



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION



Held: August 25, 2025

Page 1 of 3

The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 6:00 P.M. to 6:46 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: Chuck Thomas, Carol Sarkan, Randy Liggett and Tom Huth

MINUTES:

Smith made a motion, seconded by Donsbach to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 11, 2025.

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

BILLS:

Estep made a motion, seconded by Tolles to approve the bills from August 8 – August 21, 2025 in the amount of \$9,074.66.

Sylvain questioned the attorney fees for \$1400, Mayor stated it is for the property next door that is in litigation from the person suing the town for it.

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

MOTION APPROVED

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Chuck Thomas is here to discuss the Town Hall painting, I guess there are confusions on what color is being painted where and the painter wants to make sure we are using the correct colors. The painter Randy Liggett suggested painting the Town Hall with two of the four recommended colors. Carol Sarkan stated the Town Hall Committee decided to get the painting done first and then they will research what curtains to purchase. Randy Liggett thinks the paint should be the lighter color and the accent should be the dark blue, he does not feel the other two colors go together. Chuck Thomas agrees with Randy's suggestion, Council agreed as well. Chuck stated the painter should be done by September 10th.

Tom Huth said about 10 days ago we had two major water leaks in two days, he wants to thank Chad and Jeremy, as well as Kristel for all the additional phone calls she received. Tom wanted to thank them for doing it professionally and expediently for the repair work, he feels the repair work was done as fast as possible. Tom stated one was in front of his home so he witnessed how much work went into it. Emily Householder presented the application for a Hocus Pocus event to be held on October 25th. Emily stated the idea was to be done by 6:30 pm and then it could segway into the Town Hall event.

Estep made a motion seconded by Donsbach to approve the application for use of public property for non profit organizations to sponsor activities and events for the Chamber of Commerce to have their Hocus Pocus event on October 25, 2025 from 11 am to 6:30 pm.

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

MOTION APPROVED

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor said the Jazz Fest was wonderful and went really well. Mayor thanked everyone that had helped put it together to make it work.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: The Administrator stated we did have two water leaks, they contacted Palmer Brothers and we got those fixed within a timely manner. This is the third leak in Village Lane in the past three years, might need to look at getting that replaced. Along with those two leaks we also had to replace two valves in Village Lane. The Bridge Street lift station red light has been on, the transducer went out, we ordered one and it arrived over the weekend, he is waiting on Gorman Rupp to come out to help install it. Ohio Paving will be coming tomorrow to fix the street and the driveway in Village Lane. He received a quote from Rangeline Excavating for mulching along both sides of the Tow Path for \$6,000, he will try to get another quote. Administrator stated it would be 1,000 feet on each side. Administrator would like to make a recommendation to move David Silva from parttime into fulltime employee status with a starting pay of \$19.50/hour and to waive the 30 days for insurance, he would start September 2nd. Administrator stated CESO will be doing the traffic study on Sept. 4th and we should receive the report by Sept. 22nd. Frantz stated Dave has been working for us, Administrator stated yes a little over three years. Frantz made a motion seconded by Tolles to hire David Silva fulltime as a laborer for \$19.50/hour with a start day of September 2, 2025 and waiving the 30 days for insurance. Sylvain stated according to the Village Rules we need to post for that position, interview people and then make a selection. Mayor stated as a new hire that would happen but Dave has worked for us for over three years. Sylvain stated it is a new position and we want the most qualified people, Mayor stated he is very qualified. Estep wanted to clarify that we have done this before like when Chad was promoted and we never filled Chad's position. Sylvain thinks we still should advertise for the position.

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

MOTION APPROVED

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Fiscal Officer stated we have the first reading on the Pay Ordinance tonight and we also received 6 food truck applications for the Applebutter Fest.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: None

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

Mayor gave the first reading to Ordinance 2025-3: Ordinance amending and establishing pay bands in the Village of Grand Rapids.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Sylvain stated everyone has the map on benches and gave pictures of benches that Dunrite made and asked for the Lincoln Street invoice. She is looking to move forward with the Council purchasing benches for downtown. Estep thinks we need to watch our spending in the general fund, she asked the Fiscal Officer to get a report from the auditor's office, Estep submitted copies to all of council. The report states we are not receiving all of the real estate taxes billed. Estep would like to finalize our current projects on the Town Hall before we start on something else. Sylvain stated we have funds available; we need benches and it is a safety concern. Estep stated at this point we need to look at our expenditures and what needs to be spent and what does not need to be spent. Sylvain said

we have the money for benches, the benches are a safety concern and she would like to spend the money. Sylvain motioned to purchase 16 benches for the downtown district for the Chamber to distribute as they see fit, with a spending range of \$1,200 to \$1,500 per bench. Tolles asked why we should give them to the Chamber, Sylvain does not want to see which business wants one or not, she would like the Chamber to decide that. Estep said the cost would be around \$24,000. Smith asked why Sylvain thought the current benches are a safety concern, Sylvain stated the benches that are currently there are in various stages of disrepair, and thinks there are more benches needed for the length of our Village. Estep stated we currently do not have enough in the appropriations for this. Sylvain stated you can move money from one fund to another, Fiscal Officer stated that is actually illegal and money can only be moved from the General Fund to any other fund and not the other way around. Sylvain stated we can create another fund, Fiscal Officer stated yes by an Ordinance, Estep stated you still have to find the money for it. Tolles knows by measuring the spots a 6-foot bench will not fit in all areas and he does not feel the benches should go by the curb, he feels that would be a safety concern, they should be placed up next to the buildings. Estep said if there are some benches that are a safety issue and they belong to the Village, I would ask the Administrator to remove them. Administrator stated the only benches that are the Villages are on Lincoln Street. Administrator stated we had some benches that business owners came and got because they wanted to paint and repair them to place by their business. Smith stated if we need to notify a business that one of their benches is a safety hazard then the Village will remove it, unless they fix them. Administrator asked if someone notices a safety concern on a bench to let him know. Sylvain asked about the kayak launch, Administrator looked it up but feels it may take away space from the boat docks. Sylvain stated one could be installed behind the old bait shop on the concrete wall. Administrator can look into it.

NEW BUSINESS: None

COUNCIL COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

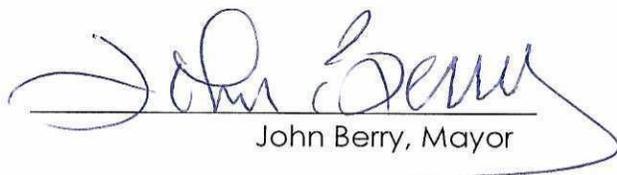
Smith made a motion seconded by Tolles to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is September 8, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall.

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

August 8, 2025 - August 21, 2025

Rowe Tree Service	\$950.00	Tree removal near Tennis/Basketball Court
C & L Sanitation	\$340.00	Ball portable restrooms
Gressley, Kaplin & Parker	\$1,400.00	Attorney fees
Verizon	\$105.68	Cell Phones
Frontier	\$501.89	Landline Phone/Fax
Toledo Edison	\$4,150.00	Electric Bill
Custar Stone	\$358.83	Small Berm Stone
Luckey Farmers	\$1,138.26	Fuel
Cline Trucking	\$130.00	Stone Delivery
Total	\$9,074.66	

Approved 5 - 1, Sylvain voting no