



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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 08, 2026

5:00 PM

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

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

Staff: Chad Sterle, Kimberly Gibeau, Carl Babich, Rob Mattei, Will Richter, Travis Cole, Andy Morgan, Jeremy Nelson

Visitors: Linda Harringer, Renee Ducharme

POSITIVE HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY:

Mayor Connelly reviewed letters of appreciation received recognizing the efforts of the Grand Rapids Fire Department, noting that several firefighters were deployed to assist with emergency response efforts in Cross Lake and Two Harbors through a mutual aid agreement. The community was reminded that the city will be reimbursed by the state for providing this assistance. Appreciation was expressed for the firefighters' professionalism, dedication, and commitment to public safety.

Also acknowledged was the success of the Grand Rapids boys baseball team, which earned a trip to the state tournament after winning the Section 7AA championship. The team was praised for consistently representing the community with pride and bringing recognition to rural Minnesota. Best wishes were extended to the players as they prepared to compete in their first state tournament game in Chaska.

PUBLIC FORUM:

No one from the public wished to speak.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilor Blake reported on several recent regional and transportation-related meetings. Attended a Minnesota Department of Transportation Rules Advisory Council meeting, where discussions focused on bike lane rules and specifications for state-aid routes, a topic expected to continue at future meetings. Councilor Blake also attended a RAMS meeting on May 28, where a presentation was given by Denise Dietrich, Director of Government Relations for the Minnesota School Boards Association, regarding a proposed amendment to Minnesota's Permanent School Trust Fund. Noted that a legislative update was presented by Jeff Anderson of the Austin Group, particularly emphasizing the passage of Minnesota's \$1.24 billion bonding bill.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approve Council minutes for May 26, 2026 Regular meeting and May 26, 2026 Closed meeting summary.

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

VERIFIED CLAIMS:

2. Approve the verified claims for the period May 19, 2026 to June 1, 2026 in the total amount of \$423,659.64.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

3. Consider approving temporary liquor licenses for MacRostie Art Center for 2026 First Friday events.
4. Consider adopting a resolution accepting a MN Department of IRRR Public Works grant for sewer and water service improvements at Garden Court Chateau and authorizing grant contract signatures.

Adopted Resolution 26-25

5. Consider adopting a resolution accepting a MN Department of IRRR Demolition grant related to improvements at the Itasca Curling Club and authorizing grant contract signatures.

Adopted Resolution 26-26

6. Consider adopting a resolution accepting a MN Department of IRRR Housing grant for demolition and site improvements at the former ISD 318 Administration Building site and authorizing grant contract signatures.

Adopted Resolution 26-27

7. Make a motion to authorize the Grand Rapids Police Department to accept \$1483.93 from the FY2025 Patrick Leahy Bulletproof vest Program and to adopt a resolution accepting the same.

Adopted Resolution 26-28

8. Consider adopting a resolution appointing election judges for 2026 elections.

Adopted Resolution 26-29

9. Consider entering into an agreement with Bolton & Menk for the Block 19 Improvements Project
10. Consider Resolution Agreement for Eligible 457 Plan with Orion Portfolio Solutions.

Adopted Resolution 26-30

11. Consider updates to seasonal employment at Pokegama Golf Course, Public Works, and Civic Center/Parks & Recreation.

12. Consider the adoption of a resolution authorizing the issuance of a taxable general obligation tax abatement bond, series 2026A, in the amount of \$420,000, in favor of the Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Adopted Resolution 26-31

13. Consider entering into an agreement with Becher Hoppe for engineering services related to the Taxiway A – Phase 2 project at the Grand Rapids-Itasca County Airport
14. Consider adopting resolutions approving LG230 Applications for Off-Site Gambling for Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 2023

Adopted Resolutions 26-32, 26-33 and 26-34

15. Consider adopting a resolution approving an operating transfer from the Capital Projects fund-2025 Infrastructure Bonds to the Capital Projects Fund-Grand Rapids Arts & Culture Projects.

Adopted Resolution 26-35

16. Consider adopting a resolution approving budgeted transfers from the General Fund to Special Revenue Funds-Domestic Animal Control Facility and Central School.

Adopted Resolution 26-36

17. Consider adopting a resolution approving an operating transfer from the Special Revenue Fund-Airport Operations to the Airport Capital Improvement Projects Fund.

Adopted Resolution 26-37

18. Consider adopting a resolution authorizing the 2025 budgeted operating transfers.

Adopted Resolution 26-38

19. Consider policy revisions to City of Grand Rapids Personnel Policies, Article XI - Benefits, Section 11.06, Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP).

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

SET REGULAR AGENDA:

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

FIRE:

20. Consider adopting a resolution accepting a \$100 from Ronald and Debra Meyer to the Grand Rapids Fire Department's Public Safety Education Fund.

Motion made by Councilor Mertes, Seconded by Councilor Blake to **adopt Resolution 26-39**, accepting donation from Ronald and Debra Meyer for the Fire Department. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

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

21. Conduct a public hearing to consider vacating a portion of public infrastructure easement within the Crowder Addition.

Zoning Administrator Will Richter provided background on vacation request and recommendation by the Planning Commission for approval.

Mayor Connelly stated the purpose for the public hearing and acknowledged that all notices have been made and no correspondence has been received regarding this matter.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

22. Consider the adoption of a resolution vacating a portion of public easement within the Crowder Addition to Grand Rapids.

Motion made by Councilor Mertes, Seconded by Councilor Blake to **adopt Resolution 26-40**, vacating a portion of public easement with the Crowder Addition to Grand Rapids as presented. Voting Yea: Mayor Connelly, Councilor Blake, Councilor Mertes

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberly Gibeau
Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk