

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

Mayor stated the video on the Pledge of Allegiance by Red Skelton this past weekend was very interesting, everyword makes a statement in the pledge of allegiance and it was explained very well.

EMPLOYEES: Jeremy Weaver and Kristel Beyer
VISITORS: Michelle Nagle

MINUTES: Smith made a motion, seconded by Thiebaut, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 14, 2026. Mayor stated if there are no questions on the minutes, they will be accepted as presented.

BILLS:

Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Estep to approve the bills from September 11 – September 24, 2026, in the amount of $6,952.52.

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

MOTION *APPROVED*

Thiebaut asked about Kleinfelder invoice and asked if the District is doing all the testing now. The Interim Administrator stated yes that this invoice was from a month ago.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL: Michelle Nagle presented an application for the Christmas Open House and the Light up the Night event on behalf of the Chamber. Donsbach asked if the floating trees will be anchored or free floating. Michelle said it will be a small floating dock with an artificial tree since they are lighter. They will have battery operated or solar operated LED lights. They are envisioning the platforms, and the trees would be owned by the Chamber, and they will ask for sponsorships from area business community partners. They will have different levels if a family would like to decorate a tree. Michelle had spoken to Grey on the water level in the canal, it may be a concern. Interim Administrator stated it all depends on when the park closes the gates. Thiebaut expressed concern on high water levels and the trees getting washed away, Michelle stated they would have an anchor system with some slack in it to allow for different water levels. Michelle stated they have a local tree farm

that would donate twenty-four real trees, so we could decorate those, if we decide not to go this route. Michelle said they discussed starting small since this has never been done, she has researched all over and this is not being done except for in Florida. Interim Administrator stated we could close the gates at our end to help keep the water in the canal. Michelle stated this is the only big change for the Christmas Open House. They have reached out to three or four food trucks, and they would not be in direct competition with our local restaurants. Some of the feedback they received from Rally Days was that people needed more options for food. Smith stated she thinks it is a good idea to start small to see how things will work out. Estep asked if the metal firepit on the towpath was new. Grey stated he used to take his firepit to Lincoln Street. Michelle thinks it would be nice to have it on the towpath for the people viewing the trees. Donsbach asked if they would have the old fire station open for people to eat after getting food from food trucks. Michelle said yes. Grey asked if the food trucks would be in the same location as Rally Days, Michelle thinks that would be the best area to not take up parking and people would be close to the fire station to eat. Tolles asked if there would be seating for people in the fire station, he thinks it is being used by the Arts Council for crafts, cookie decorating and hot chocolate, Michelle said yes. Smith suggested placing a fire pit at the park and on Lincoln Street, Michelle said that is a good idea. Michelle stated she noticed the top of the tree broke off, Mayor noticed that too. Mayor stated he was wondering who broke it. All the decorations were still on it when he went out of town then when he came back the lights were off and the top of the tree was broke off. Mayor stated they have a decorate date of November 20th and would like to see a date for the undecorating, the decorations were still on the tree for Memorial Day. Mayor stated the company took lights off the other trees, but not all the lights were taken off the Christmas tree. Donsbach recommended the Christmas trees stay up until epiphany which is January 6th. Mayor suggested having fire extinguishers nearby the firepits.

Estep made a motion seconded by Grey to approve the application for use of public property for non profits from the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce for Christmas Open House for the areas listed from November 20, 2026 to January 16, 2027 with the lights to be taken down weather permitting and allowing up to three food trucks located at the park in the same area as Rally Days.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Michelle stated the Light up the Night event will be the same as last year. Smith made a motion seconded by Thiebaut to approve the application for use of public property from the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce for the Light up the Night event on December 12, 2026 from 3pm to 8 pm.

Grey asked if there were plans for food trucks that evening, Michelle said no.

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

MOTION APPROVED

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor wanted to give a big thanks for the people that helped clean up the canal bank. It was Doug Grey, Christi Bolton, Nate Bolton, Kathy Hall and Peggy Seab. Mayor stated it looks wonderful and one thousand times better. Mayor said he uses an analogy of when he goes to an Amish community which is trying to bring people in just like us, they are neat and clean, things are picked up and organized, it was not that way back there. Grey said some of the business owners did clean up their areas and he thanked them for doing it. Mayor stated yes the store owners that cleaned up their areas looked wonderful as well. He is glad they took the initiative to do that. Mayor stated the program at the Town Hall was super this past weekend and it went very well. The Memorial was a wonderful program as well. Mayor thanked Joe and Lynne Long and all the people that helped bring it all together.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:
Interim Administrator said he reached out to the BClean company and met with them on Friday is waiting to hear back from them. The State inspected the chair lift, we had three violations. The repair company fixed part of it that day and has to order parts for the other two. The Shelly Company are going to grind all the roads tomorrow and Wednesday, traffic will be able to get in and out as long as the machine is not in front of your home, that will be the same as when they pave the roads. Donsbach asked if they have a schedule, Interim Administrator stated they plan to grind all roads tomorrow and finish Wednesday, fixing spots in the subbase on Thursday if needed, then starting Thursday, Friday and Saturday paving. He checked with Kleinfelder about the stop signs we discussed, they stated those spots are perfectly fine. Interim Administrator would like to thank every individual who was involved with putting on this weekend's events from the speech at the school Saturday to the parade and Memorial it was excellent. The District will be taking over our property where we store some items and he got a few qoutes to put in a stone parking lot behind the shop building, he said it would be a good place to keep the boat docks as well. Jim Plamers qoute was $11,292 and JDI Mechanical was $16,500 for 130 feet by 30 feet stone lot. Smith asked if the platform folds in when not in use on the chair lift, Interim Administrator said yes. Smith said if we can get in the habit of keeping it folded up then people will not be walking over it like they did yesterday. Interim Administrator stated we can make a sign so that people know to fold it up.
Smith made a motion seconded by Thiebaut for the Interim Administrator to enter into an agreement with Jim Palmer Excavating in the amount of $11,292 to add a stone lot.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Estep asked if he looked at the trees on Second Street at Ms. Swansons, Interim Administrator said in the next few weeks Rowe is supposed to look at them. Estep

said she noticed the basketball hoops are up, is Sportsscape going to take the one that is laying there, Interim Administrator said if they don't, then we will pick it up. Estep asked when the nets will go up, Interim Administrator said they still have to paint the lines before they put the nets up. Estep asked for a followup with them.

ZONING INSPECTOR'S REPORT: Council received copy of zoning report. Thiebaut wanted to clarify that for the time being until the Planning Commission reviews and recommends changes there will not be any issues with people putting political signs up as long as it is on their property and not in the right of way. Grey asked about the former Miss Lily's ramp, Mayor stated he will be contacting the current owner tomorrow. Grey stated he got the orange drums removed, he had contacted the company and they came about a week later.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT: Fiscal Officer gave Council a copy of the August Bank Rec and everything is reconciled. We have a second reading of a Resolution and a first reading of a resolution amending appropriations discussed at the finance meeting.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: Mayor received an information about a Haskins Toy Drive. They would like to host a holiday toy drive and invite Grand Rapids to a battle of the Villages, the Village that brings in the most holiday gifts wins bragging rights for the year. The real winners are the children in foster care that will receive a brighter holiday season. Grey asked if there have been other toy drives around our town historically, Estep said the churches do it. Grey wonders if it would impact the donations to these churches. Estep said she knows the church donations go directly back to the community. Grey is all for promoting giving during Christmas time but does not want to negatively impact on our current organizations. Council decided to think more about it.

COMMITTEES: Tolles read the Streets & Sidewalks Committee meeting minutes held on September 22, 2026. Thiebaut thanked everyone for passing out flyers about the streets being paved, the residents were appreciative.
Tolles made a motion seconded by Smith for the Interim Administrator to approve an additional $14,780 for the extra cost to berm the roads.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Estep read the Finance, wages & Audit Committee meeting minutes held on September 23, 2026.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:
Mayor gave first reading to Resolution 2026-15: A Resolution Amending Appropriation Ordinance 2026-2
Estep stated the appropriations did increase and one of the reason for the increase is the insurance money received for the Town Hall roof. The rest was moving money

within the funds.
Estep made a motion seconded by Thiebaut to suspend the readings for Resolution 2026-15: A Resolution Amending Appropriation Ordinance 2026-2.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Estep made a moiton seconded by Donsbach to approve Resolution 2026-15: A Resolution Amending Appropriation Ordinance 2026-2 with the total appropriations being $5,171,016.75.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor said Resolution 2026-15 has passed.

Mayor gave second 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.

Estep made a motion seconded by Tolles to suspend the third reading of Resolution 2026-14.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Estep made a motion to approve 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.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor stated Resolution 2026-14 has passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Thiebaut asked when the Planning Commission will be meeting to discuss some of the suggested changes by the zoning inspector. Mayor thinks in the beginning of the year.

NEW BUSINESS: Estep said our next meeting falls on a holiday and if we do not meet, Estep made a motion seconded by Smith to authorize the Fiscal Officer to pay the bills that come due between now and before our regular scheduled meeting held on October 26, 2026.

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

MOTION APPROVED

COMMENTS: Grey asked if we will be rescheduling that meeting, Mayor said we will see what comes up between now and then. Interim Administrator stated the last brush pickup is next Monday October 5th.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

MOTION APPROVED

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is October 26, 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.

September 11, 2026 - September 24, 2026 Bills

Toledo Edison	$4,213.37	Electric
Premier Elevator & Lift	$304.75	Town Hall Chair Lift Repair
Casa Bella	$240.00	Public Restroom Cleaning
Suburban	$217.80	Natural Gas
Guardian Alarm	$577.35	Quarterly Alarm Service
Kleinfelder	$165.00	Water Testing
Huntington Credit Card	$1,234.25	Village Shirts, LED lights, door lock, key copies, wood, nuts, bolts, washers, white paint, Starlink internet, continueing ed, carburator kit
Total	**$6,952.52**	