



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION



Held: February 9, 2026

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 6:00 P.M. to 7:35 P.M. in the Town Hall. Mayor John Berry called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

Rachel Smith – Present Sean Thiebaut - Present
Doug Grey – Present Rick Tolles – Present
Louise Estep – Present Jody Donsbach – Present

EMPLOYEES: Jeremy Weaver and Kristel Beyer

VISITORS: Jack Phillips and Joe Long

MINUTES: Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Tolles to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2026. Mayor stated if there are no questions they will be accepted as presented.

BILLS:

Estep made a motion, seconded by Smith to approve the bills from January 23, 2026 – February 5, 2026 in the amount of \$32,548.01. Thiebaut asked what Kleinfelder's monthly charge is, Fiscal Officer stated this is the first bill we have received.

Votes were: Donsbach – yes Smith – yes Tolles – yes
 Estep – yes Grey – yes Thiebaut - yes

MOTION APPROVED

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Jack Phillips with Frontier came to discuss an upcoming fiber broadband project happening in the Village. This project will include about 1500 hundred locations with some being outside the Village. They will be replacing the copper network with world class broadband service. They will offer 7 gig symmetrical service. They will be starting the project in the second quarter and will place door hangers to notify residents. It will mostly be aerial. Donsbach asked the projected completion date, Jack stated they plan to start and finish in the second quarter. Grey asked if there were any areas in the Village that would not be covered, Jack said they plan on covering the entire Village including residential and commercial. Jack said Frontier was just acquired by Verizon a few weeks ago. He said their service is highly reliable and at a great price. Estep asked if they will be using existing poles, Jack said yes, unless a pole need replaced. Smith asked if we would get more information prior to them starting, Jack said yes. Mayor asked about residents having other services, will they still run lines to these homes. Jack said they will place a terminal on a pole in case they would decide to change services in the future. They do not run a drop across their property unless they order service.

Customers will not be charged for running the drop to their homes. Thiebaut asked if it would be third-party contractors doing the work, not Frontier, Jack said Frontier would maintain the network, but contractors would be doing the work. Thiebaut stated we could place a bulletin on the website about the upcoming work. Jack can get the Village some information on this.

Joe Long came to discuss a proposed 250th Birthday Mosaic Project in conjunction with Gail Christofferson. They would like to do a free-standing mosaic sculpture, possibly a bald eagle. They were thinking about doing the Mosaic during an event such as the Rapid Rally Days. We are looking for a few representatives from each entity. The rough estimate is \$5,000, and they are hoping to split between each entity (Village, Historical Society, Arts Council, Chamber of Commerce). Estep made a motion seconded by Thiebaut that the Village participate in the Grand Rapids 250th Mosaic Project, committing \$1,250 from the lands and building fund. We can revisit if the cost exceeds the amount. Grey asked if there were any other discussions about ways to raise funds for this. Joe Long stated it is a lot of work with them fundraising recently for the Town Hall; this was the avenue they decided on. Smith stated it could be opened up to donations; if people wanted to donate, this could be something the committee could discuss.

Votes were: Smith – yes Tolles – yes Estep – yes
 Grey – yes Thiebaut – yes Donsbach – yes

MOTION APPROVED

SHERIFF’S REPORT: None

MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor thanked everyone again for the people who cleaned the sidewalks, not only for themselves, but for their neighbors. It is nice to have good neighbors who help each other and is great to see. The river was 10 inches last weekend and a little thicker up river. The water level is very low; it will take a lot of water to get that to move. We may get some water in town, be prepared, and get sandbags ready for possible flooding. Mayor stated we have some projects that Otsego kids will be doing around town. Mayor asked Council to send in their ideas, so we can let the school know.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: Jeremy stated today we had an issue with the Bridge Street Lift Station, we will be running it manually until scheduled repairs on Thursday. Grey asked if it has some sort of warranty. Jeremy said he would find out Thursday. Jeremy said we have our preconstruction meeting Thursday morning for the backflow preventer. He passed his wastewater test, the application is completed, sent in, and approved. Jeremy stated D & R gave a quote for a new mower; they will not do a trade-in unless they find someone interested. The quote was \$15,382. McCabes was very similar with the trade in cost total is \$12,600. Estep made a motion seconded by Tolles to authorize the interim Village Administrator to contract with McCabes Outdoor for a mower & trade in for a cost of \$12,600.

Votes were: Tolles – yes Estep – yes Grey – yes
 Thiebaut – yes Donsbach – yes Smith – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor congratulated Jeremy on passing his test. Grey asked about the lights for the signs. Jeremy said we ordered a light and it will be installed on Wapakoneta and Third Street this week.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Fiscal Officer gave Council a copy of the bank rec, and everything is reconciled for the year. We also have a first read of a Mobile Food Truck Policy Ordinance. Fiscal Officer made a suggestion for a change, to remove where it states "(public or private property)", Council agreed. Estep stated that, per the Solicitor, this would be enforceable by the Sheriff Department. Estep asked if there are any updates on the Airbnb tax or the Moratorium, Fiscal Officer has not heard anything on those yet. Fiscal Officer stated at the last meeting, I gave you a copy of the Bowling Green water rates that have increased. We should review our rates this year. Council asked for some quotes.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: Mayor read a Proclamation in observance of the upcoming Semiquincentennial of the United States and signed in the presence of those in attendance.

COMMITTEES: Smith discussed the Council of the Whole meeting held on February 2, 2026. Another meeting will be scheduled to discuss Dora more soon. A Buildings, Parks, Properties & Maintenance Committee has scheduled a meeting on February 17, 2026 at 6 pm in the Town Hall to discuss 2026 potential projects.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS: Mayor gave first reading of Ordinance 2026-1: Ordinance Establishing Mobile Food Truck Policy And Permit Application Process Within The Village Of Grand Rapids.

Mayor gave the third reading to Resolution 2026-01: Resolution Authorizing the use of an "Employee Dishonesty and Faithful Performance of Duty Policy" for the Village of Grand Rapids, Ohio, Wood County.

Estep made a motion seconded by Smith for passage of Resolution 2026-01.

Votes were:	Estep – yes	Grey – yes	Thiebaut – yes
	Donsbach = yes	Smith – yes	Tolles – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor said Resolution 2026-01 has passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Grey asked where we are at in the process of hiring a new Village Administrator. Mayor stated we are working on that. Mayor would like to go into executive session to include Council without the interim Administrator and the Fiscal Officer to discuss land and employment.

Grey made a motion seconded by Estep to go into executive session to discuss land and employment with Council and Mayor.

Votes were:	Grey – yes	Thiebaut – yes	Donsbach – yes
	Smith – yes	Tolles – yes	Estep – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Thiebaut to go back into regular session.

Votes were:	Donsbach – yes	Smith – yes	Tolles – yes
	Estep – yes	Grey – yes	Thiebaut – yes

MOTION APPROVED

NEW BUSINESS: Estep stated we have two flags coming for the 250th, one for Howard Cemetery and one for Howard Park. Estep stated we have talked about getting flags for the 14 flag poles downtown as well. Estep asked for prices for the flags. Estep can get in contact with the Historical Society about changing the flags for this year once we get pricing. Grey stated the recycling dumpsters are always full, previously before his time on Council he reached out to the landfill. There are some limitations in part is the funding. He knows we have space limitations and the lady said the Village's biggest problem was finding someone committed to emptying them every week. Asking for them to empty more than once a week is probably problematic. His thought was if we could get additional dumpsters, we can place them in another location and his suggestion was Third Street at the old water plant. This would increase the capacity for people and encourage more recycling. He would like to start discussion with the Solid Waste District to see if we have options, Council agreed. Estep said we should look at the area there because the current area has ruts from the trucks. Thiebaut said we should make sure there is enough room for the trucks to get in and out. Fiscal Officer will send Grey the contact information.

COMMENTS: Smith also wanted to thank our Village employees and all the residents that contributed to snow removal. Grey wanted to recognize Dick Keifer for clearing miles of sidewalks in the Village, he knows he does not want recognition but wanted to give it anyway.

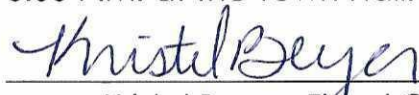
ADJOURNMENT:

Estep made a motion, seconded by Thiebaut, to adjourn.


Votes were:	Smith – yes	Tolles – yes	Estep – yes
	Grey – yes	Thiebaut – yes	Donsbach - yes

MOTION APPROVED

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is February 23, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall.



 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.

January 23, 2026 - February 5, 2026 Bills

USA Bluebook	\$415.43	Sewer Chart Paper
Kleinfelder	\$1,665.20	Backup Wastewater Operater ORC
Guardian Alarm	\$555.06	Quarterly Alarm Service
Masi	\$846.25	Water & Sewer Testing
Historical Society	\$500.00	2025 Downtown Holiday Lighting
Cindy Hofner	\$108.00	Records sorting/organizing per Record Retention
Rumpke	\$103.64	Monthly Trash Pickup
Auto Value	\$68.95	BlueDef, deicer and truck light bulbs
Casa Bella	\$240.00	Public Restroom Cleaning
M2X	\$44.95	Town Hall Internet
Morton Salt	\$1,311.97	Road Salt
Municipal Utilities	\$17,806.40	Wholesale Water
WC Sheriff	\$8,882.16	Contract Service
Total	\$32,548.01	