



# MEETING MINUTES

## GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL

### REGULAR SESSION



Held: May 11, 2026

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 6:00 P.M. to 6:37 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 – Absent

Grey made a motion, seconded by Smith to excuse councilmember Jody Donsbach from the meeting for giving proper notice.

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

**MOTION APPROVED**

**EMPLOYEES:** Jeremy Weaver and Kristel Beyer

**VISITORS:** Rebecca Ferguson, Margo Hosley, Lisa Cousino, Sierra Cousino and Lynn Sylvain

**MINUTES:** Estep made a motion, seconded by Thiebaut, to approve the minutes of regular meeting held on April 27, 2026. Mayor stated if there are no questions, they will be accepted as presented.

**BILLS:**

Smith made a motion, seconded by Estep to approve the bills from April 24 – May 7, 2026 in the amount of \$114,230.39.

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

**MOTION APPROVED**

Estep asked where the backflow preventer project will be spent from, Fiscal Officer stated we discussed taking 50% out of the water fund and 50% out of the water capital fund. Mayor stated we have our first bill for the tennis courts. Grey asked if there is an estimated completion date, Administrator stated no.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Rebecca Ferguson from the Wood County Park District came to present the \$9,285 check for the Village's Park improvements. She also submitted the new 2027 grant application. Rebecca thanked Council for their continued participation in this program and urges Council to apply again. Council thanked her for their support.

Margo Hosley presented the application for use of public property for the Grand Rapids Little League for the 2026 Applebutter Fest. Grey asked if there are any changes, Margo stated no same as last year.

Estep made a motion, seconded by Thiebaut to approve the application for use of public property for the Grand Rapids Little League for the Applebutter Fest on October 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 9 pm at Pirate Park.

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

**MOTION APPROVED**

Sierra Cousino asked where Dora idea started from. Smith stated this started about six years ago during the pandemic, this has come up from various businesses, restaurants and visitors asking for it. We have asked for feedback from residents and businesses, the Council has compromised the boundaries with using an area of the tow path. Thiebaut said the Sheriff stated they have not seen any increase in crime or reports in the communities that have established Dora's. Sierra asked if this is a benefit or a convenience. Smith feels it is a benefit to draw more people into the Village, we have had a lot of business owners say they are struggling. Smith stated there are rules established for people to follow. Grey stated if businesses do not want it in their store the Village offered to supply signage. Lisa Cousino stated the other towns have their own police force to monitor and there is a park nearby. Smith stated the boundary does not include the park, if someone violates that then the Sheriff should be contacted. Thiebaut stated the Dora we are purposing it for only a year to see if it adds value to the Village. Lisa asked about the Applebutter Fest, Smith stated the Dora has been restricted on the Applebutter Fest.

Mayor explained to Lynn Sylvain that the Village does not have hearings on water bills and asked her to pay her bills on time.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:** None

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor stated on May 16<sup>th</sup> there is a John Denver Tribute in the Town Hall. May 22<sup>nd</sup> is the last day of school for Otsego students, please take extra caution for kids in the Village. Mayor asked residents to make sure they know where their property lines are for fences, pools, etc. The proper way to find this out is by having a survey done. Most importantly is to call OUPS by dialing 811 before you dig. We had an example of it this past month, we had someone drive right into a gas line while digging for a fence, it was fortunate the gas company came promptly. We had to notify nearby residents they need to evacuate. Memorial Day is coming up and the parade in town is on Monday.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Administrator said the back flows at the meter pit have been tested, approved and sent into Bowling Green. We got the lift station on Mill Street cleaned out. The Unlimited Pickup is this Saturday. The dumpsters for the businesses will be dropped off Wednesday and picked up on Monday.

**ZONING INSPECTOR'S REPORT:** Ken Taylor submitted report to Council. Estep asked if we needed to adopt the zoning permit Ken presented to start using it, Fiscal

Officer stated yes. Estep made a motion, seconded by Tolles to adopt the zoning permit Ken presented to Council.

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

**MOTION APPROVED**

Grey asked if we have concerns do we contact Ken directly or should we go through the office. Fiscal Officer stated either way would be fine. Grey stated he attended the Chocolate walk which they sold 170 tickets and noticed that the railing in front of the Old Miss Lily’s building is in bad shape. Fiscal Officer will send a message to Ken. Estep said she thinks once it is removed it has to be replaced because of being handicapped accessible, they were not grand fathered.

**FISCAL OFFICER’S REPORT:** Fiscal Officer stated we have a first reading on the agenda for the Resolution of Necessity to be able to place the Street Levy on the November ballot for renewal. Fiscal Officer presented the March bank rec and gave Finance Committee the fund listing, revenue status and appropriation status. We will be going live with the new utility billing program this week, have been doing several trainings on the system.

**READING OF COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**COMMITTEES:** Smith read the Council of the Whole meeting minutes. The committee recommends sending the application for Dora into the State for approval. Smith made a motion, seconded by Grey to submit the application to the State for Dora along with the proposed documentation.

Votes were: Thiebaut – yes Tolles – yes Grey – yes  
Smith – yes Estep – no

**MOTION APPROVED**

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:**

Mayor gave the first reading to Resolution 2026-06: A Resolution Declaring the Amount of Taxes that may be raised by levy at the maximum rate authorized by law without a vote of the electors to be insufficient, and declaring the necessity of a renewal levy in excess of such rate of 2.0 mills for general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, and repairs of streets and bridges in the Village of Grand Rapids.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Grey stated the dog waste stations were out of stock. Fiscal Officer stated she since ordered them and should be in the end of this week. Lisa Cousino asked if extra trash bins have been ordered for the Dora, Smith stated if it gets approved we will.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Grey received a complaint concerning the conditions of the public restrooms. Grey thinks we should schedule a deep clean of the public restrooms, Council agreed. Tolles received a few complaints as well, one is the motor cycle noise. There was a fifth wheel parked at Dollar General all night with the generator

running. Joe Long has requested a fire extinguisher sign for the Town Hall upstairs balcony. Tolles scheduled a Streets & Sidewalks meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Town Hall to discuss the Street Analysis and Sidewalks. There is also a situation with a riding mower with a trailer pulling kids around town. Smith stated to contact the Sheriff's Office, Tolles stated they advised to bring up at a meeting. Estep said a Utilities Committee Meeting has been scheduled on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the Town Hall to discuss utilities.

**COMMENTS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

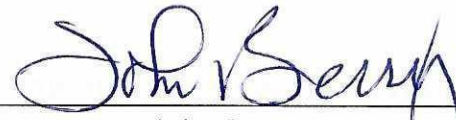
Smith made a motion, seconded by Thiebaut, to adjourn.

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

**MOTION APPROVED**

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is June 8, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall.

  
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 Kristel Beyer, Fiscal Officer

  
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 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.

## April 24, 2026 - May 7, 2026 Bills

Masi Labs	\$496.70	Water & Sewer Testing
Luckey Farmers	\$1,119.64	Fuel
OUPS	\$4.00	Manual Callout
Culligan	\$16.99	Water Testing Supplies
Casa Bella	\$240.00	Public Restroom Cleaning
Vas-ko	\$575.74	Restroom Toilet paper and Towels
Auto Value	\$190.99	Battery
A+ Engineering	\$1,190.00	2 Trash Grates
Unilliance	\$88,200.00	Backflow preventer project
Envirocare	\$477.00	Lawn Care Application Blue Bell & Howard Parks
M2X	\$44.95	Town Hall Internet
Cindy Hofner	\$303.00	Records sorting/organizing per Record Retention
Sentinel Tribune	\$77.70	Annual Grass & Weed posting
WC Sheriff	\$9,367.68	Contract Service
Treas of State	\$2,313.00	UAN Quarterly Fees & Financial Audit
Sportscape	\$8,000.00	Court Project - 1st payment per agreement
Huntington Credit Card	\$1,613.00	Spring Newsletter, postage, website hosting, index cards, blacktop patch
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$114,230.39</b>	