



# MEETING MINUTES

## GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL

### REGULAR SESSION



Held: May 26, 2026

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 6:00 P.M. to 6:58 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:** Ken Taylor

**VISITORS:** Chuck Thomas and Steve Kryder

**MINUTES:** Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Thiebaut, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 11, 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 May 8 – May 21, 2026 in the amount of \$41,119.12.

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

**MOTION APPROVED**

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Chuck Thomas and Steve Kryder presented the Historical Societies application for use of public property for the 2026 Applebutter Fest. Estep asked if there were any changes. Chuck stated no the same as previous year just changed the date. Grey made a motion seconded by Thiebaut to approve the application for use of public property from the Historical Society of Grand Rapids for the Applebutter Fest.

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

**MOTION APPROVED**

Steve Kryder wanted to thank Council and Village for their help and cooperation with the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration, decorations are starting to appear and the flowers have been planted. They have a wonderful Lecture Series program going on in the Town Hall discussing history. Chuck stated we also have a contract with Master Chief Ed Byers on September 26, 2026 at 7 pm, they will be using the school's auditorium and Master Chief Ed Byers will be speaking. Grey stated the next commercial will be running on Channel 24 he specifically mentioned the lecture series.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:** None

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor stated the Town Hall has been very busy. The couple

lectures series he attended were very good. The painting of the poles and clock look very nice. The Grand Growers appeared to have a good attendance at their flower exchange. The Memorial Day Parade was wonderful and had a great turnout. Estep stated it is nice to have the band participate.

Mayor read Administrators report, waiting on parts for boat docks and plan is to install next week. Received three quotes for removing fence and reinstall at the tennis/pickle and basketball courts. All companies stated the fence will not be able to be reinstalled, the current fence would need replaced. Estep stated she would like to keep the middle fence off. Administrator is still waiting to hear back from the insurance adjuster on the Town Hall roof. Interior Finish Group finished painting the poles and clock downtown and thinks they did a great job. Rowe's tree service took a tree down by the alley near A+ Engineering that was leaning on power lines, they will be cutting down a hazardous maple tree located in the right of way on second street soon. Kleinfelder will be here tomorrow to scan the meterpit to create the as built drawings. Grey asked if we have an estimated completion date from the pavers at the tennis/pickle and basketball courts.

**ZONING INSPECTOR'S REPORT:** Ken Taylor stated he drove around town looking for potential zoning violations, eight notices for grass needed cutting; he received an email from a resident questioning potential zoning violations at five different locations in the Village and asked that he respond with his findings, he forwarded the email to the Solicitor and followed his instructions. He received an email requesting information on fence permits, he informed the sender that there is currently no requirement for a permit to erect a fence, however, there is a height limitation depending on the location of the fence. He picked up prints from the Auditor's Office for potentially improving our current zoning map; he attempted to meet with an individual that is making and selling items out of his house in a Residential District, he chose not to speak with me. He spoke with a representative of a local engineering company regarding an updated zoning map, and he gave me a quote that he is reviewing. He drove around the Village and found two locations that will need a grass cutting letter. Today he received a letter in the mail for a conditional use for a garage to fix motor cycles. He sent a letter to the contractor for the Subdivision and he has not heard anything back. He will now write a letter to the developer in hopes to help push things along. Grey asked if Ken would be sending a letter to the people selling items out of their home, Ken stated yes he will. Estep said there are other residents with businesses out of their homes did they go through the Planning Commission for approval, Mayor stated that would be something we would have to look into. Sean asked to be excused because he has an appointment at 6:45 pm, Council agreed. Grey asked if Ken heard about the ramp issue in front of the old Miss Lily's, Ken said yes he will need to do some research.

**READING OF COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**COMMITTEES:** Tolles read the Streets & Sidewalk minutes held on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the Town Hall. The committee recommends to have the Administrator to go out to bid for the repair of streets that were in the red category of being the worst. Estep stated three separate residents contacted her about the traffic speeding on Second Street. Two mentioned removable speedbumps that could be removed in the winter for snow plowing. Estep thinks that maybe these speedbumps may help in that area. Council agreed to have the Administrator to look into removable speedbumps.

Donsbach discussed the Utilities, Sewers & Streetlights Committee minutes. The committee discussed a possible rate increase. The committee asked the mayor to research and talk with our solicitor about the feasibility of joining a larger system, and what kind of economic impact that would have on the village. The Committee discussed the possibility of establishing two new funds to support storm sewer drainage in our village, the Storm Sewer Drainage Fund and the Storm Sewer Drainage Capital Improvement Fund. The Committee asked the Mayor to reach out to the Solicitor to begin drafting an ordinance creating said funds.

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:**

Mayor reached out to the Solicitor to create the funds recommended by the Utilities Committee. Mayor gave first reading to Ordinance 2026-3: Ordinance Creating the Storm Sewer Rental Fund and the Storm Sewer Capital Fund and Declaring an Emergency. Mayor gave first reading to Resolution 2026-07: Resolution Transferring Previously Appropriated Funds. Mayor gave first reading to Resolution 2026-08: Resolution to Make a Transfer for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of the Village of Grand Rapids, State of Ohio, for the Year 2026. Estep explained the reasons for the resolutions. We currently have a sewer rental fund and sewer capital improvement fund, since creating these new funds we need to transfer money into them. Then we will change the way current things are being placed in it like the income tax. Estep stated we will have to go back to the auditor and ask for a new Certificate of Estimated Resources, then we will need to amend our appropriations. Estep just wants to make sure Council is aware there are more things that need done if they pass. Mayor gave first reading to Ordinance 2026-4: Ordinance Authorizing the Assignment and Assumption Agreement with the Northwestern Water and Sewer District and Declaring an emergency. Mayor gave the second 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:** Estep had a resident who lives close to the business district, state they are concerned about Dora. His concern was with noise and asked how

we would monitor the number of people congregating in front of businesses, concerned if businesses are able to setup table and chairs in front of or behind the businesses, and concerned of when they people will leave. Estep told him she would bring his concerns up to Council. Estep submitted the final version for the 250<sup>th</sup> Mosaic project, residents are encouraged to join on Rapid Rally Days on the July 11<sup>th</sup> from 1- 3 pm to help create the mosaic. Estep stated Council needs to decide where this will be placed, one place mentioned was by Howard Cemetery. Estep was asked to get dimensions for the Mosaic project. Grey stated they have recorded the new commercial and waiting on feedback from the other members, they mentioned the garden walk and the Town Hall lecture series. Grey stated we have one more month for advertising then everyone will need to decide if they want to continue. Grey stated the Arts Council committed up to \$1,000, if everyone is still interested.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Grey stated there used to be plaques on the light poles and wondered what happened to them. Smith stated the Historical Society headed that project. Grey stated we will be receiving an application for use of public property next meeting for a multi faith service on the Tow Path Wright Pavilion tentative date is July 19<sup>th</sup>. Estep asked if we should schedule a park meeting for the Wood County Parks Grant. Estep would love to see the park up at Bridge Street be named. Smith wanted to remind everyone to make sure they have an address posted on their property because it helps during emergencies. Ken mentioned the Fiscal Officer will be mentioning this in the next newsletter.

**COMMENTS:** Mayor attended the Memorial Day service and noticed that there were Christmas decorations still on the tree. Grey stated he would be happy to reach out to the President of the Chamber.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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

## May 8, 2026 - May 21, 2026 Bills

Municipal Utilities	\$13,062.87	Wholesale Water
C & L Sanitation	\$405.00	Ball Park Portable Restrooms month
Toledo Edison	\$3,712.53	Electric
Interior Finish Group	\$15,150.00	Painting of Downtown Poles and Clock, added parking sign
Gearhart	\$224.90	Master Meter Pit back flow preventer tests
McCabe Outdoor	\$489.00	Push Mower
Werlor, Inc(formerly Heartland)	\$7,470.78	Unlimited Pickup 17.36 ton & 15 mattresses
Auto Value	\$70.48	Parts to fix truck air conditioner
Suburban	\$383.56	Natural Gas
Jeffers Greenhouse	\$150.00	Pedestal Planters for Town Hall
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41,119.12</b>	