



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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 12, 2026

5:00 PM

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

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

STAFF: Tom Pagel, Kimberly Gibeau, Chad Sterle, Tom Beaudry, Cody Alleman, Travis Cole, Rob Mattei, Chery Pierzina

PRESENTATIONS:

1. 2025 Mayor's Art Award Presentation - Stained Glass with Class

Mayor Connelly presented the Mayor's Art Award to Stained Glass with Class.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:

2. Appoint a Councilmember to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem for 2026.

Motion made by Mayor Connelly, Seconded by Councilor Blake to appoint Councilor Molly MacGregor to serve as Mayor Pro-tem for 2026. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

3. Appoint Council representatives to selected agencies

Mayor Connelly makes the following recommendations:

- ~ RAMS Board: Councilor Blake, Alternate: Councilor Mertes
- ~ WMMPB: Councilor Sutherland, Alternate: Councilor Mertes
- ~ City/County Co-Op: Mayor Connelly and Councilor Mertes
- ~ Joint Gas Board: Councilor Sutherland
- ~ CGMC: Councilor Blake, Alternate: Mayor Connelly
- ~ LMC: Councilor Mertes, Alternate: Councilor MacGregor
- ~ ARDC: Councilor Blake
- ~ Range Mayors Assoc.: Mayor Connelly

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

4. Appoint Council Representatives to Boards & Commissions

- ~ Greenway Joint Park & Rec Board: Councilor Sutherland, Alternate: Councilor Mertes
- ~ Civic Center Advisory Board: Councilor Sutherland
- ~ GREDA: Councilors MacGregor and Sutherland
- ~ PUC: Councilor Blake
- ~ Cable Commission: Councilor Mertes, Alternate: MacGregor
- ~ Human Rights Commission: Councilor MacGregor

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

5. Consider appointing the following financial institutions as depository designations for 2026, and delegate the Finance Director or Finance Director's Designee authorization for electronic funds transfers.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Blake as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

6. Designate an official newspaper for the City of Grand Rapids for 2026.

The City received one bid from Herald Review to serve as the official newspaper. Herald Review meets all criteria.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Mertes to appoint the Grand Rapids Herald Review as the official newspaper for the City of Grand Rapids for calendar year 2026. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

POSITIVE HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY:

Mayor Connelly highlighted the Mayor's Art Award that was presented to Stained Glass with Class. Councilor Blake attended Chamber annual legislative dinner and highlighted attendees and updates provided.

PUBLIC FORUM:

No one from the public wished to speak.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilor Blake provided overview from recent RAMS Board meeting.

Councilor MacGregor noted that though there have been changes to the Human Rights Commission, they will continue to meet monthly.

Administrator Pagel advised that the Arts & Culture Commission has decided to meet three times per year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

7. Approve Council minutes for Monday, December 15, 2025 Worksession and Regular Meetings.

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Mertes 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 9, 2025 to January 12, 2026 in the total amount of \$617,435.42.

Motion made by Councilor Mertes, Seconded by Councilor MacGregor 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:
 - ~ November 13 and 25, 2025 Golf Board meeting
 - ~ November 13, 2025 GREDA Closed summary and Regular meeting
 - ~ November 19, 2025 Library Board meeting
 - ~ November 19, 2025 Human Rights Commission meeting
 - ~ December 2, 2025 Arts & Culture Commission meeting

CONSENT AGENDA:

10. Consider accepting the resignations of Katelyn Dokken and Julee Jackson from the Human Rights Commission
11. Consider renewing the Consulting Services Contract with Madden Galanter Hansen, PLLC, Attorneys at Law, for labor relations.
12. Consider entering into an Advertising Agreement with a business at Yanmar Arena.
13. Consider entering an Itasca County Mental Health Court Memorandum of Understanding
14. Consider adoption of City of Grand Rapids Personnel Policy Manual.
15. Consider entering into a Venue Agreement with LiveBarn to provide video and audio streaming of on-ice activities at Yanmar Arena.
16. Consider adopting a resolution accepting a MN Department of IRRR Commercial Redevelopment grant for demolition at the GREDA Hwy 2 West Redevelopment Project site and authorizing grant contract signatures.

Adopted Resolution 26-01

17. Consider renewing support agreement with Forte.
18. Consider approving the purchase of a LED message board

19. Consider revised job description for Public Works Maintenance worker position.

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

ADMINISTRATION:

20. Consider accepting the retirement from Andy Horton from his position as Firefighter.

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Seconded by Councilor MacGregor to accept the notice of retirement from Andy Horton as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

21. Consider appointing Cody Alleman to the position of Golf Course Superintendent at Pokegama Golf Course and authorize Human Resources to post, interview and hire for Assistant Golf Course Superintendent and seasonal Assistant Golf Professional.

Motion made by Councilor Mertes, Seconded by Councilor MacGregor to appoint Cody Alleman to position of Golf Course Superintendent, authorize staff to begin the hiring process for Assistant Golf Course Superintendent and seasonal Assistant Golf Professional. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

22. Consider a letter of support for permit amendments related to Mesabi Metallica mine

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Seconded by Councilor Mertes to approve letter of support for Mesabi Metallica as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

23. Consider the adoption of a resolution committing local match for Department of Employment and Economic development (DEED) Demolition Loan Program and authorizing contract signature

Motion made by Councilor Mertes, Seconded by Councilor MacGregor to **adopt Resolution 26-02**, committing local match of DEED Demolition Loan Program as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

24. Consider adopting a resolution authorizing submittal of Demolition Loan Program Application to Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Seconded by Councilor MacGregor to **adopt Resolution 26-03**, authorizing Demolition Loan Program application to MN DEED. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

FIRE:

25. Consider allowing the Grand Rapids Fire department to purchase hose, nozzles and structural firefighting PPE.

Motion made by Councilor Blake, Seconded by Councilor Mertes authorizing purchase of hose, nozzles and structural firefighting PPE for the Fire Department. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

GOLF:

26. Consider adopting a resolution accepting a Blandin Foundation Grant

Motion made by Councilor MacGregor, Seconded by Councilor Mertes to **adopt Resolution 26-04**, accepting \$8000 grant from Blandin Foundation for Golf Course bunker renovation project. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor MacGregor, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted:


Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk