

MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION

Held: September 14, 2026

The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 6:00 P.M. to 6:56 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: None

MINUTES: Estep made a motion, seconded by Tolles, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 24, 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 21 – September 10, 2026, in the amount of $52,968.19.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Tolles asked if the Wood County Everbridge was released yet. Fiscal Officer stated if not it should be up and running soon. Grey asked if we have a date when the District takes over, Mayor stated he believes October 23rd.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL: Mayor asked what EE is, Lynn Sylvain stated employee. Mayor stated your items are not clear. Lynn Sylvain stated procedures, employees, exhibits and public records. Mayor stated he was not going to allow her to talk tonight.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Estep received another complaint about speeding on Second Street and was asked if we were still looking into speedbumps for Second Street. Estep stated we discussed possible removable speed bumps on Second and Bridge Street. Estep told the resident to try to get a license plate, so it can be reported.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor said Halloween Trick or Treat will be on Halloween October 31st from 5 pm to 7 pm, with activites at the Fire Hall at 7:30 pm. Turn the Town Teal ribbons are up, this is for a great cause and looks nice. The Town Hall Revolutionary War Speaker was great on Saturday, the next one is on the 19th for Immigrant Communities in Northwest Ohio by Dr. Steedman. Mayor wanted to thank the Historical Society for the job they did getting things organized to be able to have these programs. The festival is about 4 weeks away, there are a lot of

things that need cleaned up around town. The north of the stores looks like a pigpen back there, he does not understand how people can leave it like that all year and clean up right before Applebutter Fest. In the future if things are not cleaned up back there, we will mow everything down. He knows it is not their property but if they want to plant things in there than they need to maintain it. The parking behind the north of the stores along the canal was a mess for the last musical as well. They will need to have an attendant at each end of the alley or behind the stores to let people in and out so they know where they are going. He talked to the Fire Department and there would not be room to get a Fire Truck or emergency truck through there, this cannot happen. Mayor said there was even a motorhome back in there. Mayor stated the Jazz Fest places "No Parking" signs there and people stay out of there. Grey said he mentioned previously that a group of volunteers are scheduled to help clean the area up on September 26th. Mayor said up at the bridge project they should be pouring concrete tomorrow. Wednesday they should open it back up and on Thursday they will be cutting a hole in the embankment to get a drain out to the river and then plug the old one.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Interim Administrator said the fence is up at the tennis courts. Sportsscape came last week and got the anchors concreted in, then either next week or week after the hoops will go up and depending on weather they will paint the lines. We tamped the stone in for the mosaic and the concrete just got finished. We did get the tree removed. Palmer started hauling the dirt pile out back at the shop today, expected to finish tomorrow. We have a preconstruction meeting for the road work on Thursday the 17th at 10 am in the Village office, tentatively scheduled to start the following week. Estep stated we talked about going door to door to hand flyers out to let residents know. Thiebaut stated he talked with Kristel and once they get the date nailed down on Thursday, she will print the flyers. The District has taken over the water & sewer testing as of now. He has been working with them on turning things over. He has received two qoutes for the AC unit in the Town Hall, Vicar's Heating & Air $9,250 and the other qoute came in at roughly $11,000 from Downey. This is for a new unit and new line sets because they do not recommend mixing freons. We also need to decide on the Town Hall roof shingles. Estep asked if the other contractor that was higher gave another qoute on the other shingle. Administrator said no. The shingles both have the same warranty. Interim Administrator stated the OPWC grant we submitted was for $353,100 this is for Third Street from Bridge Street all the way down to the old water plant, we have an option to do 50% grant and 50% loan. This would be a 13 year, no interest year loan, Kleinfelder recommended this because it would give us a better score in hopes to receive the grant. Grey asked how much money goes into the street levy fund. Fiscal Officer stated about $32,000 a year. Estep said the Street Levy is up for renewal, so this is only if it gets passed. Tolles stated one of the Lincoln Street mens restroom lights is out. Interim Administrator said they got new LED lights to install in the restrooms. Estep asked if he looked at the removable speed bumps, Interim Administrator said yes. Tolles asked if the gentlemen from Archbold contacted him

yet, Interim Administrator said no. Estep stated she thinks it is worth a try since the Sheriff cannot catch them. Interim Administrator said that will be a new road we would be drilling holes in. He can bring prices to the next meeting, if that is what is wanted. Estep asked who installed the other central air unit. Interim Administrator said Vicars and Downing installed the heater. Mayor wanted to advise council that the roof may cost more once they remove the current shingles and thinks the air conditioner can wait. Estep said we have enough money in our appropriations and does not think we should wait. Thiebaut is concerned the cost may go up for next year as well. Estep made a motion seconded by Smith to approve the Interim Administrator to contract with Vicars Heating & Air to replace the central air unit at a cost of $9,250.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Council reviewed the shingle options presented. Estep made a motion seconded by Smith to spend an additional $10,000 for the shingles that look like slate in the stonegate grey shingle.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Estep made a motion seconded by Thiebaut to have Kleinfelder do the OPWC Grant for 50% grant and 50% 13 year loan with no interest.

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

MOTION APPROVED

ZONING INSPECTOR'S REPORT: Council received copy of zoning report. Thiebaut stated he has received a few calls from residents on political signs in town. We currently have an ordinance on the books that we cannot place political signs out more than 30 days before the election. He is not sure how old that ordinance is but that was done way before we had early voting in Ohio. We should get this before the Planning Commission to re-evaluate. Thiebaut stated he talked with Mr. Taylor and there is another issue on fences, we do not have anything on fences but the state of Ohio does. There is a grey area there that needs addressed as well. Ken stated he would look at his prior zoning reports and make a list to send to the Fiscal Officer that he thinks needs re-evaluated.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT: Fiscal Officer gave Council an event application from the Chamber for their review. We have a first reading of a Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor and we have the third reading for the Wood County Park Grant.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: Estep said we have scheduled a Finance, Wages & Audit committee

meeting for Wednesday September 23, 2026, at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall to discuss amending the appropriations and the short-term rentals. Smith stated she will be reaching out to schedule a Buildings and Parks Committee meeting to discuss park grant options.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:
Mayor gave first reading to Resolution 2026-14: Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor.

Mayor gave third 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.

Grey asked what the deadline is for the park grant. Interim Administrator said October 16th.

Smith made a motion seconded by Thiebaut for passage of 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.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Resolution 2026-12 has passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Estep said she was asked to find out who cleans at the City of Bowling Green, it is a company called BClean Pro Services. Estep said we discussed being in the parade on September 27th, does anyone want to walk or do you want to use a golfcart. Council decided on walking. Grey said if we call the cleaning company they could give us an estimate, come see the facilities and give their opinion on the way it currently looks, Council agreed. Grey gave everyone a copy of the bills from advertising Grand Rapids. Grey said since the committee was formed and has taken over, we have lowered the cost and the impact has been equal to spending more money. Grey said the Chamber of Commerce and the Historical Society both agreed to pay up to $1,000 to continue this. Grey would like to see the Village to continue this as well. Grey made a motion seconded by Donsbach for the VIllage to contribute upto and no more than $1,000 to continue the tv advertising with Channel 24 through the remainder of the year.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Estep asked if it would be $1200 to include the $200 remaining or just $1,000 from today on, Grey stated he feels $1,000 from today on would be sufficient. Grey asked if anyone followed up with the Care Center, Mayor stated he has not yet.

Grey asked if we heard any feedback on our Dora application, Fiscal Officer stated no but they did acknowledge receiving it.

NEW BUSINESS: None
COMMENTS: Mayor stated the town was full this weekend again, it was nice to see. Thiebaut said even in the evenings here the town has been packed.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

MOTION APPROVED

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is September 28, 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 21, 2026 - September 10, 2026 Bills

NFIP	$1,601.00	Annual Town Hall Flood Insurance
WC Treasurer	$101.75	2026 Allocations for Everbridge (previously CodeRed)
Treasurer of State	$5,850.00	Financial Audit & Quarterly UAN Fees
Kleinfelder	$1,724.38	Village Wide Resurfacing project
American Fence	$4,424.58	Fence at Basketball/Tennis/Pickleball courts
Jones & Henry Labs	$395.00	Water Testing
Snow's Fire Protection	$532.00	Annual Fire Extinguisher Maintenance
MASI	$1,153.75	Water & Sewer Testing
Culligan	$16.99	Water Testing Supplies
OUPS	$4.00	Manual Callout
Toledo Edison	$4,291.04	Electric Bill
Aim Media	$624.37	Road Bid Advertisement
WC Sheriff	$11,598.08	Contract Service
Rumpke	$130.23	Monthly Trash Service
Casa Bella	$240.00	Public Restroom Cleaning
Municipal Utilities	$20,281.02	Wholesale Water
Total	**$52,968.19**	