



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION



Held: February 23, 2026

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 6:00 P.M. to 6:35 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: Robin Dudley, Joel Kuhlman and Lynn Sylvain

MINUTES: Smith made a motion, seconded by Donsbach to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 9, 2026. Mayor stated if there are no questions they will be accepted as presented.

BILLS:
Estep made a motion, seconded by Tolles to approve the bills from February 6 – February 19, 2026 in the amount of \$5,606.78. Tolles asked if the flood insurance was for the year, Fiscal Officer said yes.

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

MOTION APPROVED

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Mayor welcomed the visitors and let them know they will be allowed three minutes on their topics. Joel Kuhlman Judge for the County Pleas Court in Wood County introduced himself. They handle felony level cases and civil cases. He was appointed by the other two judges to be the Administrative Judge for the courts. He handles the personnel and budget for all three court systems. Their budget is about 5 million a year, over the last couple of years as he has been the administrative judge they have been able to return about \$600,000 annually to the General Fund which is about a 12% return. They have been able to increase some of their services, we created a program to drive defendants to court and to probation appointments when they need a ride. It is a benefit for the people that want to be rehabilitated and benefit to the judges. They also entered an agreement with Penta and Owens for job training for people on probation, which is community control, that are trying to turn around their lives.

Lynn Sylvain stated the three minutes is in violation of Council Rules and the ORC. Lynn asked the status on Dora, Smith stated we are making revisions on some documentation and the next meeting has not been scheduled yet. Lynn asked about the job posting for the Village Administrator, Mayor stated that will be coming shortly. Lynn said at the last committee meeting the safety of the Town Hall was brought up concerning a padlock on the exit door to the first floor. Mayor said that is not an exit, Lynn asked if the only exit was the front door, Mayor said yes. Lynn asked if we will be posting a notice for the general public to be aware of that, Mayor said that is in the works. Lynn asked for an audit of the billing process. Lynn discussed ordinances that are not being enforced, if you fail to enforce ordinances you as a sitting council person can be recalled and replaced.

Robin Dudley with the Grand Rapids Arts Council presented Council an application for use of public property for the Jazz Fest on August 16th. Estep asked if they had a rain date. Robin stated the event is rain or shine. Grey asked if anything was different from previous years, Robin stated nothing has changed. They have not discussed having food trucks yet, if we do we can fill that out later. Estep made a motion, seconded by Donsbach to approve the application for use of public property for the Grand Rapids Arts Council for the Sunset Jazz Festival on August 16th from 8 am to dusk.

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

MOTION APPROVED

SHERIFF’S REPORT: None

MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor stated things are under way for the 250th year celebration. There are a lot of things planned. The river ice is probably still 10 inches thick, still a caution of possible flooding, weather permitting. Mayor said if you see anything wierd say something about it.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: Jeremy said the mower is orderd. We learned this afternoon that the flashing lights are not compliant for the stop signs. We can look into new flashing lights or look at stop signs. The lift station is repaired. Administrator stated the stop signs ranged from \$1,500 to \$2,000 a stop sign. Grey asked if the cost would be born by the municipality and not ODOT. Fiscal Officer said if the study would have warranted the flashing light sign, they would have installed them originally.

FISCAL OFFICER’S REPORT: Fiscal Officer gave Council a copy of the bank rec, and everything is reconciled, gave finance committee finance reports. The unlimited pickup is scheduled for May 16th. They have three dates available in the fall if you want a second pickup, Aug 22nd, Aug 29th or Sept 19th. Estep asked if there was a price given, Fiscal Officer stated our cost would be between \$6,000 and \$7,000 per pickup, ultimately depends on tonnage. We have a second reading of an ordinance tonight.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: Smith discussed the Buildings, Parks, Properties and Maintenance Committee Meeting held on February 17th. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss potential projects for 2026, we discussed updating the quotes for the parks grant for the permanent appropriations meeting, we also discussed the State Capital Budget application. Estep said the additional application was submitted. Thiebaut said he received a call stating if we would have any changes we could still submit them by March 12th.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Grey talked with Zach over at the Solid Waste Office and basically having a second location is a nonstarter. They are under the impression since they added the fourth dumpster that is adequate. The only way we can increase the number of dumpsters, assuming there are some available, we will need to pick an alternate location. Grey stated Zach was going to talk to his bosses if we could add more dumpsters. Estep suggested the old elementary parking area.

NEW BUSINESS: Thiebaut was invited to attend the Town Hall Committee meeting on Thursday the 12th. He got to see what all they do, they actually run and promote the Theater in the Northwest Ohio area, they are cleaning the building but they are running out of cleaning supplies. Thiebaut asked if we could take inventory for cleaning supplies so we keep them stocked up for them. They also discussed needing a vacuum cleaner. Thiebaut made a motion seconded by Estep to purchase a commercial grade vacuum sweeper not to exceed \$500 for the Town Hall.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Thiebaut suggested reaching out to Mark and Carol Sarkan or Lynne Long for the type of commercial vacuum needed. Thiebaut discussed the Northwest Erie West Regional Council formerly TMACOG handout the Village was a member and he feels we should become a member again. The cost is \$350 a year and it would be prorated for this year. Fiscal Officer will look into where to get funds and prepare sample resolution for the next meeting.

Estep said she knows the pool levy passed and we checked on funding with the solicitor. Since the pool will not get their funds right away from the levy. It was suggested to pay for the chemicals as we have in previous years until they start to receive their levy monies. Then next year we can stop but we would continue to fill the water.

Estep made a motion seconded Smith for the Village to continue to pay for the chemicals for the swimming pool for the 2026 pool season and fill the water.

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

MOTION APPROVED

COMMENTS: Grey stated he knows we have discussed putting out a newsletter. Estep said normally the Fiscal Officer sends out the first one and then we can look at doing quarterly newsletters after.

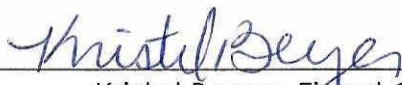
ADJOURNMENT:

Grey made a motion, seconded by Tolles, to adjourn.

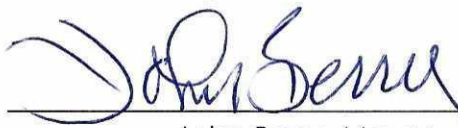
Votes were: Smith – yes Donsbach – yes Thiebaut – yes
 Grey – yes Estep – yes Tolles - yes

MOTION APPROVED

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is March 9, 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.

February 6, 2026 - February 19, 2026 Bills

Craun Liebing Company	\$2,628.52	Repaired Bridge Street Lift Station includes parts
Albert Potter	\$1,000.00	Municipal Prosecution Services
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	\$972.00	Old Fire Hall Flood Insurance
Frontier	\$642.91	Landline Phone/Fax
Verizon	\$106.36	Cell Phones
Casa Bella	\$240.00	Public Restroom Cleaning
Culligan	\$16.99	Water Testing Supplies
Total	\$5,606.78	