



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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 27, 2026

5:00 PM

Mayor Connelly called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM.

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

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Pagel, Kimberly Gibeau, Chad Sterle, Andy Morgan, Travis Cole, Carl Babich, Rob Mattei

VISITORS: Renee Ducharme, Linda Harringer

POSITIVE HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY:

Mayor Connelly acknowledged years of service for City employees.

PUBLIC FORUM:

No one from the public wished to speak.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilor Blake provided overview of recent meetings attended including Arrowhead Regional Development Commission meeting and Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities summer conference.

Mayor Connelly reminded residents that this is election season and there are laws surrounding signage, and gave an overview of Mutual Aid assistance provided by the Grand Rapids Fire Department regarding wildfires in Ely area.

Councilor Sutherland noted that Yanmar arena is extremely busy with hockey camps and there will be a one day event when D1 Hockey coaches will be in the area and observing players.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approve Council minutes for Monday, July 13, 2026 Regular meeting and Monday, July 20, 2026 Special 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 June 7, 2026 to July 20, 2026 in the total amount of \$2,482,946.57.

Motion made by Councilor Mertes, Seconded by Councilor MacGregor 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 minutes for:

- ~ January 6, 2026 Arts & Culture Commission
- ~ May 7, 2026 Planning Commission
- ~ May 13, 2026 Library Board
- ~ May 19, 2026 Golf Board
- ~ May 21, 2026 PCA Board
- ~ May 27, 2026 Human Rights Commission
- ~ May 28, 2026 GREDA
- ~ June 10, 2026 Library Board

CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Consider awarding a quote to Polar Insulating, LLC for roof repair at the Grand Rapids – Itasca County Airport.
5. Consider adopting a resolution approving LG230 Application for Off-Site Gambling for Confidence Learning Center

Adopted Resolution 26-52

6. Consider accepting the Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority Annual Report for 2025.
7. Consider approval of a resolution authorizing a grant request to MN IRRR Culture and Tourism Grant Program for the Pokegama Golf Course Bunker Rehabilitation Project.

Adopted Resolution 26-53

8. Consider the approval of a lease agreement with Rapids Brewing Company.
9. Consider the adoption of a resolution finding parcels located at 900 NW 4th Street are occupied by a structurally substandard building.

Adopted Resolution 26-54

10. Consider entering into a Joint Powers Agreement between the State of Minnesota, acting through its Commissioner of Public Safety on behalf of the State Fire Marshal and the City of Grand Rapids to conduct all hotel inspections in the City of Grand Rapids.
11. Consider the purchase of new tee markers

12. Consider hiring Taylor Ruppelius Klopp as seasonal hire at Pokegama Golf Course.
13. Consider approving temporary liquor license for American Legion Post 476 for Itasca County Fair Beer Garden

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

ADMINISTRATION:

14. Consider appointment of Kaden Oldham as Police Officer with the Grand Rapids Police Department.

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Seconded by Councilor Mertes to appoint Kaden Oldham to the position of Police Officer as recommended. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

FIRE:

15. Consider allowing the Grand Rapids Fire Department to purchase a replacement RDC Water Rescue Craft from Oceanid and accessories.

Motion made by Councilor Mertes, Seconded by Councilor Sutherland to approve purchase of replacement RDC Water Rescue Craft as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

PUBLIC HEARINGS: (scheduled to begin no earlier than 5:00 PM)

16. Conduct a Public hearing to consider the establishment of TIF District 1-18, Elevation Apartment Project.

Rob Mattei, Director of Community Development, provided background presentation on project.

Mayor Connelly stated the purpose of the public hearing, confirmed all notices have been sent and that the Clerk's office has received no correspondence on this matter.

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Seconded by Councilor MacGregor to open the public hearing. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

No one from the public wished to speak, therefore the following motion was made.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Sutherland to close the public hearing. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

17. Consider the adoption of a resolution approving the establishment of TIF District 1-18, Elevation Apartments Project and a TIF Plan therefore.

Motion made by Councilor Mertes, Seconded by Councilor MacGregor to **adopt Resolution 26-55**, approving modification to development program and establishing TIF District 1-18, Elevation Apartments Project and TIF Plan. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

18. Consider the adoption of a resolution approving a TIF Development Agreement and awarding the sale of, and providing the form, terms, covenants and directions for the issuance of it TIF revenue note to Elevation Grand Rapids, LLC.

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Seconded by Councilor Sutherland to **adopt Resolution 26-56**, approving TIF Development Agreement and award sale and provide form, terms, covenants and directions for issuance of TIF revenue note to Elevation Grand Rapids LLC as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

19. Consider the adoption of a resolution authorizing interfund loan for advance of certain costs in connection with Tax Increment Financing District No. 1-18: Elevation Apartments Project

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Sutherland to **adopt Resolution 26-57**, authorizing interfund loan in connection with TIF Financing District 1-18, Elevation Apartments Project as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Sutherland, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk