

MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION



Held: July 14, 2025

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 6:00 P.M. to 7:15 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 and Kristel Beyer
VISITORS: Angie Studer and Joe Schroeder
MINUTES:

Estep made a motion, seconded by Smith to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 23, 2025.
Mayor stated if there are no questions, the minutes will be approved as presented.

BILLS:

Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Tolles to approve the bills from June 20 – July 10, 2025 in the amount of \$38,925.28.

Sylvain questioned the restroom cleaning bill for \$780, Administrator stated that also included the Town Hall cleaning and mold removal from auditorium seating. Sylvain questioned the Cindy Hofner records sorting and organization and the Work Leads to Independence document shredding, Sylvain thought Cindy was doing the shredding. Fiscal Officer stated no she does the document sorting; we get the documents shredded professionally. Sylvain asked if we keep the records for seven years, Fiscal Officer stated we follow the records retention schedule. Fiscal Officer can share the retention schedule.

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

MOTION APPROVED

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Angie Studer stated a few months back, Frantz mentioned about the Village doing their own recordings of meetings. Smith stated it was mentioned to revamp the council chambers and then address it then. Sylvain asked why we cannot add tv or skype now. Donsbach stated her concern is if we start doing things and then have to redo them then that would cost more. Angie stated to just broadcast to the community. Mayor thanked the people that have been broadcasting.

Joe Schroeder stated Chuck Thomas, Steve Kryder and himself have been meeting with several television stations and decided that the local NBC 24 was the proposal they liked overall. Joe said they have commitments from the Historical Society, Chamber of Commerce and the Arts Council. They would love to try this but have never tried it. Joe stated NBC 24 is the highest rated network. Joe stated the first 12 seconds would be just general Grand Rapids then put focus on events coming up with a closing of come visit Grand Rapids. Joe stated nothing has been produced yet. Joe thinks this will benefit the entire Village and is looking for the Village to be a participant in this for \$5,000, the other organizations splitting the rest. Donsbach stated when her and Tolles were at the meeting on

June 18th, we discussed cost sharing as a three-way split and Arts Council picking up a small portion. The three-way amount comes to \$3,380 but would be a little less from the Arts Council contribution and asked what changed from that meeting. Joe Schroeder stated they were just trying to find a nice round number but they are open for anything. Estep asked if there is a limit for us to donate. Mayor was unsure but could ask the solicitor. Joe stated we could all write checks to NBC so then it would not be a donation, it would be paid direct. Sylvain suggests making a contingent approval. Smith asked Joe if we can have two weeks to run past the solicitor and then make this decision. Sylvain made a motion to approve the \$5,000 contingent on legal review. Mayor stated motion dies from lack of a second. Sylvain asked if there is another number council would agree on contingent on the legal review. Sylvain stated so in two weeks we should be able to figure out what number could be approved. Donsbach stated there was another meeting on this topic in June, this could have been done in a timely fashion and now it is an emergency. Donsbach mentioned we are not against supporting them, as good stewards we need all the facts.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Mayor told the deputy there has been some golf carts or four wheelers in town and some with young kids driving too. Tolles mentioned there were young kids on scooters back and forth on RT65 after 11 pm, he thought there was a curfew.

MAYOR'S REPORT: July 4th went really well but was hot. It seems as though the town has been busy since then, there has been hardly any parking places available and hopes the merchants are doing well because of it. Mayor stated Rapid Rally Days went really nice and thanked everyone for putting on the event. Mayor stated the play was excellent and it is nice to see life back in the Town Hall. The Fireman's chicken was a hit as well, it took a lot longer to cook because of the rain and thanked people for their patience.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: The Administrator stated everything has been running smoothly and is grateful for that. Sylvain stated so no update on the canal or the clear-cut. Administrator stated he did talk to the garden guy and thought he mentioned it before. Sylvain asked about the repair to her personal property, Administrator stated it should happen this week since we have rain coming to help the grass seed. Mayor stated we are not going to plant trees there until a survey is done by Sylvain so we know whose property it is. Sylvain asked about the wire on her house, Administrator stated he has contact Frontier but has not heard back. Tolles stated we had another issue with the women's bathroom Friday and then there was another issue on Saturday. Angie said the women's hand dryer stopped working as well. Tolles thanked the Administrator for stopping up to fix restroom.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Fiscal Officer gave Council the June bank rec. Submitted the Estimate of Revenues to council. Fiscal Officer stated this is our best estimate for what revenue we will receive next year and what our balance at year begin would be in our funds. Estep made a motion seconded by Smith to approve the Estimate of Revenues for submission to the Wood County Budget Commission in the total amount of \$4,693,792.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Sylvain would like a formal review on this. Estep stated that if we would receive extra money like we did for the salt shed we would then have to amend this, this is just an estimate. Fiscal Officer stated in the news it has been discussed for a proposal to eliminate property taxes but the Governor has since vetoed that. If this would pursue then the Village would lose about \$50,000 a year in the General Fund.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: Mayor stated the Village of Tontogany is having a 150th year Celebration on August 7 – 10th.

COMMITTEES: Frantz discussed the Utilities, Sewers and Streetlights committee meeting, information from Suburban and First Energy was shared about the prices going up. Frantz stated Victor Coleman is getting the final documents needed so we should not be too far from the LED streetlighting. Sylvain asked if there are any recommendations out of the utility meeting, Frantz stated it was informational with no recommendation. Sylvain stated her goals are not being published and wants to know when that will happen. Fiscal Officer stated it is most likely in the minutes, Sylvain stated it is not in the minutes.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

Mayor gave the second reading to Ordinance 2025-2: 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Estep stated we received two engineering quotes for the ST RT 65 and RT 295 bridge, that ODOT is requiring before considering changing to a four way stop. Estep made a motion seconded by Tolles to contract with CESO Engineering Firm for the engineering study for a cost of \$3,930.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Estep said the Fiscal Officer sent in the Resolution encouraging ODOT to change that intersection and told them about the request of cross traffic does not stop. Administrator said they are installed. Estep stated there seems to be a misunderstanding on food trucks and us not wanting them, that is untrue. Estep encourages residents that will have food trucks for Applebutter Fest to get with the food truck and ask them to start the process of receiving the permit from the Village. Estep stated she wanted to discuss the software program that was discussed and stated the Fiscal Officer demoed several. Estep said the Fiscal Officer recommended Muni-Link for \$16,250 and we also need to choose a payment processor which it was recommended to go with PayStar cost would be about \$60/month. This is in regards to our current program not being supported and we need to get on their schedule to start the implementation before our software is unsupported. Estep made a motion seconded by Frantz to contract with Muni-Link for \$16,250 and go with PayStar as the payment processor.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Estep said this cost would be coming form the water and sewer funds. Sylvain stated she submitted a quote comparison sheet for the Fiscal Officer to use, Fiscal Officer stated she had already prepared all the information to council but will look into it for another time. Estep stated at the last meeting she was going to bring up the Village being a Rapid Rally Days sponsor, she knows it is now after the fact but feels they could use it as seed money for next year. Estep asked the Fiscal Officer if we have paid our chamber membership, Fiscal Officer said yes. Estep made a motion seconded by Frantz to donate \$500 to the Rapid Rally Days event.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor explained to Council he would like to go into executive session to discuss litigation. Estep made a motion seconded by Smith to go into executive session to discuss litigation with the Mayor, Village Administrator, Fiscal Officer and all Council members except Council member Sylvain.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Estep made a motion seconded by Smith to go back to the regular session council meeting.

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

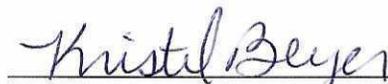
MOTION APPROVED

ADJOURNMENT:

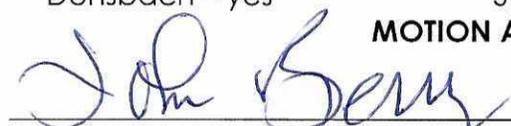
Frantz made a motion seconded by Smith to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is July 28, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall.

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

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.

June 20, 2025 - July 10, 2025

Casa Bella	\$780.00	Public Restroom & Town Hall Cleaning
WC Sheriff	\$10,996.96	Contract Service
Postmaster	\$154.00	Annual PO Box Fee
Suburban	\$832.12	Natural Gas
Guardian Alarm	\$530.46	Quarterly Alarm Service
Vasko	\$407.43	Public restroom toilet paper and sanitary bags
MASI	\$1,371.25	Water & Sewer Testing
Huntington Credit Card	\$1,011.79	Tot swings, batteries, water, vinegar, rope, salt, rakes
Auto Value	\$313.80	Truck Battery - F250
Cindy Hofner	\$272.25	Record sorting/organizing per Record Retention
Jones & Henry	\$29.50	Sewer Testing
American Legal	\$495.00	Annual Online Code of Ordinances
USA Bluebook	\$392.74	Water & Sewer Testing Supplies
Work Leads to Independence	\$258.60	Document Shredding
Envirocare	\$1,032.00	Lawn Care Application Blue Bell & Howard Parks
Verizon	\$105.68	Cell phones
Rumpke	\$140.46	Monthly Trash Pickup/Park Dumpster
Frontier	\$501.39	Landline Phone/Fax
Northwest Pools	\$785.99	Pool Chemicals - Chlorine
Luckey Farms	\$630.53	Fuel & Mulch for Town Hall
Municipal Utilities	\$17,883.33	Wholesale Water
Total	\$38,925.28	

Approved 5 - 1, Sylvain voting no