



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

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, February 23, 2026**  
**5:00 PM**

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

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

**ABSENT:** Councilor Rick Blake

**STAFF:** Tom Pagel, Chad Sterle, Chery Pierzina, Carl Babich, Andy Morgan, Will Richter, Aurimy Groom

**POSITIVE HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY:**

Mayor Connelly recognized staff members for their years of service and Troy Scott for his continued excellence as the School Resource Officer. Congratulations were given to the wrestlers, skiers, swimmers and divers who made it to State as well as acknowledging what great youth we have in our community. Councilor Sutherland announced the boys hockey team will be playing in the section final on Thursday at Amsoil Arena and the girls hockey team lost in the section final last week.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

No one from the public wished to speak.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Councilor MacGregor held a class at ICC on how to run for office.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Approve Council minutes for Monday, February 9, 2026 Worksession and Regular meetings.

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

**VERIFIED CLAIMS:**

2. Approve the verified claims for the period February 3, 2026 to February 17, 2026 in the total amount of \$742,794.68.

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

#### ACKNOWLEDGE MINUTES FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

3. Acknowledged the following minutes for Boards & Commissions:
  - ~ November 13, 2025 Economic Development Authority
  - ~ December 2, 2025 Arts & Culture Commission
  - ~ January 13, 2026 Golf Board
  - ~ January 14, 2026 Library Board

#### CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Consider approving a Lease Agreement with the Northeast Higher Education District for use of the City's athletic fields.
5. Consider Voiding Lost Accounts Payable Check and Issue Replacement Check.
6. Consider adopting a resolution to apply for an Outdoor Recreation Grant with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

#### **Adopted Resolution 26-06**

7. Consider authorizing the retirement and sale of surplus assets from the Public Works Department
8. Consider authorizing staff to request qualifications for engineering services at GPZ Airport
9. Consider approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Public Works Local 49

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

#### SET REGULAR AGENDA:

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

#### ADMINISTRATION:

10. Consider appointment of Brittany Warren to the part-time Library Public Services Clerk I position with the Grand Rapids Area Library.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Mertes to appoint Brittany Warren to the part-time Library Public Services Clerk 1 position. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Mertes

11. Consider appointment of Joshua Saunders to the Assistant Golf Course Superintendent position at Pokegama Golf Course.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Sutherland to appoint Joshua Saunders to the Assistant Golf Course Superintendent position. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Mertes

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

12. Consider the recommendation of the Planning Commission regarding the adoption of a Resolution approving a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) amendment to Target Corporation for the store located on Lot 1, Block 1, Mood Addition to Grand Rapids.

Zoning Administrator Richter provided background information. RSP Architecture on behalf of Target Corporation have requested an amendment to a Conditional Use Permit. The requested amendment would allow for the updating of the building's exterior paint colors to the current Target brand standard and existing building signage.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Sutherland to **adopt resolution 26-07** approving a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) amendment to Target Corporation. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Mertes

#### CITY COUNCIL:

13. Consider appointing applicants to Boards & Commissions

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Sutherland to make the following appointments to Boards & Commissions:

Appoint Amanda Lamppa, Trevor Charnley & David Olson to the Arts and Culture Commission, terms for Lamppa & Charnley to expire 12/31/28 and Olson 12/31/27;  
Appoint Nancy Saxhaug to the Public Utilities Commission, term to expire 3/1/30;  
Appoint Amanda Lamppa, David Kreitzer & Isaac Meyer to the Planning Commission, terms for Lamppa & Kreitzer to expire 3/1/30 and Meyer 3/1/29;  
Appoint Andrea Hedin to the Golf Board, term to expire 3/1/29;  
Appoint Janet Miller, Stella Leone & Brittany Pope-Sears to the Human Rights Commission, terms TBD;  
Appoint Larissa Lawson to the Police Advisory Board; term to expire 12/31/28

Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Mertes

#### ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Aurimy Groom, Administrative Assistant