

MINUTES OF THE RESCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026, IN THE COUNCIL-COURTROOM OF THE ROBERT E. NOVITKE MUNICIPAL CENTER, 20025 MACK PLAZA DR., GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Bryant.

PRESENT: Mayor Bryant
Council Members: Brown, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Motschall
ABSENT: None

Also Present: City Manager Como
City Attorney Walling
City Treasurer/Comptroller Schmidt
City Clerk Antolin
Director of Public Safety Kosanke
Director of Public Services Kowalski
City Planner Mangan
City Engineer Wilberding

Council, Administration, and the audience Pledged Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

The following Commission members were in attendance:

- Catherine Dumke, Senior Citizens' Commission
- Grant Gilezan, Planning Commission
- Ghassan Elian, Construction Board of Appeals

Motion by Gafa, seconded by McConaghy, that all items on tonight's **agenda be received, placed on file, and taken in order of appearance.**

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Brown, Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Motschall
No: None
Absent: None

Motion by Granger, seconded by Koester, that all items (6A-6E) on the consent agenda be approved as presented.

A. Appointment(s)

1. Historical Commission (Mayor)
 - a) Biographical Sketch - Katie Dowgiewicz - Term to Expire: 12/31/27

B. Approval of Minutes

1. Council 06/15/26

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Beautification Advisory Commission 05/13/26 with Recommendations*
*These recommendations were addressed at the 05/18/26 Council meeting.
2. Citizens' Recreation Commission Minutes 05/12/26
3. Historical Commission Minutes 05/14/26
4. Planning Commission Minutes 05/26/26

D. Bids/Proposals/Contracts

1. Road Salt 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 Seasons - Recommendation
 - a) Memo 07/01/26 - Director of Public Services Kowalski
 - b) Email Correspondences - Michelle Aranowski (City of Farmington Hills)
 - c) Bid Documents for Rock Salt for Snow & Ice Control - City of Farmington Hills
 - d) Safety Data Sheets - Detroit Salt Company/Central Salt
2. AEW Design Fees for 2026/2027 Construction Projects
 - a) Memo 07/01/26 - Director of Public Services Kowalski
 - b) Letter 06/18/26 - City Engineer Wilberding
3. 2026 Pavement Joint and Crack Sealing Program - AEW Project No. 0160-0507 - Recommendation
 - a) Memo 07/01/26 - Director of Public Services Kowalski
 - b) Letter 06/18/26 with Proposal - City Engineer Varicalli
4. 2026 Miscellaneous Concrete Pavement Repair Program - AEW Project No. 0160-0506 - Recommendation
 - a) Memo 07/01/26 - Director of Public Services Kowalski
 - b) Letter 07/06/26 with Proposal - City Engineer Varicalli
5. 2026 Sewer Cleaning and Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Investigation Program - AEW Project No. 0160-0509 - Recommendation
 - a) Memo 07/01/26 - Director of Public Services Kowalski
 - b) Letter 07/06/26 - City Engineer Varicalli
 - c) Tabulation of Bids

6. Comerica/Fifth Third Account Changes
 - a) Memo 07/13/26 - Treasurer/Comptroller Schmidt
 - b) Email 07/03/26 - Comerica Treasury Management
 - c) GPW Migration Discussion Documents - June 2026
7. Facility Use Agreement (Elections) - St. Michael's Church
 - a) Memo 07/07/26 - City Clerk Antolin
 - b) Proposed Facility Use Agreement
8. Request for Approval of Landscaping Contract Renewal
 - a) Memo 07/08/26 - Director of Public Safety Kosanke
 - b) Proposed Contract for Nu Appearance Maintenance (Landscaping)
 - c) Request for Bid Document (07/06/26)
 - d) Certificate of Liability Insurance
 - e) Pesticide Application Business License No. 820087

E. Claims and Accounts

1. McKenna - Building/Planning Services
 - a) Building Services - Invoice No. 21849-122 - May 2026 - 06/19/26 - \$54,647.58.
 - b) Planning Services - Invoice No. 22-064-54 - May 2026 - 06/14/26 - \$2,732.50.
 - c) GPW MSHDA Zoning Ordinance Update - Invoice No. 25-030-13 – 06/14/26 - \$2,500.00.
2. Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amtsbuechler, P.C. - Legal Services
 - a) Invoice No. 1085951 - May 2026 - 06/15/26 - \$9,084.18.
 - b) Invoice No. 1085952 - GPW Retirement System & Retiree Health Care - May 2026 - 06/15/26 - \$284.56.
3. State of Michigan - MDOT 00183 - Program #219533CON - 06/04/26 - \$7,416.68.
4. Tomlinson & McGrail, PLLC - Legal Billing - Invoice No. 435 - June 2026 - 07/01/26 - \$2,480.00.
5. WCA Assessing - Assessing Services - Invoice No. 062226 - July 2026 - 06/22/26 - \$7,911.08.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes:	Brown, Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Motschall
No:	None
Absent:	None

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Gafa, that the City Council receive and place on file an anonymous letter regarding yard sales and will be reviewed and discussed at a future meeting.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Brown, Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Motschall
No: None
Absent: None

The City Council recessed the Regular City Council Meeting and convened as a **Zoning Board of Appeals** at 7:09 p.m. Upon conclusion of the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, the City Council reconvened at 7:16 p.m.

Motion by Granger, seconded by Gafa, that City Council open the Public Hearing at 7:16 p.m.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Brown, Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Motschall
No: None
Absent: None

THE MEETING WAS THEREUPON OPENED AT 7:16 P.M. FOR A **PUBLIC HEARING** TO HEAR THE APPLICATION OF THE GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (GPPSS), WHICH IS REQUESTING PERMISSION TO UTILIZE THE EXISTING WEDGEWOOD DRIVE STUB STREET TO PROVIDE LIMITED ACCESS FOR APPROXIMATELY FOUR BUSES TRANSPORTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TO AND FROM GROSSE POINTE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL. THE PROPOSAL INCLUDES INSTALLATION OF AN ELECTRONICALLY CONTROLLED ORNAMENTAL GATE, EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING SIDEWALK TO A RELOCATED PEDESTRIAN GATE, AND ASSOCIATED PAVEMENT IMPROVEMENTS. THE ACCESS WOULD BE LIMITED TO AUTHORIZED SCHOOL BUSES, EMERGENCY VEHICLES, AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS.

Motion by Granger, seconded by Koester, that for purposes of the public hearing the following items be received and placed on file:

- 1) Memo 07/08/26 - City Planner Mangan (McKenna)
- 2) Memo 07/08/26 - Director of Public Services Kowalski
- 3) Memo 07/08/26 - Director of Public Safety Kosanke
- 4) Letter 07/07/26 - Ben Matteson (Applicant)/Dr. Roy Bishop, Jr. (Acting Superintendent)
- 5) Grosse Pointe Public School System Presentation (07/13/26)
- 6) Proposed Fence Detail (07/08/26)

- 7) Application for Engineering Review (04/20/26)
- 8) Site Plans (07/01/26)
- 9) Opposition Letter and Addendum (07/07/26) - Clyde and Joyce Smith
- 10) Proposed Resolution
- 11) Affidavit of Property Owners Notified with List & Parcel Map
- 12) Affidavit of Legal Publication

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Brown, Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Motschall
No: None
Absent: None

City Planner Mangan provided an overview of the proposed request as presented in her Planning Review dated July 8, 2026. She addressed Master Plan consistency, land use and fence design considerations.

The Chair asked if anyone from the audience wished to speak in favor of the proposed request. The following individual was heard:

1. Ben Matteson, 35728 Diane Ln., Richmond, MI – Executive Director of Building & Grounds for GPPSS.
2. Gary Kent, 637 Fisher Rd., Grosse Pointe, MI – Plante Moran.
3. Rebecca Fannon, 45 Beverly Rd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI – Director of Communications for GPPSS.
4. Beth Derringer, 469 St. Clair Ave., Grosse Pointe, MI – Teacher at Grosse Pointe North H.S.
5. Ghassan Elian, 568 Coventry Ln., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.
6. Jill Martin, 1624 Hawthorne Rd., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI. – Special Education teacher at Grosse Pointe North H.S.

Councilmember Koester addressed the flow of the buses before and after school. Mayor Bryant received clarification the buses will be both small and full-size.

The Chair asked if anyone from the audience wished to speak in opposition to the proposed request. The following individuals were heard:

1. Ihab and Amy Grace, 800 Hidden Ln., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.

2. Erin Erdman, 780 Hidden Ln., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.
3. Jessica D., 20624 Maple Ln., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.
4. Andy Hulway, 740 Hidden Ln. Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.
5. Bill McCarthy, 1716 Vernier Rd., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.
6. Ben Giacona, 864 Hidden Ln., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.
7. Monica Quinn, 1716 Vernier Rd., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.
8. Anastasia Pitses, 894 Hidden Ln., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.
9. Dave Barstys, 848 Hidden Ln., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.
10. Mike Jennings, 815 Hidden Ln., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.
11. Jeanine Flannery, 875 Hidden Ln., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.
12. Margaret Potter, 1834 Allard Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.
13. Mary Christensen, 19987 W. William Ct., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.

Councilmember Koester highlighted bus safety as a major concern and questioned whether intersection utilization requires deeper evaluation. Public Safety Director Kosanke noted shifting traffic patterns during dismissal, specifically citing ongoing issues with students and parents parking on Wedgewood Drive. This behavior causes brief but chaotic periods of noise, heavy traffic, speeding, and reckless driving. While closing the pedestrian gate could mitigate the issue, Director Kosanke warned it would likely shift the problem to another area. He also explained that daily demands—such as managing all city school crossings, responding to radio runs, and handling regular traffic—prevent dedicated morning enforcement at this location.

When Councilmember Koester asked if proposed bus schedules would worsen the situation, Director Kosanke stated the impact depends on fluctuating annual enrollment volumes. To safeguard the neighborhood, Councilmember Koester suggested adding a stipulation to revoke the project after the 2026–2027 school year if unforeseen negative conditions arise, noting the investment seems manageable enough to permit a reversal. City Attorney Walling confirmed that if Council wishes to proceed, they can implement a revocable, temporary restricted access agreement.

Councilmember Granger commented the public hearing notice were received by residents 300 feet from the location and some residents may not be affected by the proposed request. She also commented on the busing issue and stated if the elimination of some parking spaces or rerouting the buses to loop around the parking lot, similar to a cul-de-sac, may solve the issue.

Councilmember Motschall asked if the students with disabilities can be dropped off at the front of the building rather than the back. Member of the GPPSS stated the special education classrooms are setup for easy access in the back of the school.

Councilmember McConaghy stated there are those that make it difficult to pick up and drop off students. There is a need to work with Public Safety to remedy. In addition, he stated it is possible to move forward with this proposal implementing a revocable temporary restricted access and at

the same time, revisit the issue and see if we can stop anyone disobeying traffic laws. There are special situations with these students and the city needs to support the project if there is anything we can do to make it easier for them. If this proposal negatively impacts the neighborhood, the City Council could not leave this alone.

Councilmember Brown stated in order to solve these issues, creative ideas need to be implemented. She asked if a change of scheduled times would help the situation to avoid the morning rush. She encouraged GPPSS to explore alternative solutions and best practices from other school districts to help offer innovative ideas.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Gafa, that the public hearing be closed at 8:23 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Koester, that the City Council approve the request as stated, contingent upon the revocable temporary restricted access for a period of one year and that the issue be revisited following the school year and potentially revoked.

Motion was amended to add “and to indicate one school year from the date school starts in 2026 until exactly 365 days, the following year in 2027.”

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Bryant	No
Brown	Yes
Gafa	Yes
Granger	No
Koester	Yes
McConaghy	Yes
Motschall	No

Mayor Bryant accepted the resignation of Tim Madigan from the Community Tree Commission with regret, and directed appropriate thanks and recognition be sent to Mr. Madigan.

Under New Business, no one wished to be heard.

Under Public Comment, the following individuals were heard:

- Ghassan Elian, 568 Coventry Ln. – Addressed the windbreaker for the tennis courts at Grosse Pointe North H.S.

- Margaret Potter, 1834 Allard Ave. – Received confirmation that Mrs. Gafa has not been on the school board since 2020 with no conflicts of interest.

Motion by Gafa, seconded by McConaghy, that the City Council recess the Regular City Council Meeting at 8:30 p.m. and convene in Closed Session, pursuant to MCL 15.268 (e) to consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Bryant:	Yes
Gafa:	Yes
Granger:	Yes
Koester:	Yes
McConaghy:	Yes
Motschall:	Yes
Brown:	Yes

City Council reconvened in regular session at 8:56 p.m.

Motion by Motschall, seconded by McConaghy, to **adjourn tonight's meeting** at 8:56 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

Arthur W. Bryant
Mayor