



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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 24, 2024

5:00 PM

Mayor Connelly called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

PRESENT: Mayor Tasha Connelly, Councilor Dale Adams, Councilor Molly MacGregor, Councilor Tom Sutherland. **ABSENT:** Councilor Rick Blake

STAFF: Tom Pagel, Chad Sterle, Barb Baird, Travis Cole

POSITIVE HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY:

Mayor Connelly spoke on the new Forest Lake site homes, the open house event and advised that the Itasca County HRA can be contacted regarding purchasing one of the homes. Also noted was the 11th annual Caring for Kids charity fundraiser hosted at the Pokegama Golf Course, raising over \$152K and expressed appreciation for all sponsors.

Councilor Adams advised that Jean MacDonald, Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital, announced that six new primary doctors will be coming to the clinic in Grand Rapids, opening up more opportunities for residents to establish care with primary doctors.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Catherine McLynn, 931 N. Pokegama Avenue, spoke in opposition of the recent Pride Festival held on the Central School grounds and the use of tax payer funds used in support of the event. Formal request to take the "Happy Pride" sign down from the Central School marque.

Brian Anderson, Cohasset, expressed appreciation to the Council for acknowledging positive happenings in the City. However, very disappointed in the media attention to Grand Rapids over the Pride Festival.

Craig Nelson, 32122 Sunny Lane, Grand Rapids, provided photos: one depicting a public execution of a Vietnamese man during the Vietnam War and one showing a child tipping a drag performer at the Itasca Pride Festival on Sunday, June 23, 2024. Mr. Nelson is very disturbed and believes this event is inappropriate in public and offensive and abusive to children.

Stephanie Lipscey, Grand Rapids, clarify news reports, not thousands of attendees, passing out narcam, condoms,

Laura Bybee, Deer River, participants were aggressively attempting to block photography. Opposed to drag shows that should not be performed in public, in front of children.

Mary Fultz, Bovey, MN disagrees with reports that LGBTQ youth are more prone to suicide because of treatment. Suicide has increased in spite of continued growth in acceptance.

Paul DeRocher, Cohasset, MN, concerned about moral climate of the city. Requested ability to be placed on an agenda for the City Council to discuss public policy.

Wade Freshour, 28562 East Harris Road, Grand Rapids offers prayer for Council members, and encourages them to remember comments made tonight when making future decisions about events.

Beth Mattsen, 41717 County Road 63, Cohasset, echo what others have said and request the council not allow this in our community. Please consider what has been said today.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approve Council minutes for Monday, June 10, 2024 Regular meeting and June 10, 2024 Closed meeting summary.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Second by Councilor Sutherland to approve Council minutes as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland

VERIFIED CLAIMS:

2. Approve the verified claims for the period June 4, 2024 to June 17, 2024 in the total amount of \$787,613.14.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

3. Consider adopting a resolution appointing election judges for 2024 elections.

Adopted Resolution 24-53

4. Consider approving the final pay request for CP 2015-1, Sylvan Bay Overlay and Utilities in the amount of \$89,130.88 and balancing change order #1.
5. Consider approval of seasonal contractors
6. Consider approving quotation for steel handrails at Yanmar Arena
7. Consider adopting a resolution calling for a Public Hearing relating to identify qualified users of the Yanmar Arena in the City of Grand Rapids.

Adopted Resolution 24-54

8. Consider approval of Change Order #2 for CP 2010-1, 3rd Avenue & 7th Street NE Project in the amount of \$19,466.
9. Consider appointment of Councilmember Rick Blake as alternate on the Greenway Joint Recreation Board
10. Consider approving amendment to Hazmat Response Contract with State of Minnesota.
- 10a. Consider adopting a resolution authorizing the Grand Rapids Fire Department to join the statewide volunteer Firefighter plan.

Adopted Resolution 24-55

Motion made by Councilor Adams, Second by Councilor MacGregor to approve the Consent agenda as amended with the addition of 10a. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Adams, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Gibeau

Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk