



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION



Held: December 8, 2025

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 6:00 P.M. to 6:57 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

Estep made a motion seconded by Frantz to excuse Donsbach from tonight's meeting due to a work function.

Votes were: Smith – yes
Tolles – yes

Frantz – yes
Estep – yes

Sylvain – abstain

MOTION APPROVED

EMPLOYEES: Chad Beyer

VISITORS: Diane Votava

MINUTES: Estep made a motion, seconded by Tolles to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 24, 2025.

Sylvain stated she has a couple of corrections, in the Fiscal Officer report there is a million dollars that was missed after the last several years, she feels is material and needs recorded. Also, under unfinished business she had asked Smith if she sent a draft on Dora to Ryan and in the minutes it states she was going to send them, Sylvain thought Smith said she had already sent it and he had everything we had. Smith stated the minutes do state she sent to Ryan and he is working on it.

Mayor stated if no other questions the minutes are accepted as presented.

BILLS:

Smith made a motion, seconded by Tolles to approve the bills from November 21 – December 4, 2025 in the amount of \$9,490.22.

Sylvain stated she knows Cindy Hofner is going through records for record retention and asked if she worked a different number of hours or has it always been \$99. Mayor stated a different number of hours, Estep stated it has been different each month.

Votes were: Sylvain – no
Frantz – yes

Smith - yes
Tolles – yes

Estep – yes

MOTION APPROVED

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Diane Votava came to speak her thoughts, she wanted to clarify a situation that occurred at our annual benefit for the Arts on November 2nd. There was a group of 10 people that left after the volunteer of the year award was announced. She feels there was a big misunderstanding, the volunteer of the year award is determined by nominations, the person with the most nominations win, this year there was a tie and the Arts Council had to make the decision, which led us to David Fowler. Diane stated although Angie Studer is a friend of David, she did not nominate or vote for David. Diane said a lot of their members have been nominated each one chose not to be considered because they were worried that there

would be some sort of impropriety in the community. Diane stated at the event she had asked Angie to read the summary for the volunteer, after looking at it the optics that may have looked bad to some people. Diane stated GRACC is not a political entity in anyway, they simply try to do things that encourage this community, build it up and make it more beautiful. She was very discouraged to see that happen. Diane stated they are aware there are so many people that have been nominated or may never get nominated that are doing wonderful things for this community. Diane stated they are now sadly thinking they should not be doing this anymore. Diane said they do not want to cause hard feelings, we want people to feel uplifted and we should all be supporting one another, we are all in this together.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor stated the town looks really nice and thanked everyone that worked on it. He has heard a lot of people talk about it and it is a great asset to look like this for the holidays. Mayor stopped at the Tontogany tree lighting and it looks really cool. Mayor stated yesterday was the anniversary of WWII Pearl Harbor, he wants to remind people that was our freedom fought for that day.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator ordered more bulk salt and a pallet of salt. He did get a quote from Kleinfelder for the streets, quote is \$16,000. Estep made a motion seconded by Frantz to allow the Administrator to contract with National Pavement Analysis to get an assessment of our streets in the amount of \$3,950 from the street levy fund. Sylvain asked if we got a scope of work from them, Administrator said yes. Sylvain asked if we used them before or if they had any references. Administrator said no and he can get the references if needed.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Estep asked if we heard anything about the four way stop, Administrator has not heard anything recently but it was supposed to be the middle of this month. Administrator stated this will be his last meeting and his last day will be this Friday. Sylvain asked about the water shutoff on Second Street, Administrator stated that has not been done yet. Sylvain asked the status of recruiting on his job position. Mayor stated he is working on it and getting a description prepared. Sylvain asked where it would be posted, Mayor stated possibly in the paper and online. Sylvain asked who was filling that role during the transition, Mayor stated possibly Jeremy. Sylvain asked who are the residents to get ahold of when no one is in the office, Administrator stated the Sheriff for emergencies. Sylvain asked if there is an exit process, Mayor stated yes it is a standard. Sylvain stated we will need to get his name off the credit card, Administrator said his name is not on the credit card.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: None

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: None

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS: Mayor gave the first reading to Resolution 2025-09: A Resolution to make a transfer for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Grand Rapids, State of Ohio, During the Period Beginning December 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025. Estep made a motion, seconded by Smith to suspend the second and third reading of Resolution 2025-09.

Sylvain asked why we need to do this. Estep stated so at year end the fiscal officer can transfer the money received in the income tax fund out at year end.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Estep made a motion, seconded by Tolles for passage of Resolution 2025-09.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Resolution 2025-09 has passed.

Mayor gave second reading to Ordinance 2025-4: Ordinance Scheduling Council Meetings

Mayor gave second reading to Ordinance 2025-5: Ordinance authorizing the fiscal officer to deposit funds received from amplex electric, inc. into the village sidewalk fund.

Estep made a motion seconded by Frantz to waive the third reading of Ordinance 2025-5.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Estep made a motion seconded by Tolles for passage Ordinance 2025-5.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Ordinance 2025-5 has passed.

Mayor gave second reading to Resolution 2025-08: A Resolution to make an advance for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Grand Rapids, State of Ohio, during the period beginning January 1, 2026 and ending March 31, 2026.

Estep made a motion seconded by Smith to waive the third reading of Resolution 2025-08.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Estep made a motion seconded by Tolles for passage of Resolution 2025-08.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Resolution 2025-08 has passed.

Mayor gave the third reading to Resolution 2025-07: Temporary Appropriation Resolution for The Village of Grand Rapids, Ohio

Estep made a motion seconded by Frantz for passage of Resolution 2025-07.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Resolution 2025-07 has passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Sylvain asked about Dora, Smith stated the Village Solicitor has all of the information, there is a step we have to take with applying with the state and then a draft ordinance. Sylvain asked about another meeting on changes to the map, Smith stated she will be scheduling another meeting but it may not be this year. Mayor stated he will be scheduling a meeting with the engineers on laying out the Village's future.

NEW BUSINESS: Mike Bailey brought a camera today to live stream meetings that will be placed online, still working on it but we are almost there. Sylvain said she would like to see the Administration Office open again during regular hours. Sylvain said we have the Administrator

leaving we should hire another person that is educated, skilled and motivated, she feels we fall behind on a secession plan, could be something to work on in the new year. Sylvain is glad to see the new technology and thanked Teague for recording the previous meetings. Sylvain would like to see the meeting minutes come out timelier, they currently come out the Thursday before the meeting. We have committees and the Mayor will assign people to them next year but she feels they are not producing much and thinks it should be reevaluated and they should have goals. Sylvain thinks we need to take a look at the vacation accrual in the handbook. Sylvain wants to see consistency on Ordinances, either we have Ordinances that we will follow or the Ordinances need revised.

COMMENTS: Sylvain stated this is such a great Village and she is glad Diane came into talk about the volunteer of the year. The politics here are tough, we all like living here and want to see the Village do better. Sylvain asked for a vision statement, a needs assessment and a strategy years ago. Sylvain thinks we really need to look at the leadership on the Council. Sylvain thinks they should look at Estep being Council President to see positive change. Smith thanked Chad for the amazing work that he has done, you are here all the time and you put a lot of time, effort and energy into your job and that did not go unnoticed. Smith is sorry to see him go. Estep stated that Chad and his staff did a great job with the snow removal. Estep stated we should be receiving information soon on the Wood County Park Grant. Estep made a motion seconded by Smith to allow the fiscal officer to pay the bills that come due from now until our first Council Meeting in January.

Votes were: Frantz – yes
Smith – yes

Tolles – yes
Estep – yes

Sylvain – no

MOTION APPROVED

Estep stated CodeRed is not working right now, they are working on that but it will be a while until it is back up and running.

Frantz said she has really enjoyed working with the council and enjoyed having people come in. Over the four years it has been eye opening and heart wrenching. There have been a lot of happy times and she sees how a poison can spread, that is the heart wrenching part because we are good people we are all here to see the Village grow, work together and respecting each other. She is not going away; she will be in the audience supporting the council to let them know she cares. She will also be volunteering where ever she can and thanked Council. Mayor appreciates everyone on Council and the newcomers coming in.

ADJOURNMENT:

Smith made a motion seconded by Frantz to adjourn the meeting.

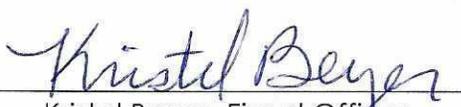
The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is January 12, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall.

Votes were: Tolles – yes
Estep – yes

Sylvain – yes
Frantz – yes

Smith – 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.

November 21, 2025 - December 4, 2025

Suburban	\$580.22	Natural Gas
Casa Bella	\$240.00	Public Restroom Cleaning
Culligan	\$16.20	Water Testing Supplies
Masi	\$765.20	Water & Sewer Testing
Ohio Asphalt Paving	\$3,200.00	Asphalt replacement on Bridge Street from water leak
Menards	\$4,565.52	Town Hall Roller Shades
Auto Value	\$24.08	Brake Light Bulb and Diesel Additive
Cindy Hofner	\$99.00	Records sorting/organizing per Record Retention
Total	\$9,490.22	

Approved 4 - 1, Donsbach absent and Sylvain voting no