



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION



Held: June 9, 2025

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 6:00 P.M. to 7:19 P.M. in the Town Hall. Mayor John Berry called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

Mayor Berry wanted to take a moment to remember the men and women that had perished on D-Day June 6, 1944 just to have our freedom we have today. Mayor would also like to remember the travesties that happened in our community, lets remember their families in our prayers and remember the first responders that have to deal with these types of things. Mayor would also like to remember our local military men and women we have around the country.

Rachel Smith – Absent

Martha Frantz - Present

Rick Tolles – Present

Lynn Sylvain – Present

Jody Donsbach – Present

Louise Estep – Present

Mayor said Smith gave notice that she would not be at this meeting due to other obligations. Estep made a motion seconded by Donsbach to excuse Rachel Smith from the meeting tonight because she gave proper notice to the Mayor.

Votes were: Donsbach – yes

Frantz – yes

Sylvain – abstained

Estep – yes

Tolles – yes

MOTION APPROVED

EMPLOYEES: Chad Beyer and Kristel Beyer

VISITORS: Chris Smalley, Doug Grey, and Bob Stickley

MINUTES:

Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Tolles to approve the minutes of the special meeting held on May 20, 2025.

Mayor stated if there are no questions, the minutes will be approved as presented.

BILLS:

Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Estep to approve the bills from May 16 – June 5, 2025 in the amount of \$40,012.45.

Sylvain questioned the Pool Chemicals for Northwest Pools and Airgas and asked if someone can decipher what was purchased where. Sylvain questioned the Cindy Hofner invoice for \$129 and asked if this is her normal invoice, Fiscal Officer stated it is billed monthly. Estep asked if the Fiscal Officer paid any invoices prior to this meeting, Fiscal Officer stated yes, Top Notch, Work Leads to Independence, Cindy Hofner and Jones & Henry Labs which are all listed on the bills tonight.

Votes were: Tolles – yes

Donsbach – yes

Frantz – yes

Sylvain – no

Estep - yes

MOTION APPROVED

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Chris Smalley was here from the Wood County Parks District to drop off the check for \$8,592 for the Village's local park improvement. He also submitted the new 2026 grant application. Smalley thanked Council for their continued participation in this program and urges Council to apply for the grant again. Chris Smalley asked if anyone had any questions, Mayor asked if there is anything changing on Long Judson Beaver Creek Park. Chris Smalley stated they

got rid of the observation platform and modified a concrete pad for observation with the telescope, the storage for the telescope is now right next to the pad for easy access. They did improvements to the cabin by replacing the furnace and they will continue to do improvements to further update the site.

Doug Grey has questions on the ongoing cleanup of the canal. If no one objects, he would like to go in the canal with his boat to try to get ahold of some bigger items to help clean up. Mayor stated we have been okay with people trying to help clean up the canal in the past. Administrator stated they have tried to reach the items with the backhoe but cannot reach them. Doug said he will try to pull some of the big items out to the river to help clean up.

Bob Stickley asked if we have a tornado siren. Mayor stated yes, we do but it is inoperable at the moment. Mayor stated he thinks the company is supposed to be here this week and advised that the tornado siren actually belongs to the Township, so that is who he should ask. Bob Stickley asked if those actually compass Davis Bessy as well as far as notification of the plant. Mayor stated he wouldn't think so but a few meetings ago he suggested for people to sign up for CodeRed this would be beneficial in getting notified of items such as these even when the siren is not working.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor received letter from Suburban Gas that they are requesting a base rate adjustment. Mayor stated a typical bill would go up about \$6.97 per month and this has to get approved by the PUCO. Mayor also received something from Toledo Edison about the streetlights, they will be getting documents to us soon. Mayor stated we have some golfcarts running around town, he is unsure if they are licensed but is concerned on who is driving them. He witnessed one with a baby sitting in the front, Mayor stated he does not think that is a good idea to do. Mayor told the Deputy that is in their court. Bob Stickley has a lot of traffic going by his house, there are motor cycles going by doing wheelies down the road and thinks they are going 80 mph by his house, he thinks someone is going to get hurt. Bob Stickley told the deputy they are more than welcome to park at his home. Sylvain stated she has a recording she can share with the deputy.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator stated the sidewalks have started. He contacted a few places on traffic studies, Proudfoot will be getting him a quote and CESO said it would be \$2,500 - \$3,000 for the warrant study but suggested doing it when school is in. Administrator contacted Hal Mann and he gave him good ideas on native grass and shrubs for the canal. We will start fogging for mosquito's, weather permitting. The Sheriff Department finalized their pay increase from \$50.23 to \$52.87. The cleaning company stated they would clean the auditorium seats for \$29/hour. Sylvain asked if the Native Plant guy came out, Administrator said no but he invited him to come. Sylvain asked about what the Administrators plan is to clean out the canal. Administrator said he tried with the backhoe but cannot reach anything further. Sylvain thinks when he gets stuck like that he should ask for help. Administrator stated they will continue to try to clean it up but trees continue to come down the canal which does not help. Estep said we have had a lot of rain which also does not help the situation. Sylvain asked about repairs at her property when it dries out, Administrator stated the dirt they will be using still needs to dry out. Sylvain asked about the landscaping, Mayor stated Sylvain should get her property surveyed, so that she knows if that is her property before the village does anything on it. If we are doing something on property that is not ours than there is no point in doing that because that is costing village people money. Mayor stated you do not even know if it is your property. Sylvain stated the Village is

more than welcome to survey the property they have surveyed her other properties. Mayor stated no and we will not be doing that. Sylvain asked about her electrical line at her property, Administrator said it is not an electrical line it is probably cable, Administrator stated Sylvain will not let him on her property so how is he supposed to fix it. Sylvain stated the Village hired a tree guy to take trees down behind her property that fell against the wiring, he needs to get it fixed. Donsbach asked about the bush out front, Administrator thinks it may have been hydraulic fluid when they were fixing the building, he will contact K & K. Donsbach asked about the sidewalk, are the sidewalks being installed through the alleys, Administrator said yes.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Fiscal Officer gave Council the May Bank Rec. Gave Finance Committee Appropriation Status and Revenue Status. Donsbach asked if all members of Council are supposed to sign the bank rec, Fiscal Officer stated yes. We have second readings of two resolutions tonight. Fiscal Officer also shared information on utility billing programs.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: Estep stated we had a combined Finance, Wages & Audit Committee and Utilities, Sewer and Streetlights discussing updating the utility billing program for the Village. Fiscal Officer has gathered more information from the questions she received from the meeting and Estep would like to make a decision in July. Estep will be scheduling another Finance meeting in July; the current Wage Ordinance expires at the end of this year. Estep would like to make a change on the way it is currently done, she would like to create a salary schedule, then yearly Council can approve the wages. She would also like to update the Council wages that has not been done in some time. Estep would like us to meet for the Wood County Park Grants sooner than later to give the Administrator enough time to apply. Estep has ideas for the tennis courts and the playground at the old school property, it wouldn't be done in one year but to get a plan would be great. Mayor will ask Smith to get a meeting scheduled.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS: Mayor gave second reading to Resolution 2025-2: Resolution Authorizing the Village Administrator to Prepare and Submit a 2026 Application to Participate in the Wood County Park Grant Program and Execute Contracts as Required.

Mayor gave second reading to Resolution 2025-03: Resolution Encouraging the Ohio Department of Transportation to Make Changes to the Traffic Pattern at the Intersection of State Route 65 and State Route 295.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Sylvain submitted goals for each of the committees and none of the committees responded back. Sylvain asked if Council was going to review her goals. Estep stated what we had said at a meeting was that we come up with our own goals and our own projects. Those were already approved when we did the budget and appropriations, what Sylvain presented after the fact should have been presented at the budget meeting when we discuss the appropriations. Sylvain stated not all of them require a budget, there were questions about are there actually goals, she went back through the meeting minutes and saw no goals. Estep stated Sylvain asked everybody what our goals were and Estep asked Sylvain what she has as a councilperson, Sylvain stated she is not a chair of anything, Estep said she can still have goals of what she wants to accomplish and not to tell each committee what they should be accomplishing. Sylvain is giving them as suggestions, Sylvain stated for the record there are no goals for the majority, the rest of Council stated that is not

true. Sylvain stated she has five minutes on this topic. Sylvain listed her suggested goals. Sylvain stated she was asked to draft a no-fault absentee policy but is waiting on feedback. Estep stated she has looked at the Council Rules & Regulations and there is information in there that some current council people are not abiding by and we cannot do anything about it per our Solicitor. Estep does not feel it needs changed because there is no recourse when people do not abide by it. Tolles thinks the way it is, is fine we are all adults. If he is not going to be at a meeting he will give ample notice, we do not need to treat each other like little kids. Sylvain suggested we get signage for the entry points, Sylvain submitted one copy to the Fiscal Officer to distribute to the council members later. Sylvain is gathering information from the companies that did Whitehouse to get pricing on their signs. Sylvain asked about Dora and wondered if Council wants to pursue Dora. Estep thinks our downtown district is too close to a state park and is not sure how we monitor that. Donsbach said we have discussed this before; we have a park nearby that cannot allow alcohol and we need to acknowledge our businesses that would be the ones providing and dealing with Dora. Donsbach believes Smith reached out to the businesses and did not get good feedback. Sylvain thinks the area behind the businesses would be a good place for Dora but is not sure if the community would want it. Estep heard from a few business owners that they did not want it. Council would like to know if the village businesses would be interested in Dora first, Sylvain will find out. Sylvain also talked about benches and submitted pictures to the Fiscal Officer of the fifteen different types of benches to forward to Council. Estep submitted pictures and pricing for the benches located in Lincoln Street to all of Council. Estep thanked Sylvain for the photos and thinks eight benches should be replaced. Sylvain is attending the Chamber meeting to discuss the benches to find out if the businesses want them. Mayor is meeting with an engineering firm to discuss a master plan for the Village, to help us with suggestions to improve the Village.

NEW BUSINESS: Tolles stated the Town Hall Committee has met with Kleinfelder for suggestions on the Town Hall. Tolles gave all of Council a copy. Sylvain asked if they have costs on any of this, Carole Sarkan said we are working on that. Carole said Theresa Gavorone is coming out, we have talked with Haraz Ghanbari, Tim Brown and Kleinfelder. Carole stated we are having issues with attendance at these Town Hall events, she thinks a digital sign would be helpful. Tom Huth stated Horizon Youth Theatre stated you can plan on three people attending for every actor on the stage. Sylvain asked when they get numbers in the future would you come to council or be looking for grants. Tolles stated we will need to get quotes and then probably start some fundraising. Tom Huth would like some clarity for the Town Hall Committee on what they can do by themselves and what they need to bring to Council. Tom Huth gave an example of changing the curtains after the painting is done, he wanted to suggest for people to adopt a curtain. Estep thinks that the Town Hall Committee can do anything that does not affect the structure, the look or the integrity of the History. Estep stated she does not have an issue for the Committee to get new curtains or things for the stage. Tom Huth stated we discussed removing the carpeting under the stage, that some performers have complained about, Estep does not think that is an issue either. Sylvain stated we should give them something in writing. Carole said we were concerned about the chairlift; we are thinking about an elevator. Tolles stated Chuck was going to look into that and get back to us.

COMMENTS: Estep stated as the Veterans Banners get installed by the Legion, people are becoming more aware of it. Estep is getting more people reaching out to her and Tolles. Estep expressed if anyone that qualifies for that she encourages them to apply before January 31, 2026. Estep stated these will stay up until Veterans Day and will be taken down, cleaned and stored. Mayor thanked the volunteers from the Legion for putting those up. Mayor reminded everyone that June 15th there will be a lot of bicycles coming through town.

May 16, 2025 - June 5, 2025

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Casa Bella	\$240.00	Public Restroom Cleaning
Brosneck Pressure Washing	\$1,200.00	Downtown Sidewalks
Northwest Pools	\$796.10	Pool Chemicals
Top Notch	\$125.00	Unplugged Mens Public Restroom
Work Leads to Independence	\$155.40	Document Shredding
Jones & Henry Labs	\$386.00	Water Testing
Culligan	\$13.20	Water Testing Supplies
Masi	\$998.60	Water & Sewer Testing
Toledo Edison	\$4,090.31	Electric
Suburban	\$719.10	Natural Gas
Municipal Utilities	\$19,470.96	Wholesale Water
Airgas	\$166.58	Pool Chemicals
Cindy Hofner	\$129.25	Record sorting/organizing per Record Retention
Rumpke	\$137.83	Monthly Trash Pickup/Park Dumpster
WC Sheriff	\$10,447.84	Contract Service
AIM Media	\$18.85	Legal Posting
Luckey Farmers	\$319.45	Fuel
Huntington Credit Card	\$597.98	M2X, Router, 2 coils of stamps, postage, quickrete, liquid plumber, toilet auger, rakes, hammer, loctite, gloves, grinder blades
Total	\$40,012.45	

Approved 4 - 1, Smith absent, Sylvain voting no