angie Studer stated she wanted to discuss the canal and the duck drop that is coming up in July. Angie asked if the Village would open the gates to release the water through, Administrator stated they are open and has got most of the items out that the backhoe can reach. Angie said there are a bunch of trees coming out of the south wall behind Miss Lily's. Angie said Food Trucks are few and far between, they are trying to build up the community. They have one coming for Rally by the River and they told them to expect 250 people and they stated that is nothing for a food truck. She thinks if something gets implemented it may be hard for them to come. Angie asked if the agenda can be posted prior to the meeting so people know what is being discussed prior. Sylvain stated that was an agreement several months ago and Council agreed to make this a draft and post it. Estep does not recall that. Mayor asked Sylvain if she had the documentation on that. Sylvain stated she believes there is documentation on that. Angie said when Weston runs their meetings, they put out their agenda prior to and moved the visitors to the end. Diana Votava was here to discuss the Food trucks and she heard it was only going to be approved for Applebutter, she wanted to request it to also be available for Jazz Fest as well. She also wanted to mention the ARPA grant, she received input on how we are going to use the ARPA monies by July 15<sup>th</sup>. Diana stated they have only had one activity at this time and we will not have it used, can they use the funds next year as well. Estep stated she thinks it needs to be earmarked by Dec 31, 2024 and then must be spent by the end of next year. Estep stated on the form there is an area to fill out asking what the monies will be used on if not spent. Diana said she also was here to discuss a comment mentioned that they were going to use the funds for a sculpture garden. Diana stated the thank you letter she thought clearly stated what they would be using the funds on, which was only activities affected by Covid.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:** None

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor said the Garden Walk went really well. Tolles stated they sold over 50 tickets and there were 11 gardens in the walk. Mayor said the Bliss Band on the canal sounded really nice and stated the Rally by the River is coming up.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Administrator gave his report. Administrator said on the water line repair invoice there was not hours listed but from memory they were there about 11 hours. Administrator asked for ideas for the signage from Thursday's meeting. Estep asked if he received a sidewalk quote, Administrator said he met with someone today. Sylvain asked about update on the header, Administrator no update they are supposed to do it when they get caught up.

**FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT:** None

**READING OF COMMUNICATIONS:** Estep stated we asked the Solicitor to draft up a food truck policy. Estep asked the other council members to send any suggestions to the Solicitor so then we can continue discussion later. Sylvain does not want to do this at all, she thinks this is way too restrictive and not our area of expertise. Sylvain does not feel we are being strategic on what we are working with. Estep stated we are having event permits coming to us and they are starting to include food trucks. Estep stated since we do not have a policy for food trucks, how do we say yes or no, how do we determine where they should be placed in town, how does it impact our brick-and-mortar restaurants. This is something that was asked of him to draft, if it is too restrictive, we tell him that. Estep stated

she attended the Chamber meeting and she asked if they had a food truck process, they did not have one, asked a gentleman from the Arts Council he stated they did not have one, she thinks there needs to be a process, does it need to be this restrictive maybe not. Smith stated we are just asking to review a process to see if we should have something in place. Smith stated we have received a draft; we can edit it and we can nix it if we want. Chuck Thomas stated something to consider is who is taking care of the trash. Angie understands policy, she knows the Chamber and the Arts Council that puts on some of these events because she is a part of them, they want the businesses to succeed, they reached out to Fernandos for the Rally by the River Days and they will be supplying tamales for Friday night. We had 1500 people at Jazz Fest, that is way too many people for our restaurants. Angie stated hopefully we do not have 6 food trucks lined up, Mayor said and definitely not on Front Street, Angie stated yes because we need people to park. Mayor stated that is why we need to fine tune this. Estep asked for any changes/corrections/deletions to be submitted by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**COMMITTEES:** Estep discussed the Industrial & Commercial Development Committee meeting held on June 20, 2024. Estep stated we are going to start with directional signage to direct people to the parking lots to the south of the businesses. Sylvain stated the Mayor counted the parking spots downtown and there are 192, additional 155 to 160 spots up by the library and ball diamonds. Sylvain stated a few years ago the Village purchased the grass lot behind the businesses and it would possibly gain 7 spaces and the estimate is \$26,000. Smith stated which is why we asked for it to be redesigned to see if we could maximize parking before spending any money.

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:**

Mayor gave first reading to Ordinance 2024-2: An Ordinance to Request Auditor to Assess Lots and Lands of the Village of Grand Rapids for the Lighting of Streets, Alleys, Ways and other Public Places.

Mayor gave second reading to Resolution 2024-06: Resolution Authorizing the Village Administrator to Prepare and Submit a 2025 Application to participate in the Wood County Park Grant Program(s) and to execute contracts as required.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Sylvain stated at the last meeting Estep had a lot to say about the Ohio Ethics Commission and whether or not the arrangement between herself and the Arts Council was a conflict of interest. Sylvain asked based on the information now, are you confident that it is no longer a conflict of interest. Estep stated she still feels there is a conflict of interest, she does not know how it could not be, you are on Council, its private property, if the Arts Council wants to put the garden there then they can but personally she thinks it is a conflict.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Estep said it was brought up after the last meeting and she thinks it is a very good point. Estep stated so residents can both attend a Township meeting and a Council meeting she thinks we need to look into changing our meeting date or time, we currently meet on the same day and time. Estep stated they are the ones that put on things like the Fire Levy that we are apart of. Mayor stated we can definitely look into that. Mayor said there could be additional parking added to the west of the boat docks, it can be surveyed and see if we can put in angled parking. Sylvain stated a while back, Council decided not to vacate an alley next to Kevin and April Olman's house. The Administrator allowed the homeowner to pave it, so now it looks like their personal driveway. Administrator said yes

and they know if something ever happens, we can dig it up and they would be responsible to fix it. Sylvain stated they park daily in the alley which is a violation of an ordinance, it should be labeled that it is a public alleyway, so people know they can go down it. Administrator said so we should do it to all or just one. Sylvain stated what we have is adverse possession, so as long as they park and maintain that, it becomes theirs. Sylvain thinks there is a problem here and it needs to be labeled a public alley and not be allowed to park there. Administrator will contact them. Sylvain stated at the last meeting she brought up a resident's complaint about wood being on the sidewalks and a truck with flat tires. Administrator stated the wood is gone and he talked to the owner of the truck and it is plated. Sylvain stated her concern is the Administrator went to the resident and stated Sylvain is complaining about your truck, she thinks this is an ethical issue on how you are presenting things.

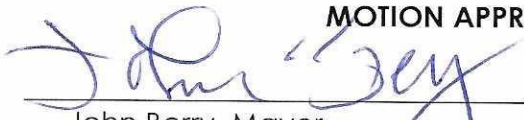
**COMMENTS:** Frantz really appreciates the grass being mowed behind her home it looks really nice. Mayor stated at the last meeting Sylvain stated she had the trailer registered, licensed, and insured up by the building on Wapakoneta, the Sheriff cannot seem to find it. Frantz stated Sylvain is on the phone. Mayor asked if it is in her name and can she prove it. Sylvain stated yes, she can prove it, Mayor stated he will have the Sheriff stop by her place.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Smith made a motion seconded by Estep to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is July 8, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall.

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

  
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 Kristel Beyer, Fiscal Officer

**MOTION APPROVED**  
  
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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.

## June 6, 204 - June 20, 2024 Bills

<b>June 6, 204 - June 20, 2024 Bills</b>		
Premier Patching	\$9,127.80	Crack Sealing Streets
Tyler Technologies	\$2,090.71	Annual Utility Billing User Maintenance fee
Guardian Alarm	\$497.22	Alarm Service
Verizon	\$105.51	Cell Phones
Rumpke	\$124.80	Monthly Trash Pickup/Park Dumpster
Frontier	\$401.47	Landline Phone/Fax
Municipal Utilities	\$22,156.34	Wholesale Water
Perrysburg Pipe	\$3,282.80	Water Supplies
C&L sanitation	\$340.00	Ball Park Portable Restrooms
Casa Bella	\$240.00	Public Restroom Cleaning
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$38,366.65</b>	

Approved 4 - 1, Donsbach absent, Sylvain voting no,