

MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION

Held: August 24, 2026

The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 6:00 P.M. to 7:45 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: Brenda Swanson, Lynn Sylvain, Emily Householder, Lynne and Joe Long

MINUTES: Tolles made a motion, seconded by Estep, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 10, 2026. Mayor stated if there are no questions on the minutes, they will be accepted as presented.

BILLS:

Smith made a motion, seconded by Thiebaut to approve the bills from August 7 – August 20, 2026, in the amount of $69,769.58.

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

MOTION *APPROVED*

Grey asked if the advertising was for two months. Fiscal Officer stated from February through July. Mayor stated we would need a motion to move forward with the advertising from the last meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Brenda Swanson came with concerns of a tree located in front of her house on East Second Street. Brenda thanked Council for the sidewalks, when the sidewalks were installed, they had to grind down some of the roots from the tree to install the sidewalk. Brenda thinks the tree may be compromised and would like the two trees in front of her home looked at due to safety concerns. Lynn Sylvain stated she has records requests that are months if not years old, she requests an appointment with the village office, she has ongoing billing issues on a property that she requested the water to be shutoff on, she requested a hearing on this and nothing has been granted, she wants to know the top three bills that were approved for $69,000, she wants to know when the ice cream social donations were deposited, there is an ORC on this, the new contract for Northwest Water, she wants to see the contract and the attachments posted, did you address the rollover provisions that was asked for, what information was shared with Council between the pause on voting for the contract and the approval of the contract, the Village hired Jody Donsbach's husband for mowing she would like to know the salary range for this job, copy of application, is he getting benefits and when will his employment end. Lynn would like to start with the water bills; she wants to look at what occurred on those two

properties that she requested to be turned off on 12/1/2025 and asked if we have done this to any other resident. Donsbach asked the Interim Administrator if we were allowed into the property to turn the water off, Interim Administrator stated he did not ask himself, but the previous administrator told him no. Donsbach stated Lynn is not allowing us on her property, Lynn stated that is not true and no attempt was made at the second property. Estep said Ms. Sylvain has sent a letter to our Village Solicitor and once items are in the hands of the Solicitor then we cannot address those. These questions Ms. Sylvain is asking are items sent to the solicitor; therefore, we should not be addressing them. Mayor stated Ms. Sylvain should have received or should be receiving a response from our Solicitor from her letter dated August 10th. #1 no such meeting is required and will not be permitted at this time, #2 no valid public records requests, #3 Mr. Taylor is the zoning inspector he does not have a role in utility service. Your conclusions and demands are incorrect. The remainder of the handout does not include any valid public records requests. It's his belief that every actual public records request she has made over the past four years has been fulfilled. Even though they are not picked up right away, there is nothing to discuss as an appointment. Emily Householder was in attendance to present the event application for Hocus Pocus to be held on October 24th. It will be the same as years past, but they would like to close down the street from 11:30 to noon starting after the banks drive through and before the kayak shop. Estep asked if we could drop off barricades for them to close the street during this time, Interim Administrator said yes. Estep made a motion seconded by Smith to approve the application for use of public property for the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce on October 24th from 11 am to 5 pm for the Hocus Pocus event including closing Front Street from 11:30 am to noon from the bank drive through to West Street.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Lynne Long wanted to update Council on the Eagle Takes Flight Mosaic Sculpture and thanked them for supporting the project. The plaque has been ordered, and they have raised $12,800 at this point. On September 27th, the Town Hall bell will be rung by Al Wellman who was on Council in 1976, Sharon Carter will be representing her husband who was Mayor at that time, Joe Long and his son will ring the bell for their granddad/dad who rung the bell in 1976. Then the program will start with a audio on Red Skelton talking about the pledge of allegiance, Mark Sarkan and Lynne Long will provide musical numbers, Defying Gravity will be dancing, Steve Kryder will be reading Flanders Fields, Sean Thiebaut will be reading a portion of the Declaration of Independence, we will all sing This Land is Your Land. Joe Long presented an event application for a parade following these activities. The parade starts here and ends at Pirates Park for the dedication of the Mosaic Sculpture. Grey made a motion seconded by Thiebaut to continue to speak on the subject.

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

MOTION APPROVED

They asked Sheriff Wasylyshyn to walk in the parade, Village Council, Fire Department, Legion, Defying Gravity and others. Lynne Long stated when we get to Pirates Park, the Mayor will welcome everyone, State Representative Haraz Ghanbari will give remarks, they invited Wood County Commissioners, invited the Governor, and some of the Otsego Marching Band members will be playing. Estep made a motion seconded by Smith to approve the application for use of public property for the Grand Rapids Historical Society on Sept. 27, 2026, from 4 pm to 5 pm for a parade from the Town Hall up to Wapakoneta Rd for the unveiling of the Mosaic "Freedom Takes Flight".

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

MOTION APPROVED

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor was sad to hear about the cancelation of the Jazz Festival due to weather. The band at the Town Hall seem to have a good turn out although the weather did not cooperate. After the storm there are still quite a bit of limbs down that will need cleaned up. The program at the Town Hall this past Saturday on Dresden Howard was very interesting. The Ovarian Cancer will be placing ribbons in September.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Interim Administrator said Strayer Concrete did finish the sidewalks. Ohio Asphalt came last week and did the tennis courts. Sportsscape will be coming in the next couple of weeks to install anchors for the hoops and then paint. The fence company is supposed to come the week of September 7th and install the fence. We did receive three bids for the road project and we need to pass the legislation to move forward. The stop signs at the bridge and Route 65 were installed last week. This past Friday we had a tree down in the road early Friday morning, Rowe Tree Service came right away and cleaned it up. We did pick up new LED lights for the restrooms here and at the public restrooms. We replaced the broken and missing flag poles downtown today. We took the F250 to Grand Rapids Auto to get it checked out before winter. Estep asked how many hoops there will be at the courts, Interim Administrator said there will be three hoops, one full court and one half court. Mayor asked about Palmers work, Interim Administrator stated he has not heard a start date yet. Tolles asked if he heard anything from the Archbold Administrator on the removable speed bumps, Interim Administrator will followup with him. We need to redo the hose at Pirates Park because it is all dry rotted.

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

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT: Fiscal Officer gave Council a copy of the July bank rec and everything is reconciled. We have a first reading of a Resolution to proceed with the road bid project, Kleinfelder has requested this be approved tonight to move forward with the project. We have the second reading for the Wood County Park Grant, changed the verbiage as requested and a third reading for streetlights.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: None

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:
Mayor gave first reading to Resolution 2026-13: A Resolution Authorizing The Mayor Or The Village Administrator Of The Village Of Grand Rapids To Enter Into An Agreement With The Shelly Company, For The Village-Wide Resurfacing Project, And Declaring An Emergency.

Estep made a motion, seconded by Donsbach to suspend the reading to Resolution 2026-13.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Estep made a motion, seconded by Thiebaut to approve Resolution 2026-13.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Resolution 2026-13 has passed.
Grey asked if we know how soon this project will start. Interim Administrator stated we will find that out at the preconstruction meeting. Grey stated he is concerned about the Applebutter Fest, Smith stated Kleinfelder was made aware of this. Thiebaut would be interested in dropping off flyers to residents that would be impacted during the road project. Estep stated the $257,253 will be coming out of the Street Levy Fund, this is money that has been collected. Interim Administrator stated once we have the start date we can create flyers.

Mayor gave second 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.

Mayor gave third 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. Donsbach made a motion seconded by Thiebaut for passage of Ordinance 2026-8: An Ordinance to request auditor to assess lots and lands for the lighting of streets, alleys ways and other public places.

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

MOTION APPROVED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Estep stated we have the Town Hall roof to discuss, the Fiscal Officer sent us the information for review. Estep stated we did get a check from insurance to go towards the roof in the amount of $16,359.46. Grey asked if the

warranty would be the same, did either of the bidders give a timeline on how soon they can start. Interim Adimistrator stated Roszman came out right away and took pictures and closed up the damage.
Estep made a motion seconded by Smith to have the Interim Administrator to contract with Roszman Roofing for shingles at a total cost of $29,651.04, color to be determined.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Estep stated at the last meeting Donsbach brought up trash cans and Estep gave Council members some examples to review. Estep mentioned the trees that will be on each side of the monument, the bush to the left may be salvable, the tree to the right does not look good and asked if we could remove it. They are trying to make things look nice up there. Interim Administrator stated they can remove it.

Estep stated we were supposed to come up with newsletter topics. We should remind residents that the Food Truck owners need to get permits and their trash needs removed, street paving plans, street levy renewal on the ballot, tennis court project and receiving park grant, working on grant for Third Street, snow removal on sidewalks, any district information we may have, house numbers for residents and businesses. Grey suggested adding the village contact brochure. Grey asked about having it online only or mailing it out. Estep thinks if we can place a note on the water bills we can do online only. Add a note to the newsletter, if you know someone that does not have access to the internet please reach out and let them know.
Estep stated we still need to remove the dead bush by the clock. Estep asked if we knew who is taking care of it. Tolles thought the Society was doing it along with Lincoln Street. Mayor will ask the Society to be sure.

NEW BUSINESS: Grey spoke to the owners at Grand Rapids Edge about the sidewalk being blocked, they are aware and he has brought that to their attention. They stated they would keep an eye on it. Grey said the Arts Council will not be participating in the advertising, due to the Jazz Fest being canceled they took a financial hit. Grey stated the committee thought they still had money to cover the advertising. They had some issues with payments and invoicing due to switching of treasurer. The Chamber and Historical Society voted to continue to donate $1,000 for advertising. Grey would like to make a motion for Village Council to also contribute $1,000 for advertising. Grey stated this would give us enough money to get through the rest of the year. Council decided to table the $1,000 advertising until final numbers are gathered, Grey stated he would get this information for the next meeting. Smith stated if the information is received sooner, share it with everyone for review. Grey stated a few of us visited the restrooms, we are not happy with the result and think we should look into another company. Estep stated maybe we put an ad out, but we should let the current company know. Grey asked if anyone was aware that there was a group of people petitioning about

data centers during Rapid Rally Days. Grey asked if the Village has any regulations or restriction on that, is this free speech. Thiebaut stated the Historical Society ran into this and created a free-speech area during the Applebutter Fest. Mayor stated we can ask the Solicitor. Grey stated now that we have decided on what we are doing with the water system, are we going to advertise for the Administrators position. Mayor has not thought about that recently but wanted to get through this process first. Grey stated the job requirements will change so now we need to decide what we want the Administrator to focus on. Thiebaut was at Promenade Park a few weeks ago which is located on the waters edge. He was walking on the walkway and there was a coyote decoy to keep the geese away, the only thing they need to do is move the decoy around. Smith stated we have these at the County, yes, they have to move them, but they also need to have a fuzzy tail, she has not heard of them being very effective. Thiebaut thinks if we can deter the geese elsewhere would make a lot of people happy.

Estep made a motion, seconded by Donsbach to go into executive session to consider appointment of personnel with no action to be taken after executive session with Council and the Mayor.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Estep made a motion seconded by Tolles to return to the regular session council meeting.

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

MOTION APPROVED

COMMENTS: Grey thanked Rick Tolles, Louise Estep and Joanne Estep for cleaning up Pirate's Park, the bushes are trimmed and they look very good. Grey had Kathy from the Care Center request either the Mayor or someone from Council go there and speak to them about accessibility in and around town. She would like to have an informal discussion on this topic. Donsbach wanted to clarify and make people aware we've had some vandalism and theft in town; make sure your vehicles are locked and keys are out of your vehicle. Mayor said yes see something say something. Grey has been approached by some residents about the conditions in the alley behind the buildings on Front Street. He noticed there is overgrown grass and weeds. Grey stated he talked with someone from the Grand Growers and they would like to get a group of people to clean the area up before Applebutter Fest. Estep asked if it is the alley by the canal or both sides of Front Street. Tolles stated it is on both sides of Front Street. They would like to ask the Chamber to get a hold of the businesses to see if they need help with cleaning up their areas. Since this is private property, they would like to ask, and they would be more than happy to help out. Tolles asked about the Safety Meeting for the Applebutter Fest. Mayor stated it is September 15th at 6:30 pm in the Old Fire Hall. Tolles asked when the pole in front of his house will be replaced. Interim Administrator has not heard.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

MOTION APPROVED

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is September 14, 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.

August 7, 2026 - August 20, 2026 Bills

Rumpke	$200.54	Monthly Trash Pickup and Ball Park Dumpster
Municipal Utilities	$16,561.97	Wholesale Water
Casa Bella	$240.00	Public Restroom Cleaning & Deep Clean
Kleinfelder	$17,500.00	Village Wide Resurfacing project
Strayer Concrete	$23,750.00	Sidewalk Project - Second Street
Treasurer of State	$3,675.00	Financial Audit
Toledo Edison	$5,867.09	Electric Bill
GR Chamber	$935.00	1/3 Advertising
Frontier	$768.66	Landline Phone/Fax
Verizon	$271.32	Cell Phone Bill/Two new screen protector and case
Total	**$69,769.58**	