



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION



Held: June 8, 2026

Page 1 of 5

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: Jeremy Weaver, Kristel Beyer and Ken Taylor

VISITORS: Lynn Sylvain, Mike Bailey and Linda Henderson

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

BILLS:

Smith made a motion, seconded by Thiebaut to approve the bills from May 22 – June 4, 2026 in the amount of \$20,339.61.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Grey questioned the charge for the restroom cleaning. Fiscal Officer stated it is more because we had them do a deep clean. Grey stated he does not feel we got our monies worth, the areas around the doors still looked dirty and there were cobwebs on the door closer. Estep asked if we could hold off on paying that bill until we find out, Fiscal Officer stated yes. Estep stated we could look at other options for cleaning. Grey will look at the restrooms again after they clean.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Sylvain shared Ohio Revised Code 955.22 for vicious dangerous dogs. The 50.01 is for disconnection for late payment. Sylvain stated at the last meeting the Mayor stated she was not entitled to a hearing, 50.01 village ordinance from the website states customers are entitled to a hearing and would like Council to schedule it. Sylvain talked to the Fiscal Officer about the two properties in question that she did not receive a bill for this month. Sylvain made a records request for the Fiscal Officer to send her the missing bills. Sylvain brought up a neighbor agitating their dog towards her and the Village has an Ordinance and there is Ohio Revised Code 955.22. Estep asked if she called the Sheriffs Deputy, Sylvain said no. Mayor stated that is a civil issue and she should talk to the sheriff's office. Sylvain stated there is a lot of discussion about us moving to Northwest Water and wanted to know the

impact on our water bills. Mayor stated we know that rates will increase whether the Village stays the same or changes to the District.

Mike Bailey presented an addendum to the Rally by the River Days; they would like to add the 5K race to the Rally Days. The race would run the same route as the one that used to be in the spring. Mayor asked if it benefits ALS like the past, Mike Bailey said yes. Donsbach said to inform EMS and Fire about the race as well. Estep made a motion seconded by Thiebaut to approve the application for the use of public property for non profit Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce to add the 5K race to the Rally by the River Days to benefit ALS on July 11th from 9 am to 11 am.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Grey stated there is a request for use of public property for a multi faith worship service and a community potluck. There will be music and several people talking. The date of this proposed event is July 19th. He is still waiting to here from other churches if they will be joining. Estep asked location? Grey responded on the Towpath and Wright Pavilion.

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Smith to approve the application for use of public property for non-profits for New Life Community Church event held July 19, 2026.

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

MOTION APPROVED

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor said we will be trimming trees and wanted to thank the people that cleaned up Pirates Park.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Interim Administrator stated the boat dock parts are supposed to be in tomorrow to get installed this week. A sensor out back is starting to go out, he received a quote for \$6,333 for a control panel on the transducer. The stop signs are in. Kleinfelder is working on a grant to repave Third Street. Estep asked if this road was on our list, Jeremy said yes, they have been working on it since last year. We had to take the south clarifier out back out of service for repairs. Estep asked when the stop signs will be installed, Administrator stated as soon as they get time. Estep asked what the hold up on the tennis/basketball/pickleball courts is, Administrator stated the fence. Do we want a fence or not in the middle. Smith suggested the lowest and best quote for the fence. Grey asked if we were successful in hiring part-time help, Administrator said no. Grey stated could be something to advertise.

ZONING INSPECTOR'S REPORT: Ken received an application for a conditional use permit on W Second Street was missing payment, the fiscal officer will be reaching

out to them, he spoke with a property owner on Bridge Street on an accessory building and processed permit. He typed a letter to the developer of the subdivision in hopes to help since contractor did not respond. He talked to Ryan regarding definitions and asked if we follow the Ohio Basic Code, found out the Village follows our own Ordinances.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT: : Fiscal Officer gave Council a copy of the bank rec, and everything is reconciled. We did our first official billing with the new utility software; we had a few issues but we are working them out. Today we had issues with our phones and we are hoping to get fixed tomorrow. It is now time to request your Applebutter Fest passes. We also have the Cyber Security compliance to have in place by the end of June. Next week we will be meeting with Ohio.Fit to start the compliance with the new cyber security law.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: None

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

Mayor gave first reading to Ordinance 2026-05: An Ordinance establishing a designated outdoor refreshment area (Dora) within the Village of Grand Rapids, Ohio, specifically along Front Street from Mill Street to Beaver Street, including the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath within these boundaries. Mayor gave first reading to Ordinance 2026-06: Ordinance authorizing the Village Administrator to advertise for bids and enter into a contract or contracts for the general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing and repairs of streets. Mayor gave second reading to Ordinance 2026-3: Ordinance Creating the Storm Sewer Rental Fund and the Storm Sewer Capital Fund and Declaring an Emergency. Mayor gave second reading to Resolution 2026-07: Resolution Transferring Previously Appropriated Funds. Mayor gave second 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. Mayor gave second 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 third 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. Estep made a motion seconded by Theibaut for passage of Resolution 2026-06.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Resolution 2026-06 has passed.

Estep made a motion seconded by Donsbach to suspend the readings for Ordinance 2026-6 to allow the Administrator to get street repairs out for bid.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Estep made a motion seconded by Tolles for passage of Ordinance 2026-6.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Ordinance 2026-6 has passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Estep was asked to get the dimensions for the mosaic glass for the freedom takes flight. Estep distributed the rendering of the mosaic and sample of what has already started by Gail. Estep stated she has looked at several areas to place this and asked Council for their input on placement once completed. Estep stated the state budget we submitted for the Town Hall and has passed the Senate, now it is at the House. Estep said we had discussed last fall on an Airbnb tax, since then the City of Bowling Green adopted an Airbnb Tax. Estep asked what Council thinks about imposing this, Thiebaut stated he thinks it is a great way to bring money into the downtown area. Grey asked what percentage BG enacted, Estep stated it was 4 %. Thiebaut said this tax would be imposed on the renter not the business. Estep asked if Ryan should draft something to review, Council agreed. Tolles stated we still need to act on the sidewalk work. Estep made a motion seconded by Tolles to amend the appropriations in the sidewalk fund to \$24,000 and to contract with a sidewalk provider for Second Street from Bridge Street to 100 feet before Monroe Street in the amount of \$23,750 from the Sidewalk Fund.

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

Thiebaut – yes Donsbach – yes Smith – yes

MOTION APPROVED

NEW BUSINESS: Thiebaut asked if the Village sent in the application to the State for Dora, Smith stated no we are still working on it.

COMMENTS: Grey wanted to offer congratulations to our new State Champion in the 100-meter hurdles named Molly Kramer. He also wanted to congratulate the others that competed. Grey stated he wanted to discuss the possibility of us changing over to the Northwest Water & Sewer District, he thinks we should have a Town Hall meeting to address questions people have, he would like to make an effort to get the word out. Thiebaut agrees this would help get the misinformation out. Estep stated in the December minutes we discussed needing to discuss our water rates. Donsbach had a meeting and we discussed this extensively there. We had an employee leave, we ran an ad, we only had one person with one license apply, and the infrastructure is aging. We cannot compete with the wages of other municipalities. The contract we have with a company to help with testing is

expiring soon. Estep listed some expenses incurred since the beginning of the year, water testing \$8,200, bridge street lift station \$5,000, master meter upgrades \$10,230, back flow preventer project \$88,200, backup waste water operator \$5,500. We were told a new Scada unit is needed cost \$44,943.60. We have money in the funds, but we can't sustain payments at this rate. Estep was asked why did you change your software that was before we knew this was going to happen, the current software was unsupported. Estep has taken many phone calls and emails on this topic. Estep said we were elected to represent the residents and we are relying on people to help us with this decision. Estep thinks we are doing are best with the information we have. Estep said we are giving three reading on this topic to allow residents to give their feedback. Grey thinks all the items Estep discussed would be great to have in an open forum.

Linda Henderson came on behalf of FTI Property Management and as a resident. Linda asked how this would affect them because they have a master meter in the Grand Rapids Estates. She would like to give some questions to get answered so they can be prepared for the change if it happens. Mayor stated we do not have those answer but the questions could be helpful for us to get the answers. Mayor asked for her contact information and then we could get the answers for her. Mayor said forever is a long time and we are trying to look down the road to the future. Mayor stated Northwest has probably 50 people to contact for emergencies rather than only two at the Village. Mayor stated as this progresses we will continue to gather more information to help answer questions received.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Votes were: Grey – yes

Estep – yes

Tolles -yes

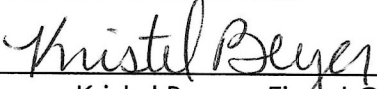
Smith -yes

Donsbach – yes

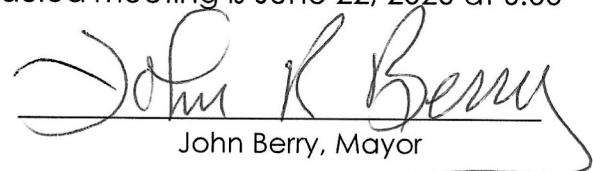
Thiebaut - yes

MOTION APPROVED

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is June 22, 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.