



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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 13, 2025
5:00 PM

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

CONDUCT SWEARING IN FOR COUNCILMEMBERS:

Attorney Chad Sterle conducted oath of office for Mayor Connelly and Councilmembers Dan Mertes and Rick Blake.

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

STAFF: Tom Pagel, Chad Sterle, Rob Mattei, Dan Swenson, Laura Pfeifer, Chery Pierzina, Will Richter, Kevin Ott, Andy Morgan, Jeremy Nelson

PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

1. Designate a Councilmember to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem for 2025.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Second by Mayor Connelly to appoint Councilor Rick Blake as Mayor Pro-tem for the calendar year 2025. Voting Yea: Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes, Mayor Connelly

2. Designate an official newspaper for the City of Grand Rapids for 2025.

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Second by Councilor MacGregor to designate the Grand Rapids Herald Review as the official newspaper for the City of Grand Rapids. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

3. Appoint Council Representatives to Boards & Commissions

Mayor Connelly makes the following recommendations for Council representative appointments to Boards and Commissions:

Joint Greenway Park & Recreation: Councilor Dan Mertes and alternate Councilor Tom Sutherland

Civic Center Advisory Board: Councilor Dan Mertes

EDA: Councilors Rick Blake and Dan Mertes

PUC: Councilor Rick Blake

Cable Commission: Councilor Tom Sutherland and alternate Mayor Tasha Connelly

Human Rights Commission: Councilor Molly MacGregor

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Second by Councilor MacGregor to confirm appointments as recommended. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

4. Appoint Council representatives to selected agencies

Mayor Connelly makes the following recommendations for representations:

RAMS Board: Councilor Blake and alternate Councilor Sutherland

WMMPB: Councilor Mertes and alternate Councilor Sutherland

City/County Co-Op Committee: Mayor Connelly and Councilor Sutherland

Joint Gas Board: Councilor MacGregor

CGMC: Councilor Blake and alternate Mayor Connelly

LMC: Councilor MacGregor

ARDC: Councilor MacGregor

Range Mayor's Association: Mayor Connelly

Highway 169 Coalition - Mayor Connelly and City Administrator Pagel

Lobbyist - Council Representatives: Councilors Blake and Sutherland and City Administrator Pagel

Motion made by Councilor Mertes, Second by Councilor MacGregor to approve appointments as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

5. Adopt the official City Calendar for 2025

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Second by Councilor MacGregor to approve the Official City Meeting Calendar for 2025. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

6. Consider appointing the following financial institutions as depository designations for 2025, and delegate the Finance Director or Finance Director's Designee authorization for electronic funds transfers.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Second by Councilor Blake appoint financial institutions as depository designations for 2025 and delegate the Finance Director and Finance Director's Designee authorization for electronic funds transfers. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

POSITIVE HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY:

Mayor Connelly acknowledged service of volunteers for boards and commissions as well as all staff employed by the City. Welcome to Councilor Dan Mertes.

PUBLIC FORUM:

No one from the public wished to speak.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilor MacGregor provided quick summary of current interests for the Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

7. Approve Council minutes for Monday, December 16, 2024 Regular meeting.

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

VERIFIED CLAIMS:

8. Approve the verified claims for the period December 10, 2024 to January 6, 2025 in the total amount of \$1,346,823.40.

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

ACKNOWLEDGE MINUTES FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

9. Acknowledged the following minutes for Boards & Commissions:

- ~ September 5, 2024 Planning Commission
- ~ September 25, 2024 Human Rights Commission
- ~ November 12, 2024 Arts & Culture Commission
- ~ November 14, 2024 GREDA Meeting
- ~ November 21, 2024 GREDA Meeting
- ~ December 11, 2024 Library Board Meeting

CONSENT AGENDA:

10. Consider renewing the Consulting Services Contract with Madden Galanter Hansen, PLLC, Attorneys at Law, for labor relations.
11. Consider correction to the Job Title of the Part-Time Library Public Services Clerk Resignation and Job Posting.
12. Consider hiring Dennis Gibbons as Regular Part-Time Arena Attendant II.
13. Consider hiring temporary Library employee through Personnel Dynamics.

14. Consider accepting feasibility report and ordering plans and specifications for CP 2024-1, Sylvan Bay Phase 2 Project
15. Consider authorizing the Police Department to enter contract with service provider Angie Baratto MA, LPCC.
16. Consider authorizing the Police Department to enter into contract with service provider Steven E. Breitbarth, M. Div., LMFT.
17. Consider adopting a resolution approving reimbursement of expenditures for CP 2024-1, Sylvan Bay Phase 2 Project.

Adopted Resolution 25-01

18. Consider adopting a resolution authorizing a Safe Routes to School application

Adopted Resolution 25-02

19. Consider approving the disposal of (5) five retired squad vehicles
20. Consider approval of marketing agreement with Club Prophet Systems
21. Consider approving new PepperBall policy for the Grand Rapids Police Department
22. Consider renewing support agreement with AVI Systems.
23. Consider approving the General Liability insurance coverage through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust.
24. Consider authorizing staff to request quotes for miscellaneous right-of-way work
25. Consider approving computer maintenance agreements for 2025 with Harris Computer Systems for \$34,985.79.
26. Consider accepting the resignation of Ashlee Lehner from the Arts & Culture Commission
27. Consider approving a resolution protecting the right of voters regarding the provision of utility service.

Adopted Resolution 25-03

28. Consider adopting a resolution authorizing an application to the MN Department of Iron Range Resources (IRRR) Public Works grant program for the IEDC Forge project.

Adopted Resolution 25-04

29. Consider approving the purchase of a John Deere Large Surface Mower
30. Consider approving resolutions Amending 2025 Special Revenue-Yanmar Arena Budget and 2025 Enterprise Fund-Pokegama Golf Course Budget.

Adopted Resolutions 25-05 & 25-06

31. Consider authorizing staff to solicit quotes for the annual stormwater basin cleaning project
32. Consider adopting a resolution setting a public hearing on the proposed vacation of a platted utility easement in the plat of Airport South Industrial Park – Phase 1.

Adopted Resolution 25-07

33. Consider authorizing the Police Department to host “The Best Backup” seminar offered by the Breach Point Company at a cost not to exceed \$6,412.

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

SET REGULAR AGENDA:

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

POLICE:

34. Consider adopting a resolution accepting a \$500 donation from Greenway Lions Club to support Grand Rapids Police Shop with a Hero Program.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Second by Councilor Mertes to **adopt Resolution 25-08**, accepting donations for Shop with a Hero program. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted:


Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk