



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION



Held: September 8, 2025

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 6:00 P.M. to 6:43 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: None

MINUTES:

Smith made a motion, seconded by Frantz to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 25, 2025.

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

BILLS:

Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Smith to approve the bills from August 22 – September 4, 2025 in the amount of \$30,138.28.

Sylvain stated we have Jim Palmer on here three times, were there any other contractors working on the water leak, Administrator said no. Sylvain asked if there were any other subcontractors, Administrator stated no. Sylvain asked if there were any bills from John Berry, Administrator said why would John Berry bill us, Sylvain stated he was there. Mayor John Berry said he is everywhere. Sylvain questioned the transducer for Bridge Street and asked if it was a failure, Administrator said yes. Sylvain asked if he had a list of equipment at the end of its useful life, Administrator said no. Sylvain questioned the card reader for bulk water system, how long did we have that, Fiscal Officer said probably 10 years, asked the warranty and useful life. Fiscal Officer can find out. Sylvain questioned the annual fire extinguisher maintenance and asked how many and where are they inspected, Administrator said Town Hall, Office, Old water plant, Pole barn and Lincoln Street restrooms, we have 24. Sylvain questioned USA Bluebook, Administrator said it is for water testing supplies and Ivy block helps for brush pickup. Sylvain asked about the Work Leads to Independence document shredding and Cindy Hofner record sorting and organizing per record retention. Sylvain asked if Northwest Pools and if that will be the last time we are charged for that, Administrator believes so. Sylvain questioned Envirocare and she has reported multiple times that they are spraying too close to the canal, Administrator said they are putting pellets down and they are staying away from the canal at least 25 feet. Sylvain questioned Falor Farm aquamaster, Administrator said weed killer used along the ditches and along river bank. He contacted the park and they were using a water round up and he called Falor Farms and they do not make that anymore; this product is a newer version and can be sprayed closer to the water's edge. Sylvain requested the MSDS. Sylvain questioned the Wood County Sheriff bill and asked how many hours it was for, Fiscal Officer stated 208 hours. Sylvain questioned the bank rec and the other checks that have not been posted yet will

that reflect in the next report. Fiscal Officer stated those are checks that were wrote and not deposited yet, so they will come off the next bank rec.

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

MOTION APPROVED

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL: None

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor said Halloween will be on October 31st this year from 5 pm to 7pm and 7:30 pm for the judging at the Fire Hall. We have just 5 weeks until the festival, a lot of stuff needs to happen between now and then. Mayor gives good luck and hopes we have good weather for it. Mayor said the next three weekends there is music in the Pavilion behind LaRoes.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: The Administrator said he would like to thank the Grand Growers Club for inviting him to their meeting, it was very informative, there was some good ideas given. He received another basketball/tennis court quote Morlock \$24,705, Rutter & Dudley \$24,425 and Ohio Paving \$26,240, Ohio Paving will take some off the top as well which he thinks will hold better. Administrator said Tim Brown would like to plant another tree along the canal, like he did before. The tree by the Providence house has the little balls again that will smell badly, asked Council if they would like them to remove it. Sylvain said talk to an arborist, Administrator said the last time the arborist stated that there is nothing you can do besides cut it down to keep it from happening. Mayor stated the arborist also stated it goes from male to female each year. Sylvain asked about the Grand Growers and asked the next step for the canal. Administrator said Council can give him ideas, we can look for grants and he is meeting with a lady from Kleinfelder to walk the canal to come up with ideas on what grants we can get. Sylvain stated you had received information on the Army Corp of Engineers did he do anything with that, Administrator said no. Sylvain stated there was some information given, Sylvain read the information. Fiscal Officer stated Peggy sent the information to her and she can share the information with Council tomorrow that way everyone has it. Smith stated if Peggy would have shared with all of Council we would know what is being discussed. Sylvain was just stating the information was shared with the Village Administrator and he has not done anything with it. Smith thinks when your making backhanded comments and that we are not taking any action it is because we do not all have the same information. We have asked you to share information several times.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Fiscal Officer gave Council the June bank rec. Donsbach asked if the Fiscal Officer would like all of Council to sign, Fiscal Officer stated yes that would be nice. Sylvain stated the Village has 3.8 million in Huntington checking and earning .25% interest, Fiscal Officer stated yes and we also have a Star Ohio account that earns 4.43% with 1.4 million in it. Fiscal Officer stated a representative from Huntington Bank has talked with me on earning more interest on our funds. Fiscal Officer stated we have the second reading on the Pay Ordinance tonight and we also have a first reading of a Resolution from the county that needs to be back to their office by October 1st.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: Mayor received a letter about turning the Town Teal, it is for national awareness for ovarian cancer. Mayor stated God help those that get ovarian cancer and God Help those to get better.

COMMITTEES: Estep stated we are going to start on the temporary appropriations, if the committees have any expenditures during the first three months of the year, please get that

information to the Fiscal Officer so she can begin working on the temporary appropriations. Sylvain asked if this includes the Chamber. Estep stated this is for the Village, to get bills paid the first three months and any projects.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

Mayor gave first reading to Resolution 2025-05: Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor.

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

Sylvain said at the last meeting there was a conversation about us needing to control our spending. Sylvain would like to recommend to place a pause on this Ordinance until we do a financial review, so we can understand what is in our accounts and what balances are left. Estep stated this Ordinance that is on the table is to establish pay bands then yearly raises would be done by a voice vote. Sylvain asked if the Council is up for an increase, Estep said yes. Sylvain would like to pause that to review the budget to see how much money we have left in salaries. Estep stated we are talking \$4 a meeting. Sylvain said If you make a recommendation on anything that is spending money that is not an emergency than we should do a full financial review. Estep stated she did she discussed this with the Fiscal Officer and we did have a finance meeting on it.

Sylvain made a motion seconded by Donsbach to pause the third reading of the Ordinance 2025-3 until we do a full financial review.

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

MOTION FAILS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Sylvain asked about the covered bridge being done by Glen Baron. Mayor said Glen is doing some engineering and is talking with the ODNR. Administrator stated we are working with him. Sylvain asked about the kayak launch, Administrator was going to talk to the park and also will reach out to Mario on what he suggests. Sylvain stated last meeting there was a report that only 41% of taxes were collected, Estep stated we requested a new report and have not received that yet. Sylvain stated she talked to them and in fact they collected 95% of the taxes due. Sylvain stated she talked to them directly the 41% was only for the second half and they collected over 50% the first half. Estep stated they have a new software system and they are trying to work through that, Fiscal Officer requested more information from them. Sylvain stated we used the 41% as a reason to not do the benches. Estep stated no we used the appropriations, \$25,000 is appropriated, \$11,544.64 was already encumbered and/or spent, we did not have the amount of money you were requesting. Estep said that is something you can ask for in the permanent appropriations next year, it was not budgeted and it was not apart of our goals. Estep knows that Sylvain says we do not have goals, but when we do the appropriations we do incorporate the goals of each committee. Sylvain asked if the \$30,000 for the tree cutting was in the budget, Estep said no but we needed to find it because it was a safety issue. Estep stated she went and looked at the benches, she only found four that were a safety issue. Estep gave the information to the Administrator as he requested. Sylvain asked if Estep would be willing to purchase four benches then, Estep said no because she found out the benches belong to the business owners not the Village. Estep stated when we purchased benches last time the businesses were supposed to be maintaining them. Administrator stated he can contact the few and let them know if either needs repaired or removed for

safety reasons. Sylvain stated the Council scheduled a meeting on Dora for Sept 29th. and asked if it has been made public yet, Fiscal Officer has not but will soon. Sylvain stated we hired/promoted an employee full time, according to the employee policy and procedure manual part time employees are not eligible for promotion. Sylvain thinks we need to review it and asked if the council rules and employee manual is on the website. Fiscal Officer stated the Council Rules are but does not believe the employee manual is. Estep asked if the engineer study is scheduled for tomorrow, Administrator said yes. Mayor stated a couple meetings ago he asked Sylvain why she is asking for a nondisclosure agreement on the lawsuit that she is suing the Village and you were going to give us an answer. Sylvain stated no she asked if she can talk about the lawsuit but the Mayor said no. Mayor asked again why do you need a nondisclosure agreement for people to not find out why you are doing it. Sylvain is open to have a public meeting on the lawsuit, Mayor just wants to know why she wants a non-disclosure agreement.

NEW BUSINESS: Tolles stated to the Deputy that a resident complained today about a loud black charger speeding and a small white car, it seems to be happening right after school hours. Frantz asked the deputy if golf carts should be licensed to drive on the streets, the deputy stated yes they should be licensed.

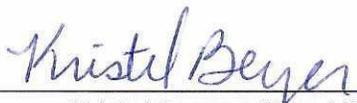
COUNCIL COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Smith made a motion seconded by Donsbach to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is September 22, 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 22, 2025 - September 4, 2025

Suburban	\$156.74	Natural Gas
Sherwin Williams	\$80.64	Paint, tape and brush for Public Restrooms
McCabe Outdoor	\$65.04	Mower Battery
Jim Palmer Exc	\$4,118.50	Water leak repair near Front Street
Jim Palmer Exc	\$4,940.00	Water leak repair in Village Lane
Jones & Henry Labs	\$386.00	Water Testing
Craun Liebing	\$1,437.93	Transducer for Bridge Street lift station
Oscar W Larson Co	\$1,557.20	Card reader for bulk water system
Snow's Fire Protection	\$589.50	Annual extinguisher maintenance
Casa Bella	\$480.00	Public Restroom Cleaning
Culligan	\$13.20	Water Testing Supplies
Cindy Hofner	\$176.00	Record sorting/organizing per Record Retention
USA Bluebook	\$165.35	IvyX and water supplies
Work Leads to Independence	\$202.80	Document Shredding
MASI	\$1,305.55	Water & Sewer Testing
Northwest Pools	\$501.90	Pool Chemicals - Chlorine
Envirocare	\$460.00	Lawn Care Application Blue Bell & Howard Parks
Jim Palmer Exc	\$1,825.00	Repair two water valves
Falor Farm	\$174.99	Aquamaster
Tractor Supply	\$474.92	Backpack sprayer, brush control, clamps and fittings, tarp
Huntington Credit Card	\$30.06	Caulk, light bulbs and bottled water
WC Sheriff	\$10,996.96	Contract Service
Total	\$30,138.28	