

MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION

The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 6:00 P.M. to 7:01 P.M. in the Town Hall. Mayor John Berry called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

Rachel Smith – Absent	Sean Thiebaut - Present
Doug Grey – Present	Rick Tolles – Present
Louise Estep – Present	Jody Donsbach – Present

Estep made a motion seconded by Donsbach to excuse Rachel Smith's absence.

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

MOTION APPROVED

EMPLOYEES: Jeremy Weaver and Kristel Beyer
VISITORS: None

MINUTES: Donsbach made a motion, seconded By Tolles, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 13, 2026. Mayor stated if there are no questions on the minutes, they will be accepted as presented. Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Estep to approve the minutes from the special meeting held on July 18, 2026.

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

MOTION APPROVED

BILLS:
Estep made a motion, seconded by Thiebaut to approve the bills from June 10 – August 6, 2026, in the amount of $20,032.12.

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

MOTION *APPROVED*

Estep noticed employee's ordered pants and wanted to know if they ordered shirts as well, Fiscal Officer stated yes.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL: None

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Estep asked if the Mayor has been in contact with the Sheriff's Office from some break-ins that have happened. Mayor stated no, he had not heard anything. Estep said the Dollar General had some vandalism, and some vehicles were broken into.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor stated that things seem to be going well with the Northwest Water & Sewer, such as them doing in town mapping of hydrants and valves, they now have our blueprints which they will place into their cad system. They can use this mapping in their office and the workers have access in the field

on their devices. Mayor said Town Hall lecture on Saturday was wonderful. We need to look into the Town Hall air conditioner it was down over the weekend. Mayor wanted to thank Jeremy, Dave and Chad for things that they do, they are doing a great job. Mayor reminded everyone the Jazz Fest is coming up this weekend. We should be receiving a picture of the Mosiac placement prior to installation. Estep said Sept 27th there will be a dedication of the Mosiac following the Town Hall event held at 3pm that same day, Haraz Ghanbari will be doing the dedication. Mayor stated Halloween Trick or Treat will be on October 31, 2026.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mayor read administrator's report. Strayer concrete started sidewalk project on Second Street. Ohio Asphalt has us on schedule for Thursday August 13th to grind and repave tennis/basketball courts. Sportscape says they have to wait 30 days after repaving to paint new lines. Brosneck Pressure Washing finished downtown sidewalks. Northwest Water & Sewer District came Friday to fix curb valve water leak at 24099 Front Street. We need to decide on which option for roofing for Town Hall. He received a quote for $13,344.41 from Jim Palmer Excavating to remove broken down catch basin and install new one along with 70 feet of 8 inch tile in alley south of Third Street between Beach Street and West Street. Kleinfelder road bid package is started. Got the advertisement in paper with bid opening on August 20th at 10 am at Village Office.

Estep made a motion seconded by Tolles to allow the Interim Administrator to contract with Jim Palmer Excavating to remove the broken down catch basin and install a new one along with 70 feet of 8 inch tile in the alley south of Third between Beach Street & West Street at a cost of $13,344.41, half coming out of sewer fund and half coming out of permissive tax fund.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Grey asked if there is a timeline on making a choice on the Town Hall roof. Mayor stated we should do it as soon as possible. Fiscal Officer said we received two quotes Overhead Roofing $32,400 for shingles, $129,600 for metal, Roszman Roofing $29,651.04 for shingles, $96,250 for metal. The village did receive a check from our insurance company for around $16,300 to go towards repairs. Donsbach is concerned with metal shingles that it may cause noise problems with programs held upstairs. Grey is wondering the differences in the bids other than the prices. Fiscal Officer will share the quotes with council for review. Mayor asked everyone to think about it so we can make a decision soon.

Estep asked about the led stopsigns and when they will be installed. Fiscal Officer stated ODOT came and picked the signs up, they should be installed soon. Estep asked who takes care of the plantings around the clock, Mayor thought the Historical Society did. Estep said there is a dead bush in there. Estep asked if we could get the water turned on at Pirates Park, if possible.

ZONING INSPECTOR'S REPORT: Council received copy of zoning report. Grey asked what type of recourse do we have for chickens, Estep said Ken said it is listed in the agricultural ordinance. Estep said she can add to the topic on furniture in the downtown area, there were patrons at the coffee shop that moved chairs to another table and someone could not even walk through that area, let alone a stroller or a wheelchair. Mayor thinks that there is a 30 or 36 inch extension but he believes that was for an awning. Grey stated we should make sure we have a uniform plan that way everyone knows the plan and everyone is treated the same. Estep asked if Ken would be making recommendations to us, Mayor stated he believes Ken is compiling a list of items. Thiebaut stated it could go to the appropriate committee for things Ken thinks we need to tweak or change to bring things up to date.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT: Fiscal Officer gave Council a copy of the June bank rec and everything is reconciled. We have two first readings on the agenda tonight. The OPWC Resolution, Kleinfelder has requested this be approved tonight for the submittal by Sept. 10th. We have a second reading for the street lighting.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: **Mayor** received a letter for turning the town teal in October to help create awareness for Ovarian Cancer. Mayor will let them know of the Village approval.

COMMITTEES: Estep will be scheduling a finance committee meeting regarding the Airbnb Ordinance and amending the permanent appropriations. She is waiting on Ryan; he did recommend a short-term rental rather than an Airbnb Ordinance.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

Mayor gave first reading to Resolution 2026-11: A Resolution Authorizing the Village Interim Administrator to Prepare and Submit an Application to Participate in The Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement And / Or Local Transportation Improvement Program(S) and To Execute Contracts as Required.

Estep made a motion, seconded by Donsbach to suspend the readings of Resolution 2026-11.

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

Estep made a motion, seconded by Tolles for approval of Resolution 2026-11 due to the time constraint we are up against.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Resolution 2026-11 has passed.

Mayor gave first reading to Resolution 2026-12: A Resolution Authorizing the Village Interim Administrator to Prepare and Submit A 2027 Application to Participate in the Wood County Park Grant Program(S) and to Execute Contracts as Required.

Estep would like this resolution to state, "under the direction of council". Fiscal Officer will add that to the resolution for the next reading.
Mayor gave second 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Grey stated we discussed having a quarterly or periodically a newsletter. Estep is still for having it, are we going to mail them or have it online. Grey said he thought the concensus was having it online and people could request a copy if they wanted. Thiebaut said it would be great to have it out before Applebutter. Estep said maybe giving notice on water bills of a newsletter. Mayor asked how much does it cost to mail those out, Fiscal Officer recalled around $1,600. Council decided to bring ideas for the newsletter to the next Council meeting. Grey stated the Beer & Bacon Fest has been cancelled, there is a lot of work to go into it and we did not want to rush it. Estep asked if they would be sending something in writing to verify this? Grey stated he can ask them too. Grey stated Beer & Bacon Fest is to be determined for 2027. Mayor talked to the Sheriff about the Applebutter Fest. The Sheriff's department has decided to close RT 65 at Sycamore rather than the bridge to make things safer and better. Grey asked about any discussions about illegally parked vehicles, Mayor said they will be addressing that at the Safety meeting in September. Grey stated people are knowingly parking places, if it continues to be ingnored it will keep getting worse. Mayor thinks this may start to be an issue with the Jazz Fest as well, it seems to keep getting bigger and bigger.

NEW BUSINESS: Donsbach thinks some of our trash cans downtown are in rough shape. We need to think about whether we want to refurbish them or purchase new ones. Estep said maybe we could look at some that are similar to the base of the trees. Grey said we discussed purchasing more if and when Dora gets started. Estep said we could switch cans out a few at a time. Grey asked about the parking lot behind the old drug store for repaving. Estep does not think that was looked at when the streets were surveyed. Tolles recalled that it was only going to gain a few spots and that is why it was not pursued. Grey said we have reached the end of the money for advertising. The Arts Council and the Chamber have both agreed to contribute up to $1,000 to continue to run ads through the end of the year. Grey stated he had a few store owners tell him they had a few customers say they seen the ads. Estep stated she has had a few residents say they do not want their taxpayer money spent on the businesses downtown. Grey stated he heard some of that as well. Grey thinks the ads have been more impactful now

that we are concentrating on promoting specific events and the town in general. Mayor asked if this is contingent on everyone's approval, Grey said yes.

Grey made a motion, seconded by Donsbach to appropriate an additional $1,000 to contribute to the other organizations in order to continue these ads for the rest of the year.

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

MOTION NOT APPROVED

COMMENTS: Tolles said he knows we have placed dog bags out but there are still piles on the towpath and even happened in front of Fernandos. Mayor stated that the Village of Whitehouse has a sign above their dog bags and lists the violation ordinance code. Tolles asked if we could place a dog bag dispenser close to Front Street. Donsbach asked if anyone heard how the restrooms were, Grey stated he would go take a look, he has not been there in a while, Estep will check as well.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

MOTION APPROVED

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is August 24, 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.

July 10, 2026 - August 6, 2026 Bills

Luckey Farmers	$970.61	Fuel
Vas-ko	$269.16	Toilet paper & paper towels for restrooms
Hanley Print	$555.34	Envelopes and Checks
C & L Sanitation	$405.00	Portable Restrooms for Ball Park
Casa Bella	$480.00	Public Restroom Cleaning
Envirocare	$1,055.00	Lawn Care Application Blue Bell & Howard Parks
Culligan	$16.99	Water Testing Supplies
OUPS	$4.00	Manual Callout
MASI	$788.80	Water & Sewer Testing
USA Bluebook	$127.97	Water Testing Supplies
Brosneck Pressure Washing	$1,290.00	Power washed downtown sidewalks
Guardian Alarm	$200.00	Service to Alarm System
Tractor Supply	$399.90	Employee work pants
WC Sheriff	$11,598.08	Contract Service
Huntington Credit Card	$1,651.28	Shop fan, led light bulbs, timer, card, Starlink, postage, weed killer, bungee straps, work gloves, TownHall exhaust fan motor, employee shirts,
McCabe Outdoor	$219.99	New leaf blower
Total	**$20,032.12**	