



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION



Held: July 13, 2026

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 6:00 P.M. to 7:22 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: Michelle Nagle, Amy Fitch, Lynn Sylvain, Kim Krantz, Rick Rettig and Sandy Spang

MINUTES: Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Thiebaut, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 22, 2026. Mayor wanted to make a clarification; the Governor did sign the bill for the Village to receive \$300,000 towards improvements to the Town Hall but we have not received anything yet. We need to follow a process in order to receive the money. Mayor stated if there are no questions on the minutes, they will be accepted as presented.

BILLS:

Smith made a motion, seconded by Tolles to approve the bills from June 19 – July 9, 2026 in the amount of \$22, 248.36.

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

MOTION APPROVED

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Michelle Nagle was here to discuss the Bacon & Brew Fest. Nick Scott was involved with the Beer & Bacon Fest that the Hungarian Club of Toledo put on, we found out just recently this club is no longer doing this. We would like Grand Rapids to be the new home for this event. Estep asked what breweries and how many. Michelle believes it will be a small number most likely small home breweries which they will all be licensed. Estep asked if this would be roped off like the Jazz Fest, Michelle stated yes. Estep asked if the businesses would be having their bacon items in the store or out front. Michelle stated they are hoping many of the businesses will take advantage of doing this to get people into their stores by offering a little something inside the store. Estep asked about the liability insurance being arranged. Michelle stated the Chamber has liability insurance but they are requesting the vendors to have their own. Donsbach made a motion seconded by Thiebaut to extend Michelle's time. Donsbach asked about the attendance of 1,000, Michelle said Nick Scott mentioned this is normally a big event. Grey stated he is involved in the

tourist committee that is involved in this and he would suggest having portable restrooms and possibly extra security. Grey said they were thinking something like the Chocolate walk to get people into the stores. Donsbach made a motion seconded by Smith to accept the application for use of public property for nonprofit organizations sponsoring organization Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce for the Beer and Bacon Fest event to be held on Sept 19, 2026. Estep asked where the boundaries are on the Tow Path, Michelle stated similar to the Jazz Fest and Rally Days.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Amy Fitch stated the Jazz Fest is coming up on Aug 16th. She wanted to express the Village is looking great. The fountain was not working, she texted and that is now fixed. The bathrooms are clean and we have new mirrors. Amy stated they wanted to make sure we show the best to visitors. She asked for the toiletries to be well stocked for their event. Mayor stated they currently are.

Lynn Sylvain stated on Sunday there was an Ice Cream Social, she asked who sponsored that and who was the benefactor. Mayor stated the Village and Chamber, the benefactor is the Otsego Food Pantry. Sylvain asked when was the benefactor announced, Mayor stated the Chamber had it on a sign when people walked into the building. Sylvain asked if they had a letter from the food pantry authorizing you to hold that event, Mayor does not know about that. Sylvain asked how much money that brought in, Mayor stated \$274.72. Sylvain asked if Council plans on running that event again and taking money away from the Chamber. Mayor stated it is possible. Sylvain asked if there was a list of names, addresses and amounts for the people that donated, Mayor stated no. Grey stated that was not done on any other day the Chamber held either. Sylvain asked for a date with the administration office to go over her public records requests and what is the status for her to get into the administration building, Mayor stated she has had opportunities to do this. Sylvain stated she has not. Mayor asked if she was going to go over her requests or pick them up, Sylvain said it does not matter. Mayor will take this under consideration. Sylvain asked the status of the water hearing; Mayor will take this under consideration. Estep made a motion to allow another 3 minutes, motion dies due to lack of a second.

Kim Krontz stated she is concerned about the Village changing to the District. When she moved here a few years ago, this was one criterion was to not to have the District. Mayor stated our infrastructure is in good shape, we just do not have the man power to take care of it. If we have a water break the District has 30 plus manpower that can come take care of it. They would also be able to add more infrastructure to get the Village another source of water, he feels that is very critical for our water source and the water quality. Kim wondered if the Council looked into the history. Estep made a motion to allow Kim Krontz another 3 minutes, Grey seconded. Kim Krontz is also concerned about the data center going in on RT 582.

Do they know how that will affect our water bills? She hopes the Council is doing their due diligence. Mayor stated he believes they are doing their due diligence; we are looking at the Village right now and for the future, the District will have the man power, the tools and expertise. Mayor stated we could spend the money and time to train employees, they could hurt or leave our employment in which we need to start all over again. Grey made a motion seconded by Tolles to extend the time on the topic for another 3 minutes. Mayor stated we will have 24-hour coverage, the District has the man power, the knowledge, the equipment and the licenses to take care of everything. Kim Krantz is concerned that with this type of top-notch service, what expense will it bring to the residents. Mayor stated the Village was considering raising their rates due to rate increases the Village is incurring. Kim Krantz asked if the Village would have a say in the rates. Mike Marsh stated it would not be the Village system anymore, the District Board would decide the rates.

Rick Rettig came to introduce himself to Grand Rapids, he is running for the 75th House District. All of his information is on his website rettigforohio.com. He would love for people to reach out to him. He is really looking forward to fight for education.

Sandy Spange from Lake Erie West Regional Council was here to discuss membership and discuss what to expect from a membership from Lake Erie West Regional Council. They have gone through a name change from TMACOG. Grey made a motion seconded by Thiebaut to extend the time for another three minutes. Sandy handed out information to the Council Members. They had 81 council of government members, now they have 82 with the Village joining. Donsbach made a motion seconded by Thiebaut to extend for another three minutes.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Sandy stated They have a variety of transportation specialists and they provide help with grants and provide data. They welcome any questions on grants and data. Grey made a motion seconded by Thiebaut to extend the time another three minutes.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Sandy stated the EPA funds them to be the 208-water authority for wastewater planning, they also do storm water planning, and we work for general health for the waterways. If the Village is doing a grant application they will help with the grant application and will help with providing the data. Sandy thanked Council for their membership and cannot wait to work for them.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor wanted to thank Jeremy, Dave and Chad for cleaning up the major portions of town, you are doing a super job. The Rally Days was super this past weekend. Mayor thanked the Chamber, Arts Council and all the volunteers for putting this on. Michelle Nagle stated some of the stores reported they made close to Applebutter. Council expressed that is great. Mayor stated this last week, Jeremy was working by the bridge and found a washout. The state will most likely be digging around the bridge, there may be a closure on part of the bridge in order for them to make repairs. We will find out more and report when that time comes. The Town Hall was a big success this past weekend, the activities that went on were great, people came down and got ice cream from the two ice cream socials. We have the \$300,000 grant money coming we need to prioritize when the time comes.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Interim Administrator stated the fence did come down on Friday, when the asphalt is done they will come back to install. The pump that we replaced and sent in came back that a catastrophic failure happened and cannot be repaired. A new pump is \$18,270. We emailed the Kleinfelder bid package for the streets. A neighbor to the shop complained about runoff onto their property. The pile of dirt from Dollar General covered up some sludge and now all needs to be removed, he is working on getting a quote. Strayer Concrete said they would start sidewalks in 4 to 6 weeks. The new handsoaps and mirrors are installed in the public restrooms and we had Gearhart Plumbing come and jetted out the restrooms from a clogged drain.

Smith made a motion seconded by Thiebaut to allow the Village Administrator to purchase a new pump for the Bridge Street lift station for \$18,270.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Tolles made a motion seconded by Smith to accept Kleinfelder bid proposal.

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

MOTION APPROVED

ZONING INSPECTOR'S REPORT: Council received copy of zoning report.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT: Fiscal Officer gave Council a copy of the May bank rec and everything is reconciled. We have two first readings on the agenda tonight. We also have a third readings of the Dora Ordinance.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: Tolles discussed the Streets & Sidewalks Committee meeting held on June 23, 2026.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

Mayor stated we have Ordinance 2026-3: Ordinance Creating the Storm Sewer Rental Fund and the Storm Sewer Capital Fund and Declaring an Emergency that was tabled last meeting. Estep made a motion seconded by Smith to move Ordinance 2026-3 back to the table.

Votes were: Grey – yes
Smith – yes

Estep – yes
Donsbach – yes

Thiebaut – yes
Tolles – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Ordinance 2026-3: Ordinance Creating the Storm Sewer Rental Fund and the Storm Sewer Capital Fund and Declaring an Emergency has been moved back to the table.

Estep made a motion seconded by Smith to approve Ordinance 2026-3.

Votes were: Estep – yes
Donsbach – yes

Thiebaut – yes
Tolles – yes

Smith – yes
Grey – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Ordinance 2026-3 has passed.

Mayor stated we have Resolution 2026-07: Resolution Transferring Previously Appropriated Funds that was tabled. Estep made a motion seconded by Thiebaut to move Resolution 2026-07 back to the table.

Votes were: Thiebaut – yes
Tolles – yes

Smith – yes
Grey – yes

Donsbach – yes
Estep – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Resolution 2026-07: Resolution Transferring Previously Appropriated Funds has been moved back to the table.

Estep made a motion seconded by Thiebaut to approve Resolution 2026-07.

Votes were: Smith – yes
Grey – yes

Donsbach – yes
Estep – yes

Tolles – yes
Thiebaut – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Resolution 2026-07 has passed.

Mayor stated we have 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 that was tabled.

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Tolles to move Resolution 2026-08 back to the table.

Votes were: Donsbach – yes
Estep – yes

Tolles – yes
Thiebaut – yes

Grey – yes
Smith – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated 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 has been moved back to the table.

Donsbach made a motion seconded by Estep to approve Resolution 2026-08.

Votes were: Tolles – yes
Thiebaut – yes

Grey – yes
Smith – yes

Estep – yes
Donsbach – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Resolution 2026-08 has passed.

Mayor stated we have Ordinance 2026-4: Ordinance Authorizing the Assignment and Assumption Agreement with the Northwestern Water and Sewer District and Declaring an emergency that was tabled.

Estep made a motion seconded by Smith to move Ordinance 2026-4 back to the table.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Ordinance 2026-4: Ordinance Authorizing the Assignment and Assumption Agreement with the Northwestern Water and Sewer District and Declaring an emergency is back on the table.

Smith made a motion seconded by Tolles to approve Ordinance 2026-4.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Ordinance 2026-4 has passed.

Mayor gave first reading to Resolution 2026-10: Village of Grand Rapids Wood County, Ohio Resolution to proceed with a ballot issue submitting the question of a tax levy renewal to the voters of the Village of Grand Rapids, Ohio, and declaring an emergency.

Mayor gave first reading to Ordinance 2026-8: An Ordinance to request auditor to assess lots and lands for the lighting of streets, alleys ways and other public places.

Mayor gave the third reading to Ordinance 2026-5: 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.

Smith made a motion seconded by Grey to approve Ordinance 2026-5 contingent on state application approval.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Ordinance 2026-5 has passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mayor stated we need to discuss the location of the Mosaic Eagle Art Piece. Estep said before we do she wants to let everyone know that the last day to donate to this project in order for your name to be placed on the plaque is August 15th. Estep said the different locations that have been mentioned are Howard Cemetery, Howard Park, Pirates Park, by the Log Cabin, in between the Log Cabin and the Gas Station. Estep said we received a letter from the Arts Council on their desired location. Grey stated we need to stay away from areas that flood. Tolles thinks Howard Cemetery the mosaic would be too big and it would cause traffic issues in that location. Donsbach thinks that Pirates Park would be a good location since it has parking nearby. Grey thinks in between the Gas Station and Log Cabin would be a good location for it. Estep is concerned of the big trees around that area. Estep made a motion seconded by Smith to recommend the Freedom Takes Flight Art Piece be located at Pirates Park.

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

MOTION APPROVED

NEW BUSINESS: Fiscal Officer presented the Estimate of Revenues to Council. She explained this is our best guess of what our fund balances will be on January 1, 2027 and our best guess on the revenue we will receive in 2027. Estep asked the Fiscal Officer to prepare these two different ways, one if we were going to pass the District and one if we were not. It did cause extra work but we could not predict the outcome of tonight's meeting. Thiebaut asked if there would be any reason any columns would differ much at year begin. Fiscal Officer stated only if we have a big expenditure we did not currently expect or if we would get a grant that would also change the estimated amounts. Estep stated then we could amend them. Mayor mentioned we did appropriate money in the street light fund for changing to the led streetlights, Mayor needs to confirm with Mr. Coleman from Toledo Edison but we should not incur any costs for the change to led lights. We could use this money to add lighting at the basketball/tennis/pickleball court. Estep made a motion seconded by Tolles to approve the Estimate of Revenues for budget year 2027.

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

MOTION APPROVED

COMMENTS: Grey wanted to remind everyone about the multi-faith service on Sunday located on the Towpath. They will be having a community potluck with hamburgers and hotdogs. The attendees are asked to bring a dish to share. There will be gospel music, Paster Scott from New Life will speak. Grey wanted to thank Jeremy and let him know we appreciate him and the other employees for stepping up and making this weekend a great success. Mayor said he mentioned to Jeremy to order some Village shirts so they are identifiable to everyone. Mayor stated it was asked to put electricity at the log cabin. He was thinking maybe we should put in some electric car charging there or possibly somewhere else, it's something to think about.

ADJOURNMENT:

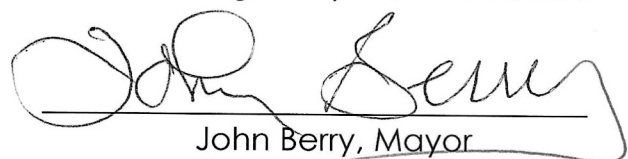
Estep made a motion, seconded by Smith, to adjourn.

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

MOTION APPROVED

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is July 27, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall.


Kristel Beyer, Fiscal Officer


John Berry, Mayor