



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION



Held: January 27, 2025

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 6:00 P.M. to 6:57 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 – Present

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

EMPLOYEES: Chad Beyer

VISITORS: Joseph Schroeder

MINUTES: Donsbach stated we need to change the time from 7 to 6 at the beginning of the minutes. Smith made a motion, seconded by Tolles to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 13, 2025. Mayor said if there are no other questions, the minutes are approved as written with the correction.

BILLS:

Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Smith to approve the bills from January 10 – January 23, 2025 in the amount of \$43,649.79.

Frantz asked about replacing antenna from the accident, is that from the pole that was snapped, Administrator stated yes it will be covered by insurance. Sylvain asked about the \$32,955 for salt storage, Administrator stated he has a meeting scheduled later this week to discuss the contract and receive their insurance information, 60% is due upfront. Sylvain asked what the yearly cost for salt is, Administrator stated around \$2,000 so far this year and the Village received a grant for this salt storage. Administrator said the salt storage will keep the salt longer and will not allow it to run all over. Sylvain asked if the grant covers the entire amount of the building, Administrator stated yes. Sylvain questioned the Albert Potter \$1,600, Mayor stated for professional fees for court costs on cases he took care of for the village.

Votes were:

Tolles – yes

Estep – yes

Smith – yes

Donsbach – yes

Sylvain – no

Frantz - yes

MOTION APPROVED

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL: Joe Schroeder is here on behalf of the Chamber. Mayor asked him to state where he lives and address. Joe stated he lives in Weston and owns two properties on Front Street. Sylvain asked if this was something new asking address, Mayor stated yes, he is going to ask where people live. Sylvain asked if he was also going to have people stand. Mayor stated yes, he thinks it shows respect to council on what they have to say. Joe stated the Chamber is an all-volunteer led Chamber of Commerce operating on a small budget. He wants to work with Council to create an economic development sustainability committee to help boost tourism in the

Village. Smith thanked Joe for the information and asked him to send the information he provided to the Fiscal Officer and then she can distribute to all of Council.

Mayor stated everyone should have got emailed the letter from the Historical Society about wanting to improve the room across the hallway. They would like to use this room to display historical artifacts for public viewing. Mayor thanked Mr. Bailey and we will get back with them on this.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor asked for everyone to think of plans or projects for 2025 to be done in town. Mayor asked the administrator to get some prices on removing the debris on the bottom of the canal and we should remove the dead trees around there as well. Mayor stated we should start on a master plan for the park areas. We should start discussing sidewalks. Mayor stated the Administrator had said something about attaching our water system to the Districts for another water source, Administrator has not heard back from them. Mayor asked Frantz if she heard anything on the lighting project, Frantz said Victor stated as soon as there is a change he will contact her. They were determining who will be signing off on their end of the project. Frantz will keep in contact with them. Mayor said Mr. Baron is looking at the bridge, we need to look at the gates, Mayor stated possibly unbolting them and get them rebuilt.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator stated we got another 25 ton of salt delivered. The valve at Kellogg Road and RT 65 was not working. He got a hold of Bergren, they came and put all new parts, a motherboard, power supply and batteries. They stated we need to get this updated because they do not make parts for this anymore, he will be sending a price on that. The sump pump went out down there, so we bought a new one to replace it, there is a lot of moisture down there, so we got a dehumidifier to help. Administrator will be meeting about the new salt storage this week. Unlimited Pickup is scheduled for April 19th, we discussed doing the downtown businesses and will be talking with the company tomorrow to learn more. Estep asked about the Trailer Court, Administrator can ask that as well. Estep asked about brush pickup for the trailer court, Administrator stated if they can place items out by Wapakoneta they could pick up. Estep stated we just need to come up with a plan and communicate it to them.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Smith stated the Fiscal Officer gave us the bank rec for December. Mayor stated a copy of the village notes was given for review. Tolles thinks there should be something about shoveling snow from sidewalks.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: None

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Sylvain brought up buying benches for downtown and stated Smith said she did not want to remove the memorial benches. Sylvain could not find any memorial benches. Smith stated Rowmakers bench was on the southside and another one on the northside of the street. Sylvain asked if Council is interested in providing benches for the downtown business district. Sylvain will get some quotes and photos for the next

meeting. Sylvain stated at the last meeting Smith said her objective is the Town Hall Renovations, she wondered if there is a list. Smith stated there is a punch list from the Historical Society. Sylvain wants to get this off the list for Council to focus on other things. Sylvain had brought several Ordinances that are not being followed and would like to discuss as a Council as a whole, Smith will work on scheduling a meeting, Sylvain said Frantz also asked for a meeting to discuss the Council guidelines.

NEW BUSINESS: Sylvain stated the committees have not come forward with action items and encourages them to do so. Sylvain stated Joe presented on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, we are a small town and businesses are struggling. The chamber president is an unpaid position, Sylvain would like to see that as a paid position on the Village staff for a period of 5 years. Sylvain stated the Chamber was talking about branding the Village. Grand Rapids does not have a brand yet, she thinks our signage is very old fashion if you look at the slatted board that announces who we are. Sylvain wants to emphasize the art and creativity of the Village, she would like to commission Dunrite to provide us some block letters from the words Grand Rapids Village. Frantz asked for some pictures. Donsbach asked for it to still match the Historical aspect of our Village. Estep said in 2026 it is going to be the 250th anniversary of the United States and different Villages and Cities are joining on that program, she wondered if our Village wanted to participate. Estep made a motion in preparation for our Villages swim season that the Village continue to pay for the pool fill and the chemicals for the pool season, seconded by Smith.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Estep stated this was something that was done years ago and she was surprised the Village was no longer doing it when she got back on Council. Estep said this was brought up years ago for the safety of our residents. Sylvain thinks the Food Pantry would be a fundamental need in this area. Estep said we need to discuss at the finance meeting.

COMMENTS: Frantz wanted to express how nice the flower boxes look. In the winter they placed evergreen and lantern, it looked really nice.

ADJOURNMENT:

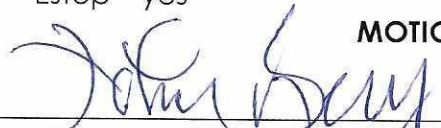
Donsbach made a motion seconded by Smith to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is February 10, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall.

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

MOTION APPROVED



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.

January 10, 2025 - January 23, 2025

Casa Bella	\$240.00	Public Restroom Cleaning
Bissnuss Inc	\$1,733.80	Replace Antenna from accident
Toledo Edison	\$4,225.66	Electric
Wood County Engineer	\$106.36	Road Signs
Morton Salt	\$1,367.95	Road Salt
Tractor Supply	\$217.98	Sump pump
Suburban	\$1,203.04	Natural Gas
Elemental Shelters	\$32,955.00	Salt Storage 60%
Albert Potter II	\$1,600.00	Professional Services
Total	\$43,649.79	