

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS/ COURTROOM OF THE ROBERT E. NOVITKE MUNICIPAL CENTER, 20025 MACK PLAZA DRIVE, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 6:49 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Bryant
Council Members: Brown, Granger, Koester, Motschall, McConaghy
ABSENT: Gafa

Also Present: City Manager Como
City Attorney Walling
City Treasurer/Comptroller Schmidt
City Clerk Antolin
Director of Public Services Kowalski
City Planner Mangan
GPW Foundation Member O’Callaghan
GPW Foundation Member Billingsley

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Brown, that Councilmember Gafa be excused from tonight’s meeting.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Brown, 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, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Motschall
No: None
Absent: Gafa

The item discussed was regarding the review concepts for the south lawn as part of the overall City Hall Front Lawn Project. In a previous discussion, there was consideration to install a fireplace

and memorial tree in the southern section of the project. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to put a general plan in place for the southern section of the City Hall Front Lawn Project to secure funding from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds Grant for installation of a fireplace and other possible amenities.

Patrick O'Callaghan and Michelle Billingsley, GPW Foundation Members, were present at the meeting. Mr. O'Callaghan clarified that the grant application must be submitted by the November 1, 2026, deadline.

Mayor Bryant sought City Council's approval to allow the GPW Foundation to apply for project funding. He noted that the immediate focus is developing the southern portion of the front lawn by adding a fireplace, benches, and additional amenities. While the project estimates range from \$150,000 to \$200,000, the available grant covers up to \$25,000.

The Committee reviewed the photo samples of various fireplaces for consideration. Committee Member Koester offered the consideration of a water fountain rather than a fireplace. He felt it makes more sense as an alternative.

Mayor Bryant stated if the allocated funds are granted but the project fails to materialize, the city has the option to return the money without affecting its eligibility to re-apply in the future.

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Koester, to authorize the GPW Foundation to pursue funding from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Legacy Funds Grant for the purpose of placemaking with a fireplace and/or fountain concept which would include walkways, greenspace, vegetation, certain brickwork, decorative lighting, an overall concept that would beautify and benefit our community while maintaining the integrity of a Tree City USA within this environment.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

No: None

Absent: Gafa

Under New Business, no one wished to be heard.

Under Public Comment, the following individual was heard:

- Shawn Threat of Elite Vending, LLC, submitted his business proposal to install vending machine in the Activities Building at Lake Front Park. Councilmember McConaghy recommended the business proposal be reviewed by the City Attorney and Administration for consideration.

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Motion by Motschall, seconded by Koester, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 7:10 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

Arthur W. Bryant
Mayor