



CITY OF
GRAND RAPIDS
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 26, 2026

5:00 PM

Mayor Connelly called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

PRESENT: Mayor Tasha Connelly, Councilor Molly MacGregor, Councilor Tom Sutherland, Councilor Rick Blake, Councilor Dan Mertes

STAFF: Tom Pagel, Kimberly Gibeau, Chad Sterle, Andy Morgan, Kevin Ott, Chery Pierzina, Carl Babich, Evan Wimmer

Conducted Oath of Office for Police Officer Evan Wimmer.

POSITIVE HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY:

Mayor Connelly recognized several employees for milestone years of service across multiple departments, ranging from one to 27 years. Additionally, the City shared positive news regarding downtown development, announcing the hiring of Chris Walker as Executive Director of the Grand Rapids Downtown Alliance. This appointment supports ongoing downtown planning efforts and focuses on collaboration, business support, marketing, and enhancing visitor experiences, reinforcing the City's commitment to maintaining a vibrant and healthy downtown community.

PUBLIC FORUM:

David Moody, 507 SW 11th Street, thanks the City for collaborating with Rockfest to be held on July 24, 2026. Bands will be announced soon.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilor Sutherland announced that Grand Rapids will host a rare women's Division I college hockey game this Saturday at Yanmar Arena, featuring Minnesota State Mankato versus Bemidji State at 4:00 p.m. The event was highlighted as a special opportunity for the community and an inspiring experience for young girls interested in pursuing Division I hockey.

Councilor Blake reported attending the January 22nd RAMS meeting, where officers were elected and legislative priorities were discussed, including bonding year considerations, Local Government Aid and potential inflation adjustments, school support, and mining issues, with public comments submitted in support of the Mesaba Metallics project. Provided overview of participation in the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association's Governance in Action seminar highlighting the value of municipal utilities, governance, and grid operations. Relatedly, noted that two local line workers were deployed through mutual aid efforts to assist communities in North Carolina during Winter Storm Fern, underscoring the reciprocal benefits of belonging to a municipal utility network.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approve Council minutes for Monday, January 12, 2026 Regular meeting.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Mertes to approve Council minutes as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

VERIFIED CLAIMS:

2. Approve the verified claims for the period January 6, 2026 to January 20, 2026 in the total amount of \$4,043,165.25 of which \$3,317,043.13 are debt service payments.

Motion made by Councilor Mertes, Seconded by Councilor Sutherland to approve the verified claims as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

ACKNOWLEDGE MINUTES FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

3. Acknowledged:

~ December 10, 2025 Library Board meeting
~ December 1, 2025 Golf Board meeting

CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Consider approval of revised job description and authorization for Human Resources to repost, interview and hire for seasonal Assistant Golf Professional.
5. Consider approval of an agreement for Rapids Rockfest 2026
6. Consider approving Pay Equity Implementation Report.
7. Consider adopting a resolution to approve a Master Subscriber Amendment to the Agreement for Minnesota Court Data Services for Governmental Agencies

Adopted Resolution 26-05

8. Consider approving On-sale Intoxicating Liquor License for Woodford LLC dba Woody's Bar & Grill
9. Consider authorizing Human Resources to make clerical edits and formatting changes to the City of Grand Rapids Personnel Policy Manual.

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Seconded by Councilor MacGregor to approve the Consent agenda as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

SET REGULAR AGENDA:

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Blake to set the regular agenda as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

POLICE:

10. Consider Adopting amendment to City Ordinance relative to Police Community Advisory Board

Chief Morgan reviewed an amendment to the ordinance governing the Police Community Advisory Board, proposing a reduction in membership from nine to seven members. Established in 2015, PCAB serves as a communication bridge between law enforcement and the community. Due to challenges in sustaining the current number of members, the amendment aims to improve functionality while preserving the board's effectiveness, with all required procedural steps having been completed.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Mertes to **adopt City Ordinance 26-01-01**, amending City Code relative to Police Community Advisory Board membership and authorized publication in summary form. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk