



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION



Held: March 24, 2025

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 6:00 P.M. to 6:32 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 Council member Donsbach is not here because of work and we should vote on the absence. Estep made a motion seconded by Smith to excuse Donsbach absence.

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

MOTION APPROVED

EMPLOYEES: Chad Beyer and Kristel Beyer

VISITORS: Darin Pogan

MINUTES:

Sylvain stated the minutes do not state when Frantz said that the council did enough for the downtown already. Sylvain thinks this is material. Frantz said she did not say that. Mayor does not recall that either. Smith said just to clarify the minutes are a summary and not meant to capture every word. Sylvain thinks that if a council member stated they have done enough it should be referenced especially in an election year.

Mayor stated if there is nothing else, the minutes will be approved as presented.

BILLS:

Smith made a motion, seconded by Estep to approve the bills from February 20 – March 6, 2025 in the amount of \$28,327.06 and the bills from March 7 – March 20, 2025 in the amount of \$10,092.50 totaling \$38,419.56.

Estep asked if the Village would incur any late fees for not passing the bills last meeting because Council member Sylvain voting no. Fiscal Officer stated she will let them know at the next meeting. Estep stated if there are fees, please let her know. Estep will make a donation to the Village, so the Village does not incur any late fees because a council person voting no. Sylvain stated that is great, thank you. Sylvain asked if the road salt was part of the grant we received, Administrator said no, we got a grant for the building. Sylvain questioned Cline Trucking and Custar Stone, you got stone from Custar Stone and Cline Trucking hauled it? Administrator said yes. Sylvain asked if it was for alleyways, Administrator said yes and berm. Sylvain questioned Northwest Tree service and asked how many trees were removed, Administrator stated two.

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

MOTION APPROVED

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Darin Pogan submitted an application for the Grand Rapids Little League for the Applebutter Fest. Estep asked if the application was the same as previous years, Darin said yes. Estep made a motion seconded by Tolles to approve the application for use of public property for non-profit organizations from the Grand Rapids Little League for the Applebutter Fest from October 10 – 12, 2025.

Sylvain asked how much money they raise, Darin stated it varies from participation \$7,000 to \$9,000.

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

MOTION APPROVED

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Mayor told the deputy we have been having reports of speeding cars and loudness. Mayor said the fast cars coming into town from the West and East are problems and asked them to keep an eye out.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Berry stated Nick Scott has expressed interest on being on the economic committee and Nick talked to Julie Buetler, she is interested as well. The Mayor hurt his eye and has been unable to do much more.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator stated the Salt Storage is complete. Administrator received a quote to take 84 trees down on the canal. The trees are mostly dead, or leaning over the canal and/or towpath. Administrator talked to Northwest Tree guy to supply a quote. Administrator said he can try to get more quotes on it. Administrator got the GMC pickup fixed for \$1300. Sent the wood chipper in for repairs before the season starts. We got a new salt spreader motor for \$661. We took down two trees to the west of the Town Hall. Administrator stated he has the prior quotes Sylvain requested, Pirates Park- Buck Brothers \$18,000, Rutter Dudley \$26,000, Morlock \$26,582. Behind the businesses to reseal it and add on new – Buck Brothers \$52,000, Rutter Dudley \$50,000, Morlock \$42,000. Sylvain stated this is only to gain 7 parking spaces, Administrator stated we could reseal and restripe for more. Estep asked if he is waiting on other quotes for the trees, Administrator said he can reach out to others. Administrator thinks we should move forward on the sidewalks if we want to start the project earlier this year. Estep asked the price on the sidewalks, Administrator said \$74,500. Sylvain asked the payment terms; Administrator will ask once he lets them know he got the job. Estep made a motion seconded by Tolles to approve Strayer Concrete for \$74,500 for area 3 and area 13.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Sylvain stated you had said you did not know when they are opening the canal. Administrator said they are opening it tomorrow. Sylvain said she called and they said they are opening tomorrow. Administrator stated he just found out today. Sylvain asked if he got enough debris out, Administrator stated they got as much as they could today that they could reach. Sylvain asked when the docks will go in, possible within 30 days. Administrator stated they will try. Mayor said it also depends on the debris that floats in there, Administrator said they mentioned it did not look like much debris.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Fiscal Officer stated we have a third reading of an Ordinance tonight which can have a motion for passage. Fiscal Officer stated Sylvain asked her to make council copies of benches. Sylvain said these benches were given as examples for styles. Smith would like numbers on these benches, Sylvain stated the prices were mentioned

at the meeting just was not captured in the meeting minutes. Sylvain did share the website, there are thousands of benches on there. Mayor said he would love to see the prices with these pictures, Sylvain stated she did share prices the Fiscal Officer did not put it in the meeting minutes.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: None

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS: Mayor gave third reading to Ordinance 2025-1: Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

Estep made a motion seconded by Smith to approve Ordinance 2025-1: Annual Appropriation Ordinance totaling \$2,690,900.74

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

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor Berry stated Ordinance 2025-1 passes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Sylvain stated she wants to discuss the unexcused absences, at the last meeting Sylvain said she discussed what was available. Estep is not sure Sylvain was looking at the right information since she discussed the state teacher's board. Estep stated it is covered under the Ohio Revised Code, Sylvain stated she has that with her and Estep stated she brought it as well. Sylvain stated in section ORC 3307.091 states that the number of regular meetings that which a board member shall be present in person is not less than one-half. Sylvain talked to Waterville they allow 3 in one year, Bowling Green allows 6 in two months, it varies widely. Sylvain stated that everyone in here has missed a meeting and there is only one person that has been unexcused and that is herself. Estep stated no we were unexcused at the last meeting. Sylvain does not want the bias of the council to influence procedure, she does not see this council as having an attendance problem. Estep stated as long as you give proper notice, which you did not, unfortunately we had to vote not to approve it. Estep said the other times you missed and gave proper notice we approved that. Sylvain asked the definition of proper notice. Estep stated per our policy you have to notify the Mayor or the clerk with a reason. Sylvain said she gave reason. Estep said one reason she stated was ditto Jody, Sylvain stated that is a reason, Estep said that is not a reason. Smith stated Sylvain was supposed to present information to the council, Sylvain presented information at the last meeting, Smith stated she could share it electronically. Estep said at the Committee Meeting of the Whole, Sylvain asked if she could create a draft, council said yes. Estep did not receive anything she just saw it verbally. Estep took it upon herself to contact Tontogany, Haskins, Weston and Bowling Green. Estep passed around a draft of her suggestions to the attendance policy. Estep found the policy under ORC 705.13. Estep was disappointed that Sylvain did not present a policy that she seemed excited to do.

Sylvain said let's talk disappointment, she asked for the Committees goals for this year and she went back through the minutes. Jan 13th Sylvain stated Smith said a lot of things, Town Hall Renovations, Jan 27 Mayor asked for projects for 2025 and Sylvain asked Smith for the Town Hall punch list, still not provided. Smith stated this was already given. Feb 10th Sylvain stated Estep said her goal was the appropriations, Estep stated that is not what she said. Tolles said Streets & Sidewalks, Estep stated we just passed a goal to continue the sidewalks. Mayor stated you are saying things out to the public that are being twisted that are not true. Sylvain stated Smith said for Buildings Town Hall painting and Township room renovations. Frantz LED streetlights, Donsbach for Safety & Welfare, no goals. Donsbach for Industrial &

Commercial Development no goals. Estep said as a council member Sylvain should have her own goals, Sylvain stated her goals are a vision statement, needs assessment and 3-to-5-year strategy. Sylvain said we discussed benches, which she is still waiting on the quotes. Sylvain stated someone pointed out two other entrances so we were looking at artwork for those. Estep asked for examples of artwork for what. Sylvain stated we discussed a steel block letter sign at the main entrance since we have other entrances, as a Chamber member they talked about emphasizing walleye. She submitted photos of fish. Estep asked about anything for the Applebutter Fest that we are so known for.

NEW BUSINESS: None

COMMENTS: Estep said her comment is for Sylvain, she wants her to think about this. Sylvain's term is expiring just as Estep's is and you really need to think as to why you are on Council. You vote no or you abstain 99% of the time, you are very disrespectful towards employees, council and the Mayor. Estep went through the 2024 minutes and she counted 30 projects that were completed by employees or Council in spite of Sylvain voting no. Sylvain stated passing bills is not an accomplishment, Estep stated she did not count the bills as one of them. Estep stated as Sylvain terms expires, she wants her to think about the positive things done for the people that elected her because she cannot think of any right now. Sylvain said lovely speech.

ADJOURNMENT:

Smith made a motion seconded by Estep to adjourn the meeting. Smith asked Sylvain if she is trying to intimidate her, Sylvain stated nope just letting you know, I know who you are. Smith stated great, do you think I care.

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is March 24, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall.


Votes were: Estep – yes
Frantz – yes

Sylvain – yes
Tolles – yes

Smith – yes



Kristel Beyer, Fiscal Officer



John Berry, Mayor

MOTION APPROVED

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.

February 20, 2025 - March 6, 2025

OUPS	\$4.00	Manual Callout
Casa Bella	\$240.00	Public Restroom Cleaning
Luckey Farmers	\$251.23	Fuel and Snow plow bolts
Culligan	\$9.20	Water Testing Supplies
Huntington Credit Card	\$65.32	Trash bags and paint
AIM Media	\$19.35	Legal Posting
Suburban	\$1,422.67	Natural Gas
WC Sheriff	\$8,438.64	Contract Service
Gressley, Kaplin & Parker	\$187.50	Attorney Fees
USA Bluebook	\$394.24	Sewer chart paper
Municipal Utilities	\$16,355.38	Wholesale water
Sedgwick	\$85.00	Workers Comp Group Rating Program
Verizon	\$105.68	Cell Phones
MASI	\$748.85	Water & Sewer Testing
Total	\$28,327.06	

March 7, 2025 - March 20, 2025

Morton Salt	\$1,269.64	Road Salt
Rumpke	\$90.30	Monthly Trash Pickup
Cline Trucking	\$130.00	Stone Hauling
McCabe Outdoor	\$57.24	New chain
Casa Bella	\$240.00	Public Restroom Cleaning
Frontier	\$462.01	Landline Phone/Fax
Precision Autoworks	\$1,317.19	Service on 2011 GMC
Custar Stone	\$366.58	Small berm stone
Ohio Fluid Products	\$661.36	Salt spreader motor
The Copy Shop	\$1,317.72	Village Notes Mailing
Guardian Alarm	\$530.46	Quarterly Alarm Service
Northwest Tree Service	\$3,650.00	Trees removal west of Town Hall near canal
Total	\$10,092.50	
Total of Both	\$38,419.56	